

## A LOOK AT FOLLOWERS OF THE ANTICHRIST 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

### 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (KJV)

<sup>2:10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

<sup>11</sup> And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

<sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

What will the end of time look like? What will be going on this earth as this world draws closer to the judgment of Holy God? Scripture makes it clear that in the end time there will rise up one “Antichrist”, whose coming is after that of Satan. He will carry out the very will of Satan on this earth, and do his bidding. Just as Jesus did the will of the Father while he was on earth, so will the Antichrist do the will of his father, Lucifer, Satan, The Deceiver. However, for the Antichrist to be head over the earth, there must be massive numbers that follow him, and in this passage Paul the apostle is speaking plainly, lovingly, and candidly to the saints of God regarding the coming Antichrist as well as his followers. Scripture makes it clear that the Antichrist will have a massive following, but notice some truths that are found in these verses regarding the followers of the Antichrist.

**1. THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE ANTICHRIST ARE PERISHING.** The Bible is clear in v.10, that there is one type of person that follows the Antichrist. It is the unbeliever. It is the person that is perishing. The word perishing literally means “in the process of perishing”. While the person will be a follower of the Antichrist, and is living on the face of the earth, he or she is in the process of perishing. Whether they be young or old, they are in the process of perishing. Their heart is not slightly turned toward the Antichrist to be turned to Christ, but rather, they have chosen as a way of life, and living to turn their entire belief system to the “one” that will be eternally damned and doomed. The word “perish” also means lost, or to be in the process of being destroyed or ruined. These are those who have completely turned away from God and have found another leader in their heart, and they are following him. It is a sobering truth that all that follow the Antichrist will never and can never be saved. Why? Because they have turned, mind, body, soul, and spirit, away from the Living God to a “dead god”. Those that follow the Antichrist are deliberately and intentionally turning their heart away from the Living God and severing all ties to Him.

For those that follow the Antichrist, they cannot see their need for God, for they have been deceived by the “liar of all lies”. For those that have no desire for God, Scripture is clear that the gospel is hid to them that are perishing. Scripture declares in Luke 13:3, “I tell you, nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” The picture IS NOT a picture of God withhold salvation, but rather the hardness of man’s hearts desiring someone other than the Living True Eternal Loving God.

The reason for the masses perishing is due to: 1) the deception of the Antichrist...he will lead people away from the truth. 2) He will lead people to believe “the lie” rather than “the truth”. He will exalt man, government and the world system. 3) He will misguide people from true peace to a “lying peace”. Those who follow the Antichrist are ready to receive him, his world system, and reject any knowledge of God in their mind.

**2. THE FOLLOWERS OF THE ANTICHRIST RECEIVE NOT THE TRUTH.** From time to time the question is asked, “Will any person that follows the Antichrist ever be able to saved?” This is an excellent question, and Paul talks clearly about the followers of the Antichrist in v. 10. Paul makes it clear that those who are followers of the Antichrist “receive not the truth”. The word for “receive” literally means “welcome”. Put another way in modern language, “those don’t make welcome the truth”...that they might be saved. Clearly Paul points to a sobering and saddening reality, but a divine truth...those that follow the Antichrist are both doomed and damned. Why? Because they simply refuse to make welcome the gospel of God into their heart. If a person refuses to acknowledge their need for Christ, and make Him welcome in their heart, they cannot be saved. Those that follow the Antichrist have no love for any truth, but rather desire to listen to someone lie to them, deceive them, trick them, and move them astray from any knowledge of God, and the world is now

setting the stage for the Antichrist to arrive in his time. For all who follow the Antichrist, they will have rejected: the true way of salvation, the true knowledge of God in their heart, the conviction that God brings, and ultimately they will have rejected the gospel of God. This points to a sobering reality that the gospel is not to be taken lightly, but seriously. The Bible declares in John 3:19, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” For all who follow the Antichrist, it will be impossible for them to be saved, thus, they will be the wonder, joy, happiness of a relationship with God, and His heaven for all of eternity.

**3. THE FOLLOWERS OF THE ANTICHRIST ARE DECEIVED.** Scripture reveals that because of their refusal to welcome the truth of God into their heart, God will allow them to be deceived. Two realities take place during deception. First, there is the deceit of the deceiver. Second, there is a willingness to reject truth and be deceived. No person is deceived apart from his or her will being involved. Those that follow the Antichrist are deceived because: 1) they desire to disbelieve God and His Word. 2) What Scripture declares as true, real and authentic. Paul makes it clear here that those who are followers of the Antichrist are those that have rejected truth, by their heart’s desire, and by their will, therefore God permits them a “strong delusion”. The word “strong delusion” literally means “working of error”. In the end time, people will work error after error, sin after sin. Mankind will live based on lies rather than truth, error rather than what is right, true and real. The result people’s rejection of God, results in God allowing the Antichrist to rise, and their lives doomed based on their willful rejection of the true Christ, the son of the Living God.

When men reject the truth over and over again, the only result is accepting error and lies into their lives, and therefore the consequences of those lies. For all following the Antichrist, it is doom and damnation. Scripture declares in Mt. 6:23, “But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.”

Since the followers of the Antichrist are deceived, their belief system is all wrong by deliberate choice, they cannot be saved, for there is no belief in their heart to be saved.

**4. THE FOLLOWERS OF THE ANTICHRIST ARE DAMNED.** There is a sobering word that Paul gives to those who take pleasure in unrighteousness. The word is “damned”, literally the word means “judged, condemned and punished. Paul gives two reasons why they are damned.

First...they will not believe the truth of the gospel, the truth of their sinfulness, the truth of Jesus death on the cross. Therefore when a person doesn’t believe the truth, they are believing lies. God will overlook no one that: curses Christ, opposes Christ, downgrades Christ, or scoffs at Christ. For Christ is the very Son of the Living eternal God. When a person rejects the Son of God, they are rejecting the very God of creation, and the God of all that has been and is created. They are rejecting the only One that can give eternal life.

Second....they will have pleasure in unrighteousness. It is one thing to commit an act of unrighteousness, but another all together to delight in it. Those who follow the Antichrist will take pleasure in mocking God, mocking the things of God, mocking anything holy and pure. They will take pleasure in all types of sin. They will lust with a desire to lust more and more and