

BELIEVING MODERN IDOLATRY'S LIE
2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Golden Calf, Exodus 32.
 - 1. Religious action was performed.
 - 2. Religious language was used.
 - 3. Religious leaders were in charge.
 - 4. All – RELIGIOUS BLASPHEMY!
- B. The Golden Calf and Lies.
 - 1. Vs. 1, “Come, make us a god who will go before us...”
 - 2. Vs. 1, “As for this Moses, ... we do not know what has become of him.”
 - 3. Vs. 4, “This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from Egypt.”
 - 4. Vs. 5, “Aaron built an altar before it; ... Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.”
 - 5. Vs. 24, “Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off. So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”
 - 6. All about “us”, “we”, “you”, and “they”.
- C. Today...
 - 1. We modify God’s Word so the appeal is updated.
 - 2. We redesign, rethink, and refashion the commands of Scripture, 2 Tim. 3:2-9.
- D. A Biblical Truth: God Looks at the Small Things.
 - 1. Modern idolatry: “God doesn’t sweat the small stuff.”
 - 2. God has always urged [commanded] obedience to the small details in life, worship, personal morality.
 - 3. Note the fine details given regarding the construction of the tabernacle.
- E. Definition of a lie:
 - 1. What do we mean by the term “lie” as used in the sense of a religious lie regarding beliefs and doctrines?
 - 2. “If the belief of a lie leads one to sin or fail to do ALL that is commanded by God, in the way God directs, it will prove fatal unless forgiven by God!”

I. CASE #1: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:10-12.

- A. A Church Threatened with Apostasy.
 - 1. The man of lawlessness, vs. 3.
 - 2. The main instrument used – deceit! Vss. 3, 9-12
 - 3. Because they are deceived, they are perishing, vs. 10.
- B. Man Has a Choice.
 - 1. They have been taught God’s truth.
 - 2. Guard truth – hold to its teachings, v. 15.
 - a. Traditions – authentic teachings of the apostles handed down orally.
 - 3. God allowed a choice.
- C. Result:
 - 1. Believing a lie leads to condemnation, vs. 11.
 - 2. Seeking to please self – rather than God.
 - 3. Pleasure in unrighteousness, vs. 12.

II. CASE #2: 1 KINGS 12-13.

- A. Story of the Young Prophet.
 - 1. Corrects king, 13:1-3.
 - 2. Events lead to the understanding he was a prophet of God, vss. 4-6.
 - a. The altar breaks apart.
 - b. The king's hand dried up and restored.
 - 3. The king invites the prophet to his house, vs. 7.
 - 4. The prophet refuses – disobedience to God, 8-9.
- B. The Story Continued – Old Prophet.
 - 1. Tricks the young prophet, 13:14-18.
 - a. He is a religious leader.
 - b. He based his word on God's revelation.
 - c. He presented the prophet with an alternative.
 - d. The prophet was convinced, BUT, He believed a lie.
 - 2. The end result:
 - a. He was killed, 13:21-24.
 - b. He knew the truth.
 - c. But, he believed a lie.

III. CASE #3: MATTHEW 15:14.

- A. Believing a Lie.
 - 1. The cause of falling into a ditch – blindness.
 - 2. Applied in a spiritual sense – spiritual blindness.
 - 3. Solution – 2 Peter 1:10-11.
 - 4. Ignorance due to misguidance – the majority falling away (“Few there be...”).
 - 5. 1 John 4:1 – test the “spirits” [*false prophets*].

CLOSING

- A. Some contend we do not know the truth on every subject, so we should not condemn others for believing certain ways.
 - 1. In matters of faith – we have no choice.
 - 2. God has clearly expressed boundaries.
- B. How can we be sure we are not following lies?
 - 1. Acts 17:11 – as the Bereans, examining the Scriptures daily.
 - 2. 1 Thess. 2:13 – receive the word of God as the inspired word of God.
- C. The father of lies continues to live, John 8:44.
 - 1. He encourages, “There is still time ... (?)”
 - a. Millions die without God and without hope.
 - b. Many Christians excuse themselves from working in the Lord's vineyard.
 - 2. Must be obedient, Matthew 7:21.