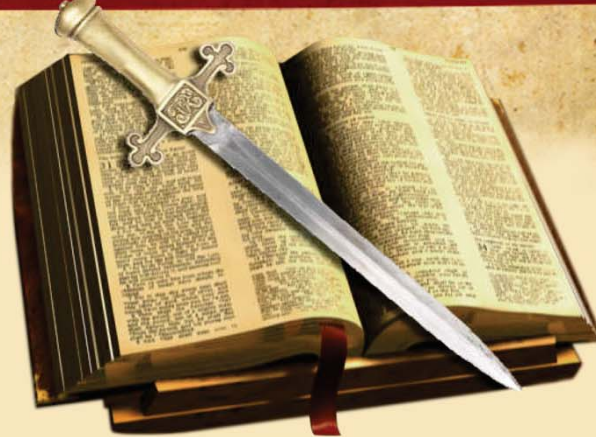


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



2 THESSALONIANS

Why Some People Will Never Believe

(The Principle of: Free Will, Judgment and Deluding Spirits)

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

It's the side of God that no one wants to talk about. In fact, very few even know the depth of its truth. Yet, it's just as valid as His gracious love, compassion and forgiveness. It's God's righteous judgment! Oh, how we like to read about the gentle Jesus, meek and mild. But who has the courage to see King Jesus, the awesome Judge of the world (*Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 1:12-16*)? Remember, the Lord is righteous and just when He acts and blameless when He judges (*Ps. 51:4*). So, don't be alarmed at what you read next. ***Look closely and you'll understand why some (but not all) will never believe, no matter how much you pray for them!***

Pharaoh would never release the Israelites, and God knew it (*Ex. 3:19-20*). His heart was more than just hard; he had become a god unto himself! Knowing that he was beyond repentance, the Lord did what few understand. ***He intensified the condition of his unbelieving heart (Ex. 7:3-5)! Ahab***, king of Israel, did more than evil deeds. He had sold his soul to evil (*1 Kings 21:20-22*)! He had crossed that invisible line of no return and his fate was sealed. Knowing that he would never yield to righteousness, God did what causes the immature to shudder. ***He gave an evil spirit permission to further deceive his rebellious mind (1 Kings 22:20-22)***! And so it was with the Thessalonians. Referring to those who had totally given themselves to sin and deception, Paul declared, ***“God will send upon them a strong delusion so that they will believe the lie!” (2 Thess. 2:11)***

Beloved, don't underestimate the power of the human will. God is patient, *“not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9)*. But there is a point beyond which even God will not go (*Hos. 1:6*). And, there is a sin beyond the reach of our prayers (*Jer. 7:16; 1 John 5:16-17*). God did everything to save fallen men. He became flesh, took their sins and received their punishment. And beyond that is judgment! And this is the judgment: God gives them over to evil (*Ps. 81:11-12; Rom. 1:24*)! ***In God's Kingdom, Jesus is the gentle Savior for all who call upon Him. But for those who totally reject Him, He's the righteous Judge, bringing every hidden act into judgment (Acts 17:30-31)!***

Next: The Kingdom of God in 1 Timothy - Prophecy...The Strategy of the Spirit

