

2 Thessalonians 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Analysis

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness—that they all might be damned (hina krithōsin pantes, ἵνα κριθῶσιν πάντες, 'that all might be judged/condemned') states the ultimate purpose. Universal judgment falls on those characterized by two negatives: **believed not the truth** (pisteuō, πιστεύω, entrust oneself to) and **had pleasure in unrighteousness** (eudokēsantes tē adikia, εὐδοκήσαντες τῇ ἀδικίᾳ, delighted in injustice).

Damnation isn't arbitrary—it judges persistent unbelief and delighting in evil. These aren't ignorant pagans but willing rebels who prefer lies and enjoy wickedness. God's judgment vindicates His justice by condemning what they freely chose. Hell is getting what you want forever: autonomy from God.

Historical Context

Roman culture celebrated various forms of unrighteousness—sexual immorality, gladiatorial bloodshed, exploitation of slaves. Participants didn't reluctantly sin; they reveled in it. Paul's description fits any culture where people don't just tolerate evil but applaud and celebrate it.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What unrighteous behaviors does contemporary culture celebrate rather than merely tolerate?
2. How does 'taking pleasure in unrighteousness' differ from occasionally sinning?
3. Why is enjoying evil a more serious condition than merely committing it?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	κριθῶσιν	πάντες	τῇ	μὴ	πιστεύσαντες	τῇ
That	might be damned	they all	who	not	believed	who
G2443	G2919	G3956	G3588	G3361	G4100	G3588
ἀληθεία	ἀλλ'	εὐδοκήσαντες	ἐν	τῇ	ἀδικίᾳ	
the truth	but	had pleasure	in	who	unrighteousness	
G225	G235	G2106	G1722	G3588	G93	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:32 (Parallel theme): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Mark 16:16 (Faith): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Romans 2:8 (Righteousness): But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 12:9 (Parallel theme): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Psalms 11:5 (Righteousness): The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

John 3:36 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Parallel theme): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Hosea 7:3 (Parallel theme): They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

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