



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 47.0

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Willingly Deluded—Part 2

“Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false” (2 Thessalonians 2:11 ESV).

In this verse, God doesn't say He will MAKE people believe a lie—He will ALLOW them to believe a lie, if they want to. We saw last time that it wasn't because the Serpent's delusion was overpowering that Adam and Eve sinned but because they really wanted the lie to be true—they just needed a really good excuse. The Serpent's delusion gave them the “covering” of a “biblical” authority other than God to act on their ungodly desires. This covering wasn't a real covering, because they were found naked (their lawless deeds exposed), and they bore their individual responsibility before God's judgment as a forerunner of Judgment Day. Unfortunately, just like Adam and Eve, most people who are under a deluding influence WANT to be there. Why?

Due to sin, the flesh exists in all of us. For Believers, the Holy Spirit restrains our fleshly urges to sin, and God's work of Sanctification puts the flesh to death. For non-believers, the only thing restraining their fleshly impulses is fear of exposure, because all humanity knows it is “naked” in its sin before God's judgment, and *“this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil”* (John 3:19). Darkness “covers” nakedness, right? Well, you can't be exposed if you're in the dark, can you? So, you can argue you are covered in darkness, but only so long as you are in darkness. God has allowed darkness to exist (alongside light) so that people can fill it with their ungodliness, but He has warned many times, *“Your nakedness shall be uncovered, and your disgrace shall be seen”*

(Isaiah 47:3a). How? God has sent Jesus, *“the light of men”* (John 1:4b), to uncover all deeds “covered” under satan's rule of darkness.

In the Light, darkness is no covering at all. Light exposes all deeds. Unfortunately, people would rather believe they are hidden from responsibility by the “coverage” of darkness, so they can continue in their sinful deeds. This is why people seek an opportunity, authority, or teaching that offers them cover to act on their lusts AND escape responsibility for their sins. Some willingly come under the “authority” of the lie as Eve did, denying God's authority to judge them, while others, like Adam, believe they have found a “loophole” in their responsibility to their sin before God—fully intending to blame the “helpers” God allowed in their lives (church, pastor, teacher, friend, spouse, leader), while hating any attempt to uncover the darkness that “justifies” the sin they love. They don't realize *“nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light”* (Mark 4:22), *“for the word of God is living and active... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account”* (Hebrews 4:12), *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified [only] as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:23-24).

In this way, Believers are not naked in the Light, for *“blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven and whose sins have been covered”* (Romans 4:7), because as *“we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7), *“having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him”* (Romans 5:9). Amen.

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