

# **“Unrighteous Deception among Those Who Perish”**

**2 Thess. 2:9-12 NKJ**

## **Introduction:**

- A. One cannot afford to be “among those who perish”.
  - 1. Barred forever from God’s presence. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
  - 2. Tormented day and night by fire. (Lk. 16:24,25,28; Rev. 14:11; Mk. 9:43,44).
- B. One cannot accept all that is promoted in religion.
  - 1. Paul mentions, “The working of Satan”; “lying wonders”; “believe a lie”.
  - 2. Paul deals a fatal blow to two popular schools of religious thought.

## **Discussion:**

### **I. The Idea That It Makes No Difference What One Believes In Religion.**

- A. If it makes no difference, why this warning?
  - 1. Could be no error, anything would be truth? (vs. 11; 2 Pet. 2:18; 3:7; 1 John 4:6).
  - 2. Could be no way not to believe truth. (vs. 10,12,13).
- B. If it makes no difference, why use Bible to justify any belief?
  - 1. Those who obtain glory must hold inspired teaching. (vs. 14,15).
  - 2. Those who do not walk after inspired teaching are disorderly. (2 Thess. 3:6).

### **II. The Idea That One Can Just Let His Conscience Be His Guide In Religion.**

- A. Cannot have “pleasure in unrighteousness” if conscience a safe guide. (v.12).
  - 1. Can sin in good conscience. (Acts 23:1; 26:9).
  - 2. Can walk in wrong way that seems right. (Prov. 14:12).
  - 3. Can have a “seared conscience”. (1 Tim. 4:2).
  - 4. But, if conscience infallibly safe guide - it would bother anyone who sins.
- B. Cannot have God’s pleasure without a good conscience. (Acts 24:16).
  - 1. Conscience urges us to do what we believe to be right.
  - 2. Conscience must be educated by the gospel of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:5). -- then what is right will seem right and we will only have pleasure in righteousness.
  - 3. Conscience must not be ignored at any time. (1 Cor. 8:12; Rom. 14:23).

## **Conclusion:**

- A. We must know the truth to be saved. (John 8:32).
- B. We must love the truth to be saved. (2 Thess. 2:10).
- C. We must obey truth to be saved. (1 Pet. 1:22; Gal. 3:1)
- D. We must recognize what a difference it makes -- the difference between salvation and damnation. (vs.10,12; cf. John 8:24; Luke 13:3; John 3:5).