

2 Thessalonians 2:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Analysis

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved— all **deceivableness** (apatē tēs adikias, ἀπάτη τῆς ἀδικίας, 'all unrighteous deception') accompanies the signs. The target: **them that perish** (apollymenois, ἀπολλύμενοις, those in process of destruction).

Their fatal flaw: **they received not the love of the truth** (tēn agapēn tēs alētheias ouk edexanto, τὴν ἀγάπην τῆς ἀληθείας οὐκ ἔδεξαντο). Not mere ignorance—they rejected love for truth. Intellectual assent without heart-affection leaves one vulnerable to deception. **That they might be saved** shows truth's purpose: salvation. Refusing truth guarantees destruction.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman culture valued rhetoric, entertainment, and novelty over truth. Sophists taught persuasion without concern for reality. Similarly, the postmodern era prioritizes personal authenticity over objective truth. Paul insists: truth-love is non-negotiable for salvation; its rejection ensures damnation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you love truth itself, or only truth that benefits you?
2. What truths have you refused because they challenged your comfort or lifestyle?
3. How does cultivating love for truth protect against deception?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐν	πάσῃ	ἀπάτῃ	τῆς	ἀδικίας	ἐν	τοῖς
And	in	all	deceivableness	G3588	of unrighteousness	in	G3588
G2532	G1722	G3956	G539		G93	G1722	
ἀπολλυμένοις	ἀνθ	ῶν	τὴν	ἀγάπην	τῆς	ἀληθείας	οὐκ
them that perish	because	G3739	G3588	the love	G3588	of the truth	not
G622	G473			G26		G225	G3756
ἐδέξαντο	εἰς	τὸ	σωθῆναι	αὐτούς			
they received	that	G3588	might be saved	they			
G1209	G1519		G4982	G846			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:18 (Salvation): For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Proverbs 1:7 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (Love): If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Proverbs 8:17 (Love): I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Romans 10:1 (Salvation): Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 Corinthians 2:15 (Salvation): For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

2 Corinthians 11:15 (Righteousness): Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Ephesians 4:14 (Parallel theme): That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;