

Love Of The Truth Received By Faith

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

8 **Then** (at this time in history, after the departure of the Church and the removal of the restraining ministry of Holy Spirit)

that lawless one (Son of Destruction, the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire)

will be revealed whom the Lord will slay/take out with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST.)

9 **that is, the one** (The Lawless One) **whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,** (the signs and wonders are true but they are false in that they are proclaiming to be of the Christ.)

10 **and** (continues the demonstration of the power and schemes of Satan to deceive the world in Tribulation.)
with (along with) **all** (forms of) **the deception**

Again, this is the driving force behind most all of Satan's schemes—
TO DECEIVE, WITH THE INTENT TO SEDUCE.

**One of the primary deceptions of Satan is that he does not exist.
He tries to get multitudes to believe that he does not exist.**

THIS IS REALLY INTERESTING IN THAT
JESUS CHRIST OBJECTIVE
IS TO GET ALL TO BELIEVE WHO HE IS
AND
THAT HE EXIST AS SAVIOR;

WHILE SATAN'S SCHEME IS TO
GET PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT HE DOES NOT EXIST,
THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A DEVIL.

AND HIS PRIMARY SCHEME IN THE TRIBULATION
IS TO DECEIVE THE WHOLE WORLD
INTO THINKING HE IS WONDERFUL
AND
HAS THE SOLUTION TO MAN'S PROBLEMS.

all deception of wickedness (*alright, you should be ready for
this one—this is*) **unrighteousness.**

All deception of unrighteousness.

We have seen over and over that the issue in the **ANGELIC
CONFLICT** is not Love but Righteousness.

And now you will learn something about **unrighteousness.**
All **unrighteousness** seeks to present itself as being righteous.

I am sorry, but look at the abomination of homosexuality today, trying to force the world to accept it as righteous!

Or even worst:

The **prosperity** gospel, or **the gospel of works** trying to promise **Righteousness**.

And look how many people throughout the world today who see nothing immoral about homosexuality or how many people in the world who accept a performance based gospel, even when the scriptures clearly teach that righteousness is not by law.

Galations 2:21; 3:21 and 5:5

In verse 8 we saw how Paul abruptly moved to the destiny of The Man of Lawlessness—he would be taken out.

Now in verse 10 Paul abruptly moves to the destiny of all those who follow him and are deceived by him.

2 Thessalonias 2:10

10 **and with all the deception of unrighteousness** (and yes there is a very strong difference between translating this) **unrighteousness** (rather than) **wickedness**.

Is not wickedness unrighteous?

Yes, but translating it wickedness, conceals what the deception is: that it is producing righteousness by works, while it is not producing righteousness.

To translate a word as **wickedness**, could mean a lot of things but to translate it **unrighteousness** makes God the issue...

Righteousness is of God,
Unrighteousness is of man rebelling against God.

Anytime you hear or see the words
Righteousness or Unrighteousness
you think of God.

10 **And with all the deception of unrighteousness**
(not) **for those** (but) **in those who perish,**

This is the kind of theology much of the world hates, that many will perish.

Who perish is a present passive participle of the verb meaning **to perish, to destroy or to ruin.**

The concept of **'to destroy'** may give the idea of ending existence and this is not the theological use of this word.

It means that the Sovereign, Omnipotent, Righteous God will simple end their existence in present bodies on earth and cast them into an eternal suffering in the eternal lake of fire along with the **dragon (Satan)** and the **beast (Man of Lawlessness)**

The passive voice means they receive this at the Great White Throne Judgement from the Righteous Judgment of God.

'those who are destined to receive being perished or ruined'

Question:

WHY WILL THEY PERISH?

SINCE GOD IS A LOVING GOD
WHY WILL ANY OF HIS CREATURES PERISH?

10 **Because** (*telling us why they will perish*) **they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.**

Well, there you are, Calvin was right.

God chooses who will be saved,
and here God did not give them the Love of the Gospel,
with the inference being,
He did give this Love to others.

Well, this is why you have to study grammar.

Let me read right out of a Greek Lexicon (*The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary New Testament*) on the verb ***dechomai*** “to accept an offer deliberately and readily. To take to oneself what is presented or brought by another, to receive” or from another: (*The Complete Biblical Library*) *take, receive, accept, approve; ...to take hold of, seize.*

Now the question is:
What did they not take hold, nor did they receive?
The Object of Love is **TRUTH.**

The Love of the truth.

First: **What is the Truth** spoken of here?

THE GOSPEL LEADING TO SALVATION.

The gospel will be proclaimed in The Tribulation.

Matthew 24:14

14 **“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”**

The gospel will be proclaimed In The Tribulation
by at least three sources:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. 144,000 Jewish Proclaimers of | Revelation 7: |
| 2. By the Two Witnesses of | Revelation 11: |
| 3. By the Angelic Voice Proclaiming the gospel: | Revelation 14:6-7 |

Now, how did they not receive the Love of the Truth?

The TRUTH is stated in John 3:16.

John 3:16

16 **For in this manner in this way God so loved the world** (the Greek word for love is the same in both passages: *agape*) **that He gave the only begotten son that everyone** (anyone) **believing in Him shall not perish but possess life eternal.**

God offered His Love, and they chose not to accept His Love, and see that word **perish**?

This is the same word for *perish* we have in 2 Thessalonians 2:10 **for those who perish.**

You put both of these verses together you get a very clear picture of the gospel.

God's Love is offered at the cross.

If anyone accepts His offer of Love –that is if they believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior –they will not perish forever in lake of fire, separated from God, but they will receive the gift of Eternal Life from the Righteousness of God.

In this context, **why** did they not receive the Love of the truth?
BECAUSE THEY WERE DECEIVED.

This is why the challenge 'not to be deceived' is so important in JESUS CHRIST's teaching in Matthew 24-25 and throughout all the study on prophecy and throughout the study of the New Testament, on believers not being deceived.

Again, this is why it is so important to pay close attention to those you listen to in the ***Teaching of the Truth of the Word of God***. So many are led astray, deceived by teachers teaching a false gospel; a false spirituality and a false prophecy.

We have another description of this kind of rejection in Romans.

Romans 1:21

21 **For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

22 **Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

23 **and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

However if they reject the Love of God, and refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior they will perish in everlasting judgment from the Righteousness of God.

Please remember the issue in the gospel is no longer sins but **Righteousness.**

JESUS CHRIST **removed** the sin barrier by dying on the cross.

The issue now is the **presence of God's perfect Righteousness.**

We studied the importance of Righteousness in
THE TEN QUESTIONS OF JOB:

Questions 1 and 2 come from

Job 4:7

Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before His maker?

Questions 3 and 4 come from

Job 8:3

Does God pervert Justice?

Does the Almighty pervert what is right?

If anyone is saved eternally by his own works then God perverts Justice. If anyone is saved outside of FAITH in JESUS CHRIST, then God perverts His own Justice. (this requires a theological understanding of infants who die).

Question 5 comes from

Job 9:2

How can a man be in the right (righteous) before God?

Question 6 comes from

Job 14:4

Who can make the clean out of the unclean?

To which Satan responds: **no one!**

This is how marvelous the cross is and Salvation by FAITH alone in Christ alone, God does that which seems impossible.

Questions 7 and 8 come from

Job 15:14

What is man that he should be pure? Or he who is born of a woman that he should be righteous?

Questions 9 and 10 come from

Job 25:

How then can a man be just with God?

Or how can he be clean who is born of a woman?

YOU WILL NOTICE IN THE TEN QUESTIONS OF JOB,
THAT SIN IS NOT THE ISSUE;

THE ISSUE IN SALVATION
IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

The answer to all these questions is by FAITH in JESUS CHRIST, then God imputes perfect Righteousness into everyone who believes and then God Justifies everyone.

2 Thessalonians 2:10

10 **and with all the deception of unrighteousness**
(Now you should understand why we translate this.)
deception of unrighteousness.... for those (in those)
who perish, (dative of disadvantage) **because they did**
not receive (Aorist at the point this Love offering was
offered) **the love of the truth** (gospel) **so as** (for the
purpose that) **so that they might be saved.** Aorist
Passive Infinitive. They could be saved in The Tribulation but
they refuse to believe the gospel of JESUS CHRIST.

So that introduces the result of receiving the Love for the Truth of God.

Here Eternal Salvation, but in principle it applies to us in our lives of receiving the Love of the Truth of Spirituality; Love of the Truth of JESUS CHRIST of the Word of God.

**They perish because
they did not receive Love of the Truth
and
the reason they did not receive Love of the Truth
was because they were deceived.**

We should be so warned in not being deceived, right from the beginning where Eve was deceived by the serpent of old.

11 **For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,**

Ok, (critic's will say) see, in verse 10—they were easily deceived, now we know why—it is all God's fault! God sent them a supernatural influence where they would be easily deceived.

Ok, let's take a close look at what is going on and prevent this on the surface conclusion.

First Lets Carefully Note The Order Of Events:

First: God sent His Son to die that all might be saved.

Second: In context of 2 Thessalonians 2, verse 10, in The Tribulation many will refuse to receive the Love of God so as to believe the Truth of the Gospel.

Third: In response to their refusal of His Love, and because of their rejection, God acts in verse 11.

11 **For this reason** (for what reason? From verse 10) **they did not receive the Love of the Truth.** (Gospel)
[*Their guilt in verse 10 and their judgment in verse 11*]

God will send

(The future tense, of course, is in The Tribulation, to whom sent is given)

upon them

(those of verse 10 who refused to receive the Love of the Truth and who shall therefore perish forever;)

What is sent?: **a deluding influence** (the word *deluding* is the same word used in verse 9 for the) **activity or working of Satan;**

So, first of all, while this is sent from God, it is a result of their being appealed to the Man of Lawlessness, who comes in the working power of Satan.

The word for **influence** we have seen this word in 1 Thessalonians 2:3 **for our exhortation does not come from error** (the Greek word means error, delusion, false judgment. So while *deluding influence* serves to convey what is going on, it should be **working delusion, or working false judgment; a working that causes delusion**

Question:

Working false judgment about what?

Or delusion about what?

So that they will believe (And that is what the Greek word means here: to believe, only they will) **believe what is false**

There are several things going on in context.

1. Note the construction:

For this reason...so that...Since they have rejected the Love of the Truth of the Gospel, God sent them an inner-working that causes delusion...so that they will believe a lie.

2. False, here is opposed to truth in verse 10:

So they would not receive the Love of what is Truth, so God simply sends them the out-working of that by their believing what is a lie, false, not true.

3. Coming up in verse 12—

who did not believe the truth.

4. What is the Truth?

That this one is not the Messiah, but antichrist, and that JESUS CHRIST is in Truth the Son of God, sent to be the Savior of the world.

5. **They will believe the lie**

The definite article specifies they will believe the lie of the Man of Destruction, that as he claims in verse 4:

presenting himself as being god.

Romans 1:25

25 **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

6. Now this should be point one:

our passage declares that it is God who sends this **working of false judgment.**

But I want to be sure that you know how God does some of these kinds of things.

Look at 2 Corinthians 4:4

4 **in whose case the god of this world** (Satan) **has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

Combine this with 2 Thessalonians 2:9 **the activity of Satan.**

People, please understand that your response to the Truth has great affect on you.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 **For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God (as Truth by Faith) **which you heard from us, you accepted it** (instead of not receiving Love for the Truth by Faith, instead, you accepted by Faith) **not as the word of men, but for what it really is,** (in Truth) **the word of God,** (now for the reason we are here) **which also performs its work in you who believe.****

WHEN YOU BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD,
IT WILL WORK INSIDE OF YOU,
BUT WHEN YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE THE WORD OF
GOD...
THAT ALSO WILL WORK INSIDE OF YOU.

A perfect place to see the inner effect of how we understand scripture is in Isaiah 28:13; but to grasp this let us read from verse 9. Isaiah 28:9-13 (NASB95)

9 **“To whom would He** (coming Messiah, JESUS CHRIST) **teach knowledge,** (Truth of the Gospel).
And to whom would He interpret the message?
(He came to teach it to the Jews) **Those *just* weaned from milk? Those *just* taken from the breast?** Gentiles.

So why can He not teach the Truth of the Gospel of Grace to the Jews?
Because when they look at the Scriptures they see WORKS.

10 **“For He says**
(This is what the Religious Jews say when they read the Scriptures,)
Order on order, Order on order,
or **Do and Do, Do and Do.**
Line on Line, Line on Line,
or **Rule on Rule, Rule on Rule**
A little here, a little there.”

They see the Word of God asking for man to do,
to perform for blessings from God.

11 **Indeed, He will speak to this people Through stammering lips and a foreign tongue,**

Verse 12 is the True Gospel.

12 **He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary,"** (the Rest of Faith in the Work of the Messiah)

And, "Here is repose," but they would not listen.

Another expression for

they would not receive the Love of the Truth.

Now verse 13 is the affect of refusing to see and receive the Truth of the Gospel.

13 **So the word (gospel) of the LORD to them will be,**
(Everytime they look at the Scriptures this is what they will see the Scripture saying...)
**Do and Do, Do and Do, Rule on Rule, Rule on Rule,
A little here, a little there,"**

Why will God allow this to happen to His Word?

13 **So that they may go** (their way of works)
and stumble backward, (works do not save, and they
tire you out)
be broken, (spiritually)
snared and taken captive. (by what is a lie)

Another important passage on see the results, the affect of refusing to believe the Truth from God is Romans 1:18-24

18 **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against
all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who
suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

19 **because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

20 **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

21 **For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

22 **Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

23 **and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

24 **Therefore (because of their rejection of the Truth) God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.**

2 Thessalonian 2:11

11 **For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence (working delusion) so that they will believe what is false,**

12 **in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**

So many, including pastors like to pass over the wrath of God. But we must always remember that God is a Righteous God. The phrase **did not believe the truth** of the gospel is essential in understanding the wrath of God. It is not sins, for He sent His Son to take care of the sin problem. **But oh, if one refuses to believe in His Son, this stirs the wrath of God.**

And they will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment
Revelation 20:11-15

Romans 2:8

8 **but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth,** (believe in JESUS CHRIST as your Savior) **but obey unrighteousness,** (that the gospel is not true; what awaits these?) **wrath and indignation.** (From the Righteousness of God)

1. All are born in sin, and all have sinned.
2. But the Love of God has taken care of the sin problem for everyone, through the spiritual death of His Son.
3. There is none righteous, no not one. And there is nothing we can do of ourselves to make ourselves righteous.
4. But God's grace has provided a way where everyone can be be Righteous as He is Righteous: and that by simply believing in JESUS CHRIST as their Savior.
5. Judgment awaits every member of the human race, but God has provided a way where anyone can escape this judgment and that is by believing in His Son.
6. God is merciful not to give us what we deserve and gracious to give us what we do not deserve—Here is the Love of God.

Or as we have it stated here in 2 Thessalonians 2:10
...those who perish

This should put into everyone of us
the desire to tell others of the saving work of JESUS CHRIST.

We should do this personally with those in our family,
work, social and those we meet in life's activity.
We need to present the gospel with much prayer
for them and the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit.

but took pleasure in wickedness.

This is the same Greek word as in verse 10
unrighteousness!

They reject the Righteousness of God
and take pleasure in Unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

**But we should always
give thanks to God for you, brethren
beloved by the Lord,
because God has chosen you
from the beginning for salvation
through sanctification by the Spirit
and Faith in the Truth.**

