

*“The Damnation of the Unbelieving”*

*2 Thess. 2:10-12*

*Finding Peace in the Midst of the Storm*

The passage before us has two salient features.

I. A description of who is an unbeliever (vv. 10-12, 1:8)

A. A description of their heart

- i. They do not receive the love of the truth (v.10a).
- ii. They do not believe the truth (v.12b).
- iii. They do not obey the gospel (1:8).

It is because of this, they will not be saved. Only those who “receive, believe, and obey” will be saved. All three are working synonyms. They are saying the same thing.

Again, let us ask ourselves the question, “What does it mean ‘To believe?’”

Because of their unbelief, we are provided with a description of their harvest. “A wrong idea of God means a wrong way of life (Prov. 14:12, 16:25).” (Bruce, Thessalonians, 175).

B. A description of their harvest

- i. They are perishing (v.10a).

The word perishing is a present participle. This is a term used to describe their condition. They are perishing.

- ii. They believe what is false (v.11b).
- iii. They take pleasure in wickedness (v.12c).

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II. A description of God's larger purpose (vv. 10-12)

- A. God reveals the man of lawlessness so that he will deceive those who are perishing (v.10a).

The deceit of wickedness is parallel to "with all power and signs and false wonders (v.9)."

- B. God sends this deluding influence so that they will believe what is false (v.11b).

"The judicial purpose of God in thus using evil as His instrument is clear. The construction indicates purpose. There is method in all that God does in this situation." (Bruce, Thessalonians, 234, 235).

- C. God judges those who do not believe the truth (v.12).

Verse 12 functions as a purpose clause. All of the actions described in this paragraph culminate in the confirmation of condemnation for those who do not receive the truth.