

Two Strong Delusions of Modern Religion

2 Thess. 2:9-12

Introduction:

- A. It is important to love the truth (vv. 10, 12)
- B. The tragic not to love the truth.
 - 1. Deceived by “lying wonders.”
 - 2. Victimized by “the working of Satan.”
 - 3. Received “strong delusion.”
 - 4. “Believe a lie.”
 - 5. “Might be damned.”
- C. Let’s consider two strong delusions of Modern Religion..

Discussion:

I. “It Doesn’t Matter What You Believe, as Long as You Really Believe it”

- A. If so, how could one believe a religious lie?
 - 1. Anything believed would be truth – no objective standard. (v. 11; John 16:13; 17:17)
 - 2. Nothing could make us believe a lie (vv. 10-13).
- B. If so, why appeal to the Bible to justify any belief?
 - 1. Holding to the apostolic “tradition” would not matter. (vv. 14, 15; 3:6)
 - 2. Searching the scriptures would be of little value (Acts 17:11).
 - 3. Abiding in the doctrine of Christ would not matter (2 John 9-11).
- C. If so, it reduces Christianity to an absurdity.
 - 1. It makes Christ the head of many bodies, the husband of many wives.
 - 2. It reduces the gospel to a hodgepodge of contradictions (Ill. Six nights meeting)
- D. If so, why reject any religion or cult?

II. “Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide in Religion?”

- A. Conscience guides one to do what he thinks is right and refrain from what he thinks is wrong.
- B. “Pleasure in unrighteousness” impossible if conscience is a safe guide (v. 12)
 - 1. Can conscientiously sin (Acts 23:1; 26:9).
 - 2. Can sin while it “seems right.” (Prov. 14:12)
- C. Pleasure in righteousness possible only when conscience is tuned to truth
 - 1. By bringing every thought into captivity to obedience to Christ. (cf. 2 Cor. 10:5).
 - 2. Then what we think is right or wrong will truly be so.
- D. One must not ignore his conscience (1 Cor. 8:12; Rom. 14:23).
 - 1. If so, in time it will become insensitive and seared (1 Tim. 4:12)
 - 2. Like ignoring the alarm clock in the morning, but clock must be set right.
 - 3. Like ignoring navigation guidance system, but must be locked on to right satellite or star.

Conclusion:

- A. Know what the truth is (John 17:17)
- B. Always love the truth (v. 10).
- C. Obey the truth from the heart (Rom. 6:17).
- D. Recognize the difference truth makes (John 8:32)