



The Love of the Truth

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

Just as Pharaoh and company witnessed sign after wonder after miracle, but continued to refuse to be transformed by the knowledge that such were the direct actions of God, so are many refusing to acknowledge the signs of these End Times. When one refuses to embrace the truth, everything is open to misinterpretation.

Notice the weapons Paul associates with *"the activity of Satan"*:

- *"false wonders"*
- *"with all the deception of wickedness"*

And how are these made effective? What is the main reason many cannot be saved from these events? *"Because they did not receive the love of the truth."*

It's not surprising that earthly institutions and philosophies subscribe to the notion that there is no absolute truth, that all truth is relative. That's a very natural outgrowth of the desire to justify any and every behavior. It's a "live and let live" attitude that attempts to place no constraints on anyone. This is, after all, the essence of the lifestyle of all sinners before they enter into a transforming relationship with Christ. What **IS** surprising, however, are the vast numbers of those

quick to claim the title "Christian", who currently profess to believe in and follow Christ, but who immediately follow with the caveat that neither do they believe in absolute truth. The depth with which this deception permeates Christian institutions and beliefs is the surest of all signs that we have entered the Last Days.

What is Jesus' own warnings concerning the End Times?

*And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one **misleads** you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will **mislead** many.*

Matthew 24:4-5

*Many false prophets will arise and will **mislead** many.*

Matthew 24:11

*Then if anyone says to you, "Behold, here is the Christ," or "There He is," do not believe him. For **false** Christs and **false** prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to **mislead**, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.*

Matthew 25:23-35

The repeated warnings of the prophets and apostles and Christ Himself concerns deception and the misleading of many. This comes not as the result of some kind of mass hypnosis or persuasive personality that charms beyond the ability to resist. It comes upon Believer and non-Believer alike who do not "receive the love of the truth so as to be saved." The deceived are predisposed through their rejection of the absolute truth of God's Word.

One has to begin with accepting the Word to begin with, making a conscience decision to embrace God's Word over the worldly alternative.

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:21

Making God's Word one's cornerstone is the single most effective weapon against sin and the places to which it ultimately leads.

*Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.
Psalm 119:11*

One's commitment to God's Word is the visible and tangible proof that one is truly a follower—disciple—of Christ.

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;"
John 8:31*

The proper way of proving one's own love for Christ is measured by the degree to which His Word is followed.

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."
John 13:23-24*

In fact, without the absolute truth of God's Word, it is impossible for sanctification to take place, the process of being wholly and exclusively devoted to God alone.

*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
John 17:17*

The single most important pursuit of our everyday, "normal" Christian lives—the relentless pursuit of God's truth—also happens to be the very thing that overcomes the events of the End Times. The love of the Truth provides victory in both cases.

In His Love,
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