

Love the Truth or Believe a Lie

By Pastor Kevin Lea – March 23, 2008

II Thessalonians 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In these verses the apostle Paul explains how the Antichrist (the lawless one) will be coming to power in the last days. The Antichrist's power to deceive will propel him to become the ruler of the world. His deceptive powers will come from the working of Satan himself. God will be allowing Satan to give this future Antichrist the ability to perform signs and lying wonders. Revelation, chapter 13, teaches that the inhabitants of the world will worship him as god and allow his name to be tattooed on their forehead or right hand.

Some have asked me how this could be possible in light of the advanced warnings of scripture, which so clearly caution the reader about this man and how to identify him. How could anyone who has read the scriptures (even if they are not Christians) fall for this man's deceptions and take "the mark of the beast" when the Bible warns that anyone who does will be eternally damned?

Rev 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (NKJ)

Paul answers this question in his letter to the Thessalonians. Those deceived by the Antichrist will be the people who, "*did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*" In other words, if we LOVE TRUTH, we won't fall for the deceptions of Satan. However, for those who do not love truth, God will '*send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*'

We are all living in a sinful world filled with many lies. No matter how hard we try, we are all going to fall for some deceptions from time to time. However, these verses from Thessalonians encourage me to turn away from the lie and embrace the truth whenever it is revealed. If I don't, then I am failing to love the truth, thus setting myself up for even further deceptions.

For example, the truth is that Jesus died on the Jewish Passover and rose from the dead on the Jewish feast of First Fruits (always on Sunday – April 27 this year). Jesus did not rise on March 23 (the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the first day of spring, which is how Easter is reckoned (rooted in sun, moon, and goddess of fertility (eggs/bunnies) worship)). Do you love the truth?