

Common Delusions

Introduction. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul is discussing the apostasy which would come upon the Lord's church in the latter times. He warns them of the lawless one who would lead many astray. In vs. 8-12, he teaches them that because they rejected the truth, God would send them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false.

If you were to look up the definition of "delusion," it would probably say something like, "a false opinion or idea that blinds someone to the truth." There are still plenty of delusions now. These are the same kinds that take people captive and seduce them into believing that which is false.

Today, we are going to look at some very common delusions. These are attitudes that are alive and well in the twentieth century. You may find yourself believing in these delusions. If you are, you had better beware of God's consequences.

I. ***Thinking That Sin Will Give You Joy In Life***

- A. Adam and Eve were under the same delusion (Genesis 3:5-6).
- B. Solomon thought that happiness could be found in carnal affairs (Ecclesiastes 2:1-8).
- C. Samson was tempted and in bondage (Judges 16:4-21). In the end, Samson died because of his desire to have joy in this life apart from God's will (Judges 16:30).
- D. Paul said that when he became aware of sin, it deceived and killed him (Romans 7:7-12).
- E. Sin will not give you joy; it will give you heartache (Hebrews 3:13). Moses took a pass on the pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25).
Listen to some of the wisest people the world has ever known.

II. ***Thinking That Riches Will Save You***

- A. Jesus, in His parable about a certain rich man, taught that riches can destroy, not save (Luke 12:19-21). Becoming more wealthy is a vicious circle. The more we are exposed to it, the more we fall in love with gaining wealth (Luke 12:15).
- B. Solomon taught that it was vanity (Ecclesiastes 2:9-11). With all the resources and pleasures available to the world's wisest man, he still concluded that it could not make him happy and nothing was better than to enjoy the gift of God.
- C. Paul and Job both implied that faith in riches is foolish because we cannot take material wealth with us into eternity (1 Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21).

III. ***Thinking That Wisdom Is Foolishness***

- A. Wisdom is being able to use knowledge properly. The most famous example we have is of the wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:26).
- B. Solomon said that "wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness" (Ecclesiastes 2:13). How we long to be in the light as compared to the dark!
- C. All of our wisdom is but foolishness to God (1 Corinthians 3:19-20). There is no finer illustration of this principle than evolution.
- D. Faith in God leads us to the wisdom that is able to save us (2 Timothy 3:15). There simply is no better wisdom one could possess.
- E. The wisdom from above is that wisdom which produces the fruits of righteousness within us (James 3:15-17).

IV. ***Thinking That We Are Better Than We Really Are***

- A. Peter felt the same way, but found that he was badly mistaken and prone to temptation like the rest of us (Matthew 26:33-34, 74-75).
- B. The Pharisee and the tax gather amply demonstrates this belief. Do we thank God that we are not like others, but fail to see that we are as much in sin as the next person (Luke 18:9-14)?
- C. Romans 3:23 explains that no one can get out of sin. We all have to live with the fact that we commit it. Romans 6:23 explains what to expect out of living a life of sin.
- D. Whatever we do, we must heed the example of the Israelites and realize the powerful pull of sin (1 Corinthians 10:1-12).

V. ***Thinking That There Is Plenty Of Time***

- A. Jesus taught that you may not have time to do the things you want to do and then decide to follow God (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62). Doing what you want to do is not what is important!
- B. Paul taught that time was a most precious commodity (Ephesians 5:15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2). We get into the frame of mind that everything flows along just fine and never changes. How foolish!
- C. Felix felt that he had plenty of time (Acts 24:25). The scriptures never record that he found that "convenient time." Some of you here today may never find a convenient time, either. The scriptures state that life is brief (James 4:13-14; Ecclesiastes 3:22; 9:12; 1 Chronicles 29:15). We all need to be aware because we never can know which day the Lord is coming (Matthew 24:42-44).

Conclusion. Are you under any of these delusions? Chances are you believe in one or more of these doctrines that will bring you to your doom. Listen to what the Bible says. Although delusions may seem to only belong to the insane, these delusions can tear one away from God's will. Don't be one who cannot see through the lies that would destroy you. Obey the gospel now.