

THE WORK OF THE ANTICHRIST (VV. 6-12)

- Verses 6-10, see session 10

2 THESSALONIANS 2:11 – BLUE

- Paul introduces **judicial consequence**, not mere description.
 - “For this cause” explicitly reaches back to **v. 10**.
 - Cause = **DECEIVABLENESS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**
 - Root cause = refusal to receive **the love of the truth**
- God’s action is judicial, not deceptive.
 - God “shall send” strong delusion.
 - This is not trickery of innocent people.
 - It is God giving people over to the condition they have chosen.
- Moral progression in the text:
 - Unrighteousness → deceivableness
 - Deceivableness → delusion
 - Rejection of truth → belief of a lie
- “Strong delusion” explained:
 - Literally: **a working of error**
 - Greek noun **πλάνη (plane)** = wandering, instability
 - Related imagery: wandering bodies (planets) vs fixed stars
 - Not a single false belief, but instability itself
 - Jumping from idea to idea
 - Never anchored in truth
- Delusion is itself judgment.
 - Truth was available.
 - Truth was unwanted.
 - God sends wandering where truth was rejected.
- Historical illustration:
 - Societies that reject truth do not merely become deceived.
 - They become **DELUSIONAL**.
 - Example: late Weimar Republic
 - Rejection of hard truths
 - Rise of myth-making, conspiracies, ideological wandering
 - Deception hardened into delusion

2 THESSALONIANS 2:12 – BLUE

- Paul states the **final outcome** of the process.
 - “That they all might be damned”
- Meaning of “damned”:
 - Originally: judicial condemnation
 - In this context: likely full damnation
 - Due to dispensational placement
 - Not mere temporal discipline
- Order of causation is critical:
 - They are not condemned **BECAUSE** they were deceived.
 - They are condemned because:
 - They **believed not the truth**
 - They **had pleasure in unrighteousness**
- Truth rejected; unrighteousness embraced.
 - Not ignorance
 - Not confusion

- Moral preference
- Core principle:
 - Rejection of truth carries judgment inherently.
 - Judgment may vary by context:
 - Hardened delusion
 - Temporal condemnation
 - Eternal damnation
 - Here, the context points to final judgment.
- Belief and affection are inseparable.
 - What one rejects intellectually
 - One also rejects morally
 - Pleasure in unrighteousness seals the judgment

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13 – BLACK

- Paul turns from warning to thanksgiving.
 - “Bound” = moral obligation, not coercion
 - Holy necessity
 - Failure to give thanks would be a failure of duty
- Thanksgiving persists despite confusion among some.
 - Even though some were unsettled by false reports
 - They remain “brethren beloved of the Lord”
- “God hath from the beginning chosen you”
 - Commonly misread as individual election
 - Greek grammar does **not** allow that reading
 - Verb: singular
 - Object: plural
 - No distributive markers
 - Meaning:
 - Choice of a **group**, not individuals
- Possible referent of the group:
 - Thessalonian believers as a collective
 - More likely: Israel as a chosen people
- Nature of the salvation:
 - “Through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”
- Sanctification language:
 - Strongly Jewish, covenantal terminology
 - Two grammatical possibilities:
 - Sanctification **by** the Holy Spirit
 - Connects to Pentecost / Israel’s restoration
 - Sanctification **of** one’s own spirit
 - Connects to New Covenant cleansing promises
- Key emphasis:
 - Not individual faith-choice
 - But covenantal sanctification tied to belief
- Reason for black color-coding:
 - Not doctrinally directed to the Body of Christ
 - Relates to Israel’s prophetic program
 - Corporate election, not individual justification

2 THESSALONIANS 2:14 – BLACK

- Paul completes the logical chain from vv. 10–13.
 - Reject truth → perish
 - Chosen group → called
- Means of the calling:

- “By **our gospel**”
- Distinction in Paul’s language:
 - “My gospel” = Pauline message of individual justification
 - “Our gospel” = shared, collective proclamation
- Occurrences of “our gospel”:
- **1 Thessalonians 1:5**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:14**
- **2 Corinthians 4:3**
- Meaning of “our”:
- Not merely Paul and companions
- Collective, covenantal possession
- Gospel held in common by Israel
 - Kingdom-centered
 - Messianic
- This is not personal election language.
 - It is national / corporate calling language.
- Goal of the calling:
 - “The obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Glory language:
 - Tied consistently to Israel’s restoration
 - Participation in Messiah’s reign
- Conclusion:
 - God is not selecting isolated individuals here.
 - He is calling a people through a shared gospel.
 - Israel was chosen for:
 - A salvation uniquely hers
 - A glory uniquely hers
 - The black color-coding accurately reflects this prophetic, Israel-centered focus.