

# STRAIGHTWAY

"AND STRAIGHTWAY THEY FORSOOK THEIR NETS, AND FOLLOWED HIM" (MARK 1:18).  
CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

## "That They Should Believe *the Lie*" 2 Thessalonians 2:11b – Part One

Dr. H. T. Spence

When God gave man the Bible, He gave him the most wonderful treasure that could ever be received through the medium of language. The miracle of language or speech (the utterance of articulate sounds or voices) was appointed by God for mankind to express and communicate thoughts. It is evident in the creation of man that God furnished both the faculty of speech and speech itself (the knowledge and use of words as vocal sounds or ideas). This gift of language existed even before the formation of woman, at which time we read of the first uttered words of Adam. Therefore, we must conclude that language was bestowed upon Adam in the same manner as all other faculties and knowledge—by divine origin. Language did not come into existence; it was given by supernatural power and divine appointment to man by God. While language and the faculty of speech were immediate gifts of God, written

language became the representation of significant speech sounds using single and combined symbols making words arranged to convey specific meanings.

God first orally gave man His infallible Word in the language of man. At an appointed time, He then gave His Word in written form, using the language of man which He had given him. In the beginning the Word of God was *rhema* (Gr., "the spoken, articulate word") as in, "And God said" (Gen. 1:3). Behind this spoken word was a *logos* word (Gr., a "full, thought expression of words").

John 1 declares that the *Word* "became flesh and dwelt among us." As the preexistent Son became flesh through the Holy Spirit and the medium of the Virgin Mary, so the preexistent Scripture of Truth became flesh in language formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through the hearts and minds of holy men. This language was made up of words, phrases, sentences,

separate clauses, parallel clauses, contrasted clauses, texts, contexts, narratives, poetry, etc. Yes, the Word became flesh, language flesh. The eternal Scripture of Truth in heaven, eternal as God Himself, was brought by the power of the Holy Spirit into the laws and logic of human language. The Bible is truly the supernatural book in the medium of written language. God's Word on earth is the product of God's creation of speech and language.

### **Language: The Communication of Truth**

God created Adam and Eve with the ability to communicate through the medium of language. Such a medium was for one purpose—the communication of truth. This “communication of truth” was the governing principle and the purpose of language divinely

appointed by the Creator. But we read early in the historical, biblical record of God's Word that the serpent, influenced by the Devil, initiated a “dialogue” with Eve by questioning God's command, “Yea, hath God said?” The questioning of God's Word was followed by the bold contradiction of the God of Truth in the Satanic declaration, “Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4, 5). It was in this historical moment that the first transgression against a law of God was committed on this earth. It was the transgression against the law of language, that which is to communicate truth, which brought forth the transgression on earth of the Lie!

### **The Truth Personified vs. The Lie Personified**

As the Scriptures unfold the revelation of God, it is clearly revealed that the Creator abhors a lie—for a lie is against all that He is. God is the personification of the Truth! That day in the Garden of Eden man was first introduced to the antithesis of truth by the representative of Satan, the adversary and the slanderer of God. The serpent's lie transgressed the law of language perverting and destroying the vehicle that man was to use to communicate truth. This confrontation began the great battle in history of “the

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truth” versus “the lie.”

When the Son of God (the very Word and Speech of God) came to earth, He declared two principles, both found in the Gospel rendered by John the Beloved. In John 14:6 He announced to His disciples that He was “the Truth,” the very personification of truth, the embodiment of “Truth.” But in John 8:44, He revealed the sobering reality that the Devil, the slanderer of God, “was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie [Gr., ‘the lie’], he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” As Christ came as the personification of the Truth, the Devil was revealed as the notorious Liar, the originator and promoter of the Lie.

Though the Devil, the father of all lies, has conceived and perpetrated manifold lies throughout all of history, biblical prophecy announces that the End Time will be given to the welding together of all the lies of history. The prelude generation before the coming of Antichrist will be given to the spreading of the final Lie throughout the world. When the Antichrist appears in history, he will be the human embodiment of the Lie.

We can observe the coming Lie in several passages of Scripture. When the apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians in his second epistle, he warned them of the coming of Antichrist:

*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a [the] lie (2 Thess. 2:10, 11).*

In Romans 1:24, 25 we are told that the immorality of the End Time will be part of the Lie believed by humanity:

*Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a [the] lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

These two contexts of Scripture reveal characteristics that control this hour in history. Mankind has been convinced through governments, the national news media, and the philosophical postmodernists that their delusional, false thinking is the truth. This form of thinking has basically consumed every compartment of epistemology.

### **The End-Time Myth (Lie)**

The End Time of the last days is described by the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1 as “perilous times,” or exceedingly fierce, demonic times. In such times apostasy (the defection from the Truth) will be global in proportion, and its oppressive, dark authority will be assimilated in all compartments of human thought. As

for the existence and the very fabric of present, visible Christendom, these “exceedingly fierce” times become the description unfolded in the verses found in 2 Timothy 3. Amidst this carefully described progression of the apostasy that characterizes the leadership and laity of the end-time visible church, Paul reveals that such men will resist the Truth; they will be men of “corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” and evil seducers who will “wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (3:8b, 13).

The only antidote for the apostasy will be a *fresh faith* in and through the true, incorruptible Gospel of God’s Word. Thus, the Apostle continues in 2 Timothy 4:2–4 with a crucial exhortation:

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

To preach the Word of God “in season” is to preach when that Word is accepted, desired, and accompanied by a liberty of the Holy Spirit to declare truth. Such “in-season” periods of time have been known when God was moving among people. This was

evident in the days of the 1700s when the Revivalist movement was sweeping across England as well as during the precious First and Second Great Awakenings here in America.

Nevertheless, Paul exhorted his spiritual son Timothy to also preach the Word when it is “out of season.” In such a season the Word of God is not accepted, desired, and sympathetically heard. The days of Noah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and even of Christ and the Apostles may be described as “out-of-season” times. Though many came to Christ in the early days of the Book of Acts, there was the clear evidence of the falling away as the years continued to unfold in the second half of the first century.

The greatest “out-of-season” time is revealed by Paul in 2 Timothy 4:3, 4:

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Today, true biblical Christianity is publicly dead and can only be found in small pockets of believers scattered across the world. The time has come when public, global professing Christianity has refused to even tolerate sound or healthy teachings of the Word of God. Therefore, we are witnessing the explosion of a multitude of “teach-

ers” of all concepts of religiosity who are Christianized to be accepted in the various segments of contemporary Christianity. No other religion in history has had a broader spectrum of belief than Christianity. It covers the gamut from extreme legalism to the most liberal perspective imaginable.

Paul reveals to us in this passage in 2 Timothy 4 that men must have something to hear, for faith is based upon hearing. But what is heard? If the true Word of God is denied, rejected, or cast aside because of hatred for its principles, something must take its place. The Devil has formed a deceptive imitation of Christianity in our time.

In Romans 10:13–15a, Paul reveals the process of believing the Gospel:

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?*

Thus, the Devil has brought forth a plethora of gospels describing all kinds of “Jesuses” to call upon. The Devil, the father of lies, has his transformed angels of light who preach and teach what the people want to hear. Their ears are itching for something new, something different, something palatable to satisfy the sinful, worldly nature of man. This hearing produces

a false trust and faith away from the Word of God, away from the true Christ, and away from the true salvation of the Gospel.

Yes, the Devil has his teachers, his preachers, who are capable to feed the ear of the natural man anything he wants to believe apart from the Truth. Man is never content for very long, even with the error that he hears; he must ever be going to something new. For the ear always has another “itch” that must be satisfied. And the lusts of men are always changing; therefore, they must ever be given something else to hear in order to produce another trust, another “faith” in something hoped for.

Note Paul’s revelation in 2 Timothy 4:4: “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” They willfully and actively turn away from the truth. By doing so, another power takes over: “And shall be turned unto fables.” Once men actively choose to leave the truth, they “shall be turned”; the power of the lie will begin drawing them to its devastating and destructive trap of “fables.”

A “fable” in the Greek is *muthos* and signifies “conversation or speech to another, orally or written.” If we break this term down, we observe *mu* signifies “to close, keep secret,” or to keep dumb or silent. We also can see the Greek word *muo*, presented in the New Testament as that which is closed

(such as the eyes or mouth). We also see this term used in the Greek word for mystery or secret, *musterion*. Thus, *muthos* contrasts the Greek word for truth, *aletheia*, meaning “not to cover.” There is also the Greek term *logos*, which sometimes is presented as a narrative setting forth the truth of a matter—truth versus a fable or a myth.

A classic insight to Satan’s “myth” influencing and controlling even history is seen on the day of Christ’s Resurrection in Matthew 28:11–15:

*Some of the watch [soldiers who kept guard of the tomb] came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers. Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

This secret approach, behind the scenes of public view, is happening tens of thousands of times daily around the world, literally changing history. Oh, the billions of dollars that are spent fabricating the myths and lies to replace the truth.

### **Turning the Truth into a Myth**

For man to believe in the myth,

he must be convinced that the truth is the myth and that the fabricated myth is the truth. When Liberalism and Modernism made their debut in the mid-1800s in Protestantism, they openly denounced the fundamentals of the Christian Faith by declaring the Bible to be a false book, given to the fiction of history. Liberalism was so bold to announce that all the miracles of the Bible were nothing but fabricated legends, sagas, and myths that were cunningly devised to perpetuate a false Jesus. They even declared that the history of the Bible was false; that the Jesus presented in the Gospel writings was a false, mythological Jesus. Men such as Albert Schweitzer spent their lifetime in the “quest for the historical Jesus” while denying the Christ of Scripture.

When Neo-Orthodoxy arose from the debris of Liberalism, it announced that to rightfully study the Bible one must first pursue its “demythologization.” The Liberals who view the Bible as mythology believed one must search for the “kernel” of truth that is buried under all the mythical words that surround the Bible’s narratives. Men such as Rudolf Bultmann invested their life’s study to such a hope of discovering the hidden kernel of truth somewhere within all the mythology of the Bible.

We are told that ninety-five percent of Protestantism today rejects and

denies the Virgin Birth; and when it comes to the rest of the fundamentals of the Christian Faith, only a small percentage of Christians believe in their literality. In contemporary Christianity the devastating hermeneutical principle of existentialism has taken over the interpretation of Scripture. This approach purports that the Bible was written from a subjective, surrealistic, emotional perspective, and therefore, its vocabulary and meaning are never to be taken literally. Thus, men reading the Bible through that presupposition are taught to let it at a given moment “become” a word to them; in so doing, that experience becomes an existential refreshment to the readers, bringing “feelings” of faith and positivism.

But once the truth is cunningly convinced to be a myth, what must take the place of truth? What is now to produce faith? For without the hearing of the “word,” there is no faith. “Faith cometh by hearing”; therefore, something must be given to be heard in order to “create” faith. This is where the false “teachers” of our times step forward. They “create” their own existential truth to take the place of the principles of the Bible they call myths. These charlatan men and women declare under their own anointing or demonic inspiration that their “word” is to be the power to produce faith. Individuals are called to simply put their trust in that word given, and it

will produce the faith needed. Public Christianity today has become “the myth,” the “lie,” or that which has taken the place of God’s truth. God’s truth is hated and considered to be mere mythology. False Christianity is far more diabolical than Islam, Buddhism, and all the other religions that have polluted the stream of the inner man of humanity.

## **Conclusion**

But contemporary Christianity is only one aspect of the whole of the Lie that now controls the End Time. What is the truth and what is a lie today? Who is telling the truth and who is telling the lie? Our present administration in Washington for over two years has raised the alarm of what has been called “fake news,” or the intense, intricate, delusional presentation of what is to take the place of the truth, both historically and philosophically. Political parties spend literally tens of millions of dollars just to keep their myth alive (and thereby, the truth buried). The world is out to decimate the truth and to laud and exalt the myth.

The time has come that the concept of what is to be accepted as truth by the populace is that which screams the loudest, that which has the most money backing it, that which is “mega” in its appearance, and that which has the greatest convincing rhetoric. Reasonings and conversations based on absolutes in communications are a concept



of the past. The absolute of morality is illogical thinking today; and what was right and true in the past is no longer viable for the present. Truth is out of vogue and the Lie is in. And those who will not relinquish the former and fully accept the latter will be trodden down and publicly denounced by the bold myth that controls society.

This issue of *Straightway* enters into the mythological world façade that rules global society today with the hope that some insight will be given to warn the righteous that truth is fallen in the streets, lawlessness is the cry of the land, and (as David declared of old) “Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men”

(Psalm 12:1).

Dear reader, only God and His Word can deliver us from this present evil world’s nebulous, postmodernist powers of thought. God alone and His Word can keep us from entering the abyss of the myth, where insanity reigns as sanity, and that which was sane in better moral and logical days is now viewed as insanity. The Lie is all around us, everywhere we go; truth will only be found where God rules in law, order, design, purpose, and beauty in an individual life, in a home, or in a local church. We look to Him for the security of sound thinking and to be kept from the controlling powers of this present evil world.



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# **“That They Should Believe *the Lie*”**

## **2 Thessalonians 2:11b – Part Two**

Dr. H. T. Spence

Our first article unfolded the principle of present history rejecting Truth and coming to believe in the Lie. Often in history powers have intentionally created their own truth (which was a lie) and have successfully convinced great numbers to embrace their lie as the truth. Roman Catholicism was able to hide its pervading and deceptive leaven in Church doctrine thereby destroying truth. What remained was a created myth for the world to believe. Such a powerful deception necessitated the Protestant Reformation to boldly and aggressively bring the truth of God’s Word back to the public arena, dispelling the doctrinal myths of Rome.

Contemporary to the Protestant Reformation was the maturing of especially the Italian and Northern European Renaissance that was seeking out truth of the natural world of man’s epistemology. As the Reformation became the appropriate outcome in God’s providence of the Renaissance, it must also be noted that the secular side of the Renaissance led into the powerful Enlightenment period with its dethroning of God and the deification of reason. From that point in history, man took a progressive and defiant attitude of intentionally leaving any God-consciousness out of human

reasoning. As a result, man willfully departed from the truth of God and therefore from the source of all truth.

How does a society claiming to be rational successfully embrace the authority of a myth and proclaim it to be the authority of truth? Can man rationally reconstruct irrationality to be his new reasoning? If so, he will declare historic reasoning to be man’s old irrationality. Let us note several areas in which such an absurd change of emphasis became evident.

### **The Myth of What Man Is and His Emotions**

One enduring truth that has contributed providential greatness to Western civilization has been its consistent belief that man was created by God. This understanding was once again brought to prominence in the Protestant Reformation when it reasserted the biblical presentation of the dignity of human life. In Exodus 4:10 when Moses declared his inability to speak, the Lord’s response provided a classic insight of man’s dignity even in his weaknesses:

*And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with*

*thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.*

The source of man's human dignity is found in the fact that he was created by God in the image and likeness of God. No matter how feeble or how handicapped an individual may be, he or she is still precious in the sight of God as an evidence of His creation. Notwithstanding the misery and overwhelming consequences that have come upon mankind because of his sins and wretchedness, there is still the remarkable fact that he is a created being by God Himself.

Nevertheless, the greatest proof of the dignity of man is that God Himself came down to earth and took on the form of man. Yes, this very fact deepens the understanding of the dignity of man—God was willing to become a man. How do we know this to be true? The question is not can God become man; the question is did God become man? If we are to understand man, then we must come to know God Who created him; we must come to know God Who Himself became a man two thousand years ago.

Western civilization began to radically change in the nineteenth century when men began to more vehemently attack man's origin in God's creative act. In 1859, Charles Robert Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species* where he presented the theory that human beings may have evolved from the

simpler animals and become a more complex animal. Then in 1872, Darwin wrote *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals* where he hypothesized that if man had evolved from lower animals, then man's emotions also evolved from those animals.

This "evolution of human emotion" opened the door for the American philosopher and psychologist William James to craft his new opinions. James was the first educator to offer a psychology course in the United States. He fathered pragmatism and functionalism. In functionalism he concluded that all sense of self-consciousness was formed by the environment in which a person was raised. In 1884 James was strongly influenced by Darwin's theory and wrote his own essay entitled "What Is an Emotion?" William James argued that an emotion is the sum total of bodily changes including one's genes, hormones, instincts, chemistry, as well as his environment.

Building upon the hypotheses of Darwin and James, Sigmund Freud stepped forward and capitalized primarily upon the emotion of love. He believed love or sexuality was the prominent part of man's chemistry. The prioritizing of the emotion of his view of love eventually brought the sexual revolution into Western civilization. From the amalgamation of thought pouring forth from these three men, a change of Western cul-

ture became evident that would only be surpassed by the Beatles and their influence in the 1960s.

Prior to the evolution of the Darwin-James-Freud redefining of the emotion of love, one of the greatest theologians and philosophers Jonathan Edwards gave its truer definition. Edwards declared that man's emotions or "affections" were to be captivated by God through the work of grace in the human heart. He spoke candidly concerning the duality of man's nature that is evident in the co-habitation of the "flesh" and the "Spirit." Within the Christian, which of these two powers would become the greater influence and life-changing authority? While Mr. Edwards was calling America to a biblical awakening, the Revivalist movement in England was being spread through the writings and preaching of John and Charles Wesley as well as George Whitefield. They were calling men and women, boys and girls to revival whereby their emotions were to be consumed in loving God.

In the mid and latter part of the 1800s, the birth of Liberalism and Modernism swept first across Europe and then America. These religious, apostate powers began declaring that the previous truths of the Christian faith should now be viewed as myths; in their place the myths of Darwin, James, and Freud were now to be

viewed as the truth. Simultaneously, godly preachers of the Word of God warned that there was a mighty flood of apostasy coming that would only bring indignity to man, for indignity is the result of sin. What was called "sin" at one time was being declared as man's evolutionary past. The truth of man's depravity and his accountability to God as a moral agent was now leaving the thinking of Western man. Even the truth of how Christ became a man and died on the cross to wrought salvation for man by bearing his sins and bringing him into favor with God was now laid aside. Man was brought down to the level of animals in the myth of evolution.

Which view would the world embrace? Was man a creature of God or an offspring of animals? Did man begin in dignity or indignity? Is man a creature of nature alone possessing only body and emotions attached to that body? Or was he both a natural and a spiritual creature? Is it sin that controls man's life or the animalistic nature that is an integral part of his DNA? Does he have a soul that will never die or is he a soulless creature?

If the truth that man is a creature of God's creation be mythologized and if the myth of his being a product of evolution becomes the ruling truth, then the entire concept of his human existence has been radically changed, altered, and rewritten. As a result, there

is no dignity of mankind. He descends to the baser animalistic behaviors of immorality, drugs, alcohol, and the aborting of his offspring.

### The Dan Brown Myth

Perhaps one of the craftiest manipulators of couching truth as a myth and myth as the truth is the American fiction author Dan Gerhard Brown. He was born on June 22, 1964, in Exeter, New Hampshire, and attended public schools there until the ninth grade. He grew up on the campus of Phillips Exeter Academy, where his father Richard was a teacher of mathematics. His mother was trained as a church organist and a student of sacred music. Raised an Episcopalian, Dan Brown in a 2009 interview described his religious consciousness in those early years:

*I was raised Episcopalian, and I was very religious as a kid. Then, in eighth or ninth grade, I studied astronomy, cosmology, and the origins of the universe. I remember saying to a minister, "I don't get it. I read a book that said there was an explosion known as the Big Bang, but here it says God created heaven and earth and the animals in seven days. Which is right?" Unfortunately, the response I got was, "Nice boys don't ask that question." A light went off, and I said, "The Bible doesn't make sense. Science makes much more sense to me." And I just gravitated away from religion.*

When asked in the same interview

about his then-current religious views, Brown replied:

*The irony is that I've really come full circle. The more science I studied, the more I saw that physics becomes metaphysics and numbers become imaginary numbers. The farther you go into science, the mushier the ground gets. You start to say, "Oh, there is an order and a spiritual aspect to science."*

By the year 2000 Brown had become an internationally known celebrity as an author of thriller fiction. Perhaps his most notable novels have been *Angels and Demons* (2000), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), *Inferno* (2013), and *Origin* (2017). These first three works have already been adapted into films; all have been translated into fifty-six languages. With just his first two books, he sold over 200 million copies.

Basically, his novels are treasure hunts set over a twenty-four-hour period featuring the recurring themes of cryptography, keys, symbols, codes, and of course, conspiracy theories. His novels feature the lead character Robert Langdon and the use of historical themes and Christianity as the motifs. Though much of his writing seems to be a mockery of Christianity and at times anti-Christian, he denies this and simply states he is on a "constant spiritual journey" himself. He declares that *The Da Vinci Code* is simply "an entertaining story that promotes spiritual discussion and debate" and

believes the book may be used “as a positive catalyst for introspection and exploration of our faith.”

We must remember that Brown writes his fiction in the backdrop of historical events and places. The historical aspect simply becomes the blending of motifs for the story. In *The Da Vinci Code* Brown is subtly implying that found in the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci are secret messages encoded. Particularly, Brown focuses on the painting of *The Last Supper* by Leonardo. His focus on this unique masterpiece of the Renaissance classically represents the power of entertaining fiction to transition truth to myth and myth to truth.

Perhaps a brief background concerning Leonardo would help us to see the indignity that Brown has created. Leonardo Da Vinci lived from 1452 to 1519, dying two years after the formal beginning of the Protestant Reformation. He is called a Renaissance polymath because he was a man deeply skilled in a great variety of human endeavors. He was an Italian painter, a draftsman, a sculptor, an architect, and an engineer whose genius, perhaps more than that of any other figure, epitomized the Renaissance humanist ideal. His paintings *The Last Supper* (1495–98) and *Mona Lisa* (c. 1503–19) are among the most widely popular and influential paintings of the Renaissance. (It is interesting to note that

this past November 2017, his painting *Salvator Mundi* sold for \$450.3 million dollars.)

His notebooks reveal a spirit of scientific inquiry and a mechanical inventiveness that were centuries ahead of their time. These notebooks become very important in our burden for this article in that Leonardo wrote about everything he did including all his reflective thoughts. In the early parts of these notebooks, Leonardo describes three things to which he was committed.

(1) His first declaration of pursuing the empirical experience is probably the most prominent commitment he expresses. Throughout his life this man was ever symbolically married to the empirical experience, or the skill of detailed observation through the human senses (especially sight and sound) of nature. This man empirically studied anatomy, including human bodies and those of animals and birds. He intensely pondered the facts of what he empirically experienced. Although Leonardo appeared on the scene of human history just before the scientific revolution, he is truly part of the blooming apex of the Renaissance, where man had a deep interest in nature, understanding it, its governing principles, and what rules over it. Leonardo believed that God gave man his intellectual faculties to understand his appointed dominion

over nature. This empirical experience would be known through the eyes, ears, and touch.

(2) His second passion was what he called instrumental or mechanical art. This desire would be a natural passion for such a sculptor, a painter, an architect; yet, amidst his polymath abilities, he was drawn to the mechanical arts of engineering. Leonardo over his years conceived of a variety of machines, including those for war, like tanks, submarines, and helicopters.

(3) His third commitment was to mathematics. He believed that the reality of the universe was mathematical. Eventually modern science was born with Galileo, and particularly with Sir Isaac Newton, who came to declare that the laws of nature were written in the language of mathematics. This understanding became the key to unlocking the secrets of the universe.

Dan Brown entitled his book *The Da Vinci Code* because he postulates that secretly encoded messages by this Renaissance genius could be found in the paintings of Leonardo. Brown's book unfolds his suggestion that throughout church history there has been a secret society preserving what they believe to be the truth about Christianity. This secret society had to maintain their secrecy lest the Pope kill them. Because of this fear, it is declared that Leonardo encoded the "truth" of Christianity in his paintings.

In this fictional work, what was this truth that had been quelled by the "myth" of Christianity's public religious leadership? Brown believes that Christianity from its beginning quelled the original truth of its beginnings for a more palatable public version. Nevertheless, he declares, there are those throughout history who have known the truth and endeavored to secretly preserve that original truth.

Brown purports that Leonardo preserved this truth in his paintings and drawings. How is this so? One of the symbols in *The Last Supper* painting is the conspicuous absence of the chalice, "the cup." Brown announces that the figure at Jesus' right-hand side is none other than Mary Magdalene; she is to be the central figure of the painting. Brown says the chalice (written about by many authors in the past 150 years) is actually a person. Mary Magdalene is the chalice, the cup, the vessel which held the liquid, the blood of Jesus. Brown believes she conceived Jesus' child, and at the time of the Last Supper she was with child. After the death of Jesus, Mary was taken by Joseph of Arimathea down into Egypt where she gave birth to a daughter. Thus, throughout church history there is a perpetual holy blood which according to the myth is the Lord's blood making its way down through history.

Another observation that Brown makes concerns the way Jesus and

Mary are leaning in the painting to create a vacant V-shape between them. We must recall that Leonardo kept notes on everything he did and thought. In his own notebook he declares that the figure on the right of Jesus is John! But Brown declares in his “fiction” conspiratorial writing that it was Mary sitting to His right, and that Jesus gave her as the chalice to the apostles. According to Brown, *The Last Supper* depicts a sexual ritual. The blood that He gives to them is supposed to be her menstrual blood. According to Brown, this was part of the ritual of the Gnostic sects of early church history. Brown falsely claims the Gnostic sects were a part of the early true Christianity that was eventually suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church.

### **The Truth versus the Myth**

Dare we inquire as to the reason Leonardo did not paint the chalice in his painting of *The Last Supper*? The simple fact is that his painting is very biblical. Because it was Jewish custom for each family member to have his own cup at Passover, each disciple naturally had his own cup. The popular quest for the chalice over the centuries is simply part of the myth continuing to be popularized by Hollywood personalities such as Indiana Jones.

Brown’s popularizing of a Christian myth is palatable to this age due in part to society’s increasing love of

mysticism. Although Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* announces at the outset that it is fiction, it is still read by the gullible populace as reality due to so much historical truth used as the background of the story. The incorporated myth simply blends into the history. No matter how something is written, the important thing to note is that a myth is a myth. This book proves that it does not have to be historical truth for the myth to become believed as truth.

### **Conclusion**

It has been said that if you throw enough mud on a wall, some of it is bound to stick. After over six thousand years experimenting with man, the Devil has come to his greatest hour of counterfeiting the truth and convincing mankind that the truth is myth and that myth is truth. Truth is the only thing that will set the heart and mind free—free from falsehood, free from error, free from myth, and free from sin. But where truth is not held dear and is not guarded, the mind and heart will be given over to delusions, to fables, to myths—the Lie!

The Truth has cost the lives of many godly believers. Nevertheless, truth must ever be declared, no matter how it is received. As Samuel Rutherford declared in prison, “Serve Christ; back Him; let His cause be your cause; give not an hairbreadth of truth away, for it is not yours but God’s.”

One cannot believe the false and be



saved. This fact is the reason God's people must earnestly contend for the embodiment of the Truth—the Faith. Only the truth has the power to save. A false gospel believed will send a person to hell, for such a gospel declares a false Jesus. The secular times we live in are filled with lies in public news, advertisement, and even religion. It will take a commitment to the Word of God

and the discernment of the Holy Spirit to see through this age that is bent to deceive us to leave the truth of our God and God Himself. May the Lord enable us to discern the myths of our time and do all that we can to preserve the truth. The sage of Jerusalem gave the call for us in Proverbs 23:23: we must "Buy the truth, and sell it not!"



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## **“That They Should Believe *the* Lie” 2 Thessalonians 2:11b – Part Three**

Dr. H. T. Spence

*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a [the] lie* (2 Thess. 2:11).

What was the “cause” that God would send “them” strong delusion? The previous verse reveals this cause—“because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” It is the rejection of truth that brings an individual or even a nation into the shambles of chaotic thinking. When anyone comes to a season of willful rejection of truth by first casting away a “love” for the truth, hatred for the truth inevitably follows. This truth can be noted in the hearts of the Israelites when they refused to enter the land of Canaan. The Scriptures revealed, “Yea, they despised the pleasant land” (Ps. 106:24).

The Apostle continues in 2 Thessalonians 2:11, “And for this cause,” the God of heaven will continue to send (in the present tense) to either individuals or the global society a “strong delusion.” This phrase in the Greek is that He will continue to send them “false reasoning” until they ultimately believe the final Lie that will sweep the world. Note Romans 1:28: “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.” In

refusing and rejecting God in their knowledge, God gives man over to a reprobate mind—a mind that is given to irrational thoughts. Second Timothy 4:3, 4 declares that when the truth is rejected, another power will take over the mind for it to be turned to “fables,” “myths,” yea, “the lie.”

### **The Apostasy—The Lie**

Man since his fall has known multitudes of defections from the truth. But Paul reveals in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 “a [Gr., ‘the’] falling away first.” Apostasies eventually bring man to the final apostasy to arise globally in the End Time of the last days. A season in world history is approaching when defection from truth will be known in every compartment of life. It will be a time when the whole world will believe the Lie.

The last church age presented in Revelation 3 is Laodicea, a church age that believes that being rich and increased with materialism is proof of God’s presence. Nevertheless, they know not that they are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17). Truly the End Time will be a collaboration of the apostasy with the Lie. Apostasy produces a permanent defection from truth; it is then that a lie takes over in the thinking of an

individual; one leads to the power of the other. The domination of that lie in one's thinking then goes on to feed deeper apostasy.

### **The Coming of Antichrist—The Lie**

The term *antichrist* is more of a title that will become prominent the nearer we get to the secret coming of Christ and the Tribulation Period. Although the title only occurs in John's writings (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7), nevertheless, the idea which the word *antichrist* conveys occurs frequently in Scripture. The term *antichrist* has a twofold understanding: (1) one of taking the place of Christ and (2) one of being against Christ.

As in the Old Testament where the doctrine of Christ is only suggested and not fully developed, so is the case with the teachings of Antichrist. In the New Testament the activity of the Devil is regarded as especially directed against Christ. In the Temptation of Luke 4:5-7, there is the personal temptation given to Christ that has never been extended to another. In this passage, the Devil claimed to hold all the kingdoms of this world. The temptation that day was a struggle against Christ and Antichrist. In the parable of the Wheat and Tares, there is the sowing of the good seed by the Son of Man and the sowing of the tares by the Devil, the Antichrist. In the Pauline Epistles, Satan is seen in the spiritual sphere—"what concord

hath Christ with Belial" (2 Cor. 6). In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul's comment that "the mystery of iniquity doth already work" indicates this doctrine being developed. This mystery of iniquity is the Man of Sin.

Twelve years before this epistle, a shadow and type of this man of sin arose in the mad emperor Caligula. After erecting a temple unto himself in Rome, Caligula demanded that his own statue be set up in Jerusalem and worshiped. The writings of John warn that such a man is coming. However, John's greater concern was that anti-Christian forces and doctrines were coming up within the church and denying the coming of Christ. Yet in his final book (Revelation), John declares the person of Antichrist, the Beast, and also his image, his number, his mark, and his name.

The writings of John place Antichrist in a developmental stage as a growing spirit that finally is embodied in a person, the final product of this development. Thus, Antichrist is ultimately the tangible product of a developing spirit in history. He will be the product of the nations of the world against God, the spirit of Psalm 2:3, as the world's leaders cry, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

Antichrist is directly linked with the heads of the empires of history. Antichrist is also the product of Sa-

tan's working to get a man under his absolute control, a man who will have the ability to unite the human and demonic worlds together. He will be the final development of sin—the wicked one, the lawless one against God's law. Only Judas and the Antichrist receive the title "son of perdition." Christ is the Son of God; Antichrist will be the Son of Perdition. Christ was the Mystery of Godliness (1 Tim. 3:16); Antichrist will be the Mystery of Iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7). As the "seed of the serpent," he will be somewhat of a composite man—one who embraces the abilities and powers of the previous empires while possessing the empowering of the Devil. He will attract the ungodly of the world; his personality will be irresistible; he will be a flatterer, a brilliant diplomat, for he will speak with great swelling words.

The early Apostolic church age believed that Antichrist would be a person, the embodiment of human blasphemy and wickedness. But toward the close of the twelfth century, many began to look upon the Pope as Antichrist; this view has been largely advocated by Protestant commentators. While the arguments in favor of this view are plausible, they are hard to reconcile with the Word of God. This perspective makes Antichrist merely a papal system rather than a specific person who ultimately will arise as the product of man's sin.

John declares "what" or "who" becomes an Antichrist:

*Who is a liar but he hath denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22).*

*Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3).*

Judaism has "denied" that "Jesus is the Christ." Unitarianism has denied that He has "come in the flesh." Yet the papacy over the years has never denied these statements. The Church of Rome has always confessed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." All the Protestant commentators insist that the "papal system" is described in Revelation 17:4, 5 under the figure of a Woman "arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls." While this is true, this Woman, the Mother of Harlots, is represented as riding upon the Beast of Antichrist. If the Beast is the Antichrist, the Woman cannot be; the papal Woman cannot be a papal Beast; these personalities are distinct.

Antichrist as the "Man of Sin" will "exalt himself and magnify himself above every god" (Dan. 11:36, 37). Paul declares of him that "he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4). However

false and impious the claims of the papacy, it always verbally recognized its subordination to God, and the Pope's highest claim is that he is the "Vicar of Christ." The passage in Revelation 13:3, 4 speaks of the two persons of the Antichrist and the Devil. Although the papal system worships the "virgin" and the saints, it is not true that it worships the Devil (at least not publicly).

Though there are many things in the history of the Church that foreshadow the spirit of Antichrist, it is clear that the Woman Harlot of Roman papacy is distinct from the Antichrist Beast out of the sea.

### **The Antichrist and the Lie**

The Antichrist will be known for the power of his words:

*And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven (Rev. 13:5, 6).*

*And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify*

*himself above all (Dan.11:36, 37).*

How is it possible that Antichrist will take control of the governments of the world to control the thinking of humanity? How will he even convince the Jewish nation that he is the Messiah? This is possible because he will be the full embodiment of the Lie. He will have the power to craft the words of a lie as the truth to the world. He will be able to analyze the truth and convince the world that it is a lie. As the embodiment of the Lie, he will convince the world to abandon all the truth of history and despise it as a myth.

### **Governments and the Lie**

A careful study of history shows that governments have been built at least on a portion of the Lie. Governments are rarely fully honest with their people because they see the need to control the people and to bring them into conformity to their philosophical desires. Although our own country America has experienced an immense sea of deception for many years, it now is so aggressively embracing the Lie that only the coming of the Lord will be able to set the truth straight.

Governmentally, our beloved nation entered its most confusing hour in 2008. We did not really know who our new president was or what he was. The media meticulously covered the truth of this man to peddle the Lie. This man of mystery was always one step

ahead in the cover up. Was he Muslim or Christian? Was he an American or an African? Was his birth certificate truly from Hawaii or was it a forgery? Was he a communist-socialist or was he a patriot of this country? Was he a promoter and financial provider for the very terrorists who were dedicated to destroy America, or was he a socialist benefactor to the lazy? Was he a sodomite disguised in the myth of a family or simply an ultra liberal who wanted to bring down the historic family concept in America? Was his wife a genuine woman or of “another kind”? Did he love and respect this country, or was he a mole planted to subvert and overthrow it?

For eight years we, and the world, lived in and with the utter confusion of what was the truth about this leader. During his administration Obama gave a speech in Seattle that was covered by the *Washington Post*:

*But whether people see what's happening in Ukraine, and Russia's aggression towards its neighbors in the manner in which it's financing and arming separatists; to what's happened in Syria—the devastation that Assad has wrought on his own people; to the failure in Iraq for Sunni and Shia and Kurd to compromise—although we're trying to see if we can put together a government that actually can function; to ongoing terrorist threats; to what's happening in Israel and Gaza—part of peoples' concern is just the*

*sense that around the world the old order isn't holding and we're not quite yet to where we need to be in terms of a new order that's based on a different set of principles, that's based on a sense of common humanity, that's based on economies that work for all people* (July 23, 2014).

More and more the rhetoric of words flowed pressing for a coming one world order, where everyone and everything will be controlled by a global government—the prophetic Antichrist world empire.

To accomplish this world order, the “words” of truth (no matter by whom they are spoken) will have to be quelled and condemned as being a “lie”; these leaders will accept only the promotion of the myth. For all who believe in the truth, “freedom of speech” is being suppressed; those who believe the Lie are promoted with governmental support to continue their mythical opinions, even lying to protect the Lie.

What this has come to reminds us of what happened in twentieth-century Germany. When German anti-Nazi theologian and Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) used his pulpit to expose Adolf Hitler's radical politics, he knew every word spoken was reported by Nazi spies and secret agents. Leo Stein describes in his book *I Was in Hell with Niemöller* (1942) how the Gestapo gathered evidence against Niemöller. These charges were based

entirely on his sermons, which the Gestapo agents had taken down in shorthand. In none of his sermons did Pastor Niemöller exhort his congregation to overthrow the Nazi regime. He merely raised his voice against some Nazi policies, particularly the policies directed against the Church. He had even refrained from criticizing the people of the Nazi government. Under the former government, his sermons would have been construed only as an exercise of the right of free speech. Now, however, written laws, no matter how explicitly they were worded, were subjected to the interpretation of the judges. In a June 27, 1937 sermon, Niemöller made it clear his audience had a sacred duty to speak out on the evils of the Nazi regime no matter what the consequences:

*We have no more thought of using our own powers to escape the arm of the authorities than had the Apostles of old. No more are we ready to keep silent at man's behest when God commands us to speak. For it is, and must remain, the case that we must obey God rather than man.*

A few days later, he was arrested. His crime was designated as “abuse of the pulpit.”

Another power that is rising in the overthrow of our country has been popularly termed the “Deep State.” It has been defined in a variety of ways:

*The influential decision-making bodies*

*within government that are relatively permanent and whose policies and long-term plans are unaffected by changing administrations.*

*They are a group of unelected government and military officials who secretly manipulate or direct national policy.*

“Deep State” has been a longstanding term used in countries such as Turkey and Russia. Since Donald Trump’s inauguration, the term has arguably been used involving the FBI, the CIA, and the NSA. Planted moles from previous administrations are alleged to be trying to overthrow the present administration by delegitimizing any policy goals. Pay-offs of hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent to create dossiers of so-called “facts” that help perpetuate the Lie.

### **The Present Global Distress and the Lie**

The Christian today is found in a global worldview that has denounced its Creator, and any accountability to Him. The world’s population is nearing 8 billion. Conservative demographic listings suggest anywhere between 16,000 to 27,000 different ethnic groups exist. No other time in history has known such ethnic diversity. While the United Nations acknowledges 195 distinct nations, other organizations list as many as 249 nations.

Throughout these nations roughly



6,500 languages are spoken, with Mandarin Chinese spoken by the greatest number of people. About 2,000 of these languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. Throughout these nations about 4,200 religions are practiced. The top five religions are Christianity (with its highly diversified persuasions), Islam, Secularism (nonreligious, agnostics, atheists, and New Agers), Hinduism, and Buddhism. And under these are several thousands of subdivisions. Hindus acknowledge millions of gods and goddesses; Buddhists say there are no gods; the New Age followers believe they themselves are gods; Muslims believe in a powerful but unknowable god; and the Bible declares a personal, loving, and approachable God. Even the diversity within Christianity has suggested well over 33,000 denominations.

All these religions also include their own sacred writings. Sad to say, Christianity is the only religion that questions or even denies its sacred writing—the Bible. Christianity is also the most diversified religion of any in the world. This latter observation gives clear evidence that Christianity has entered deeply into global apostasy; America has become the product of public Christianity's falling away. Modern Christianity has come to believe that the truth of the past will not survive in this present generation; it declares we must change its concept of truth as well as its Jesus to acclimate

to the times. The mega, charismatic churches with their liberal, intense thirst and hunger for the world have mongrelized the truth. As a result, they have introduced a new gospel which in turn has introduced a new Christ. This new gospel and new Christ have become the enemy of the Christ of the Bible. The Lie is ever mutating in Christianity.

But amidst the diversity of nations, languages, religions, and religious books, the internet has become the source for prominent written and spoken voices around the world. The internet now boasts almost two billion websites, with all these voices clamoring for followers of their way. Sources such as Facebook and Twitter are becoming the authority of what should be heard and not heard. They are joining the global forces to declare what is truth and what is myth. An elite group of powers are slowly and methodically narrowing down the voices of what they believe the world populace should follow.

At the turn of the twentieth century, we saw communism arise promising to be the utopia for mankind. Both communism and socialism are economic and political structures that promote equality. They seek to eliminate distinctions of poor, middle, and upper classes, while attempting to make equal all races and genders. Oh, how the Lie has spread across the world

to bring about the new world order. However, in every government that communism has taken over, it has become a dictatorship, making reform impossible. In the communist society everything is owned by the working class, and everyone works toward the same communal goal. All are equal. Amidst its false idealism in every circumstance, communism has brought mass poverty. There are only five nations in the world that are still completely communistic—Vietnam, Laos, Cuba, North Korea, and China. But we must remember that when communism fails, it is only a matter of time before dictatorship takes over. For communism leaves an absolute vacuum politically, economically, emotionally, and religiously. This vacuum is filled very quickly.

Communism has also left its mark of absolute moral void among the people. Its philosophy was a lie that failed every aspect of society. The greatest irony now is the lingering influence of an all-encompassing welfare state advocated by many in the US Congress and the continued presence of tenured Marxists in America's schools and universities.

The Lie of socialism has taken over many countries including America. As in communism, socialism focuses on so-called "equality." The propagation of this lie has filtered down to the confusion of same-gender marriages and

transgender absurdities so constantly being forced upon the world today. It is a global lie that has no doubt known demonic anointing.

Even the capitalism that helped build America has lost its foundation. That foundation was moral and ethical principles; it is now filled with terrible greed and corruption. When principles of governments leave God and lean into a direction away from God, the Lie must take its place.

Secularism is another part of the Lie that Western civilization has turned to. Secularism began as a dialogue about pluralism, tolerance, and relative values (as in France over 250 years ago). But it has ended with an outright assault on Christianity and its Christ. Secularism has an intellectual allurements, for such men and women are tantalized by the ideas and promises of the humanist dream that Darwinism, Freudian psychology, and the Marxist-Leninist social theories propagated. In secularism, the mind becomes a playground of hunger for the forbidden fruit, for the lust of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and to attain what Satan promised, "Ye shall be as gods." Evolution has released man, at least in his thinking, from any accountability to a Creator. (If man came from Him, then we are accountable to Him. But if there is no Creator, then our only accountability is to ourselves.)

The Lie advocates that perhaps science and technology have brought us to a time in history whereby man can take control of evolution and become the god of his future as well as the god of himself. Secularism has proved to only yield a bankrupt system without moral guidelines or reliable safeguards to protect the people from its own corruptions. It has degenerated into carnality, sensuality, lawlessness, and disease; it has left tens of millions of men and women all over the world adrift, without purpose, and emotionally crippled. Secularism also has left a spiritual vacuum in the hearts of all those who once turned to it for freedom and hope.

Our present plight in history is that we are on the eve of absolute destitution as man is without hope because he is without God.

Postmodernism seems to have become the final frontier in the Lie; it seems to have become the universal ideology of today. This philosophy has separated mankind from everything that was true, that was stabilizing to the human heart and life. We are a world adrift. We are intensely looking for something, some ideology, some form of government, some man to come, who will boldly denounce all the past and create a future with man in absolute control. We are leaning heavily into the direction of a final man who will rise with promise of a

land that will be everything that carnal, sinful man desires with no inhibitions or limitations.

Nevertheless, the Bible declares that all these human hopes will “wither in its spring.” At the moment post-modernism believes it will work and become what man wants to be without God; it will bring about the final destruction of man, *unless* God sends back His Son to the earth. God will bring to naught all of the failures and debris of man’s destructive ways; even man’s collaboration with Satan will end in naught. It is imperative that Jesus Christ comes back to set up His kingdom, to right all the wrong of man, and to bring universal peace both to man and to nature.

## Conclusion

Virgil’s *Aeneid* and Homer’s *Iliad* include the tale of the Trojan Horse regarding the Spartans’ attempt to capture the city of Troy. Troy had captured Helen, the queen of Sparta. The setting of this tale is sometime in the 13th century BC when the Spartans sent a thousand ships of warriors against Troy. Their ten-year siege was unsuccessful due to the impossible penetration of the insurmountable walls and impregnable gates of Troy.

The poet Homer particularly recounts in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* the final 52 days of the ten-year conflict. Ulysses the Greek came up with the

ingenious idea of building a massive wooden horse on wheels that could be filled with Greek warriors. The Spartans left the massive horse (as an offering to Athena) at the front gate of Troy at night, while the thousands of Spartan Greeks pretended to return to Greece. The next morning the men of Troy found the horse at their gates. Two men, Laocoön and Cassandra warned their people not to take the horse inside the city gates. Even one of the priests of Troy threw a spear at the wooden monolith and noted the hollow sound it made. But the people paid no attention to the warnings and opened the gates pulling the wooden horse into the city. As the Trojans drunkenly celebrated their victory that night, the Spartans slipped out of the wooden horse, opened the gates, and welcomed the slaughtering Spartan army into the city.

Over the centuries the ominous term *Trojan horse* has come to refer to a subversion introduced from without. The term has even been applied to seemingly innocent computer code that is stealthily introduced into a computer to destroy data or steal personal information. The Trojan-horse principle has been used repeatedly in a multitude of contexts including Christianity. Each time its ploy has been carefully planned and orchestrated, it has been for the intention of overthrowing the truth, righteousness, morality, and sound doctrine. Politics often raises

a Trojan horse with the promise of improving society and its government.

Trojan horses in Christianity often promise quick ways to grow the church and its schools. Though some may question the hollow sound of such promises, leaders declare that the good intention outweighs any detriment. What was rhetorically presented as a gift of blessing and promise of improvement turns out to be the demise of the country and the compromising of the ministry, its schools, and even its people. The deceptive offering eventually reveals a damaging hidden agenda only when it is too late to recover. By then, the damage has been extensively done or any hope permanently disabled.

The Lie enters society as a Trojan horse; it continues to expand declaring many promises and hopes that never materialize. Yet how many people live the Lie everyday; while their words profess something, their heart and life declare differently. May God enable us to live honestly; may the Word of God be the standard of our living and the discernment of our walk in this present, deceptive age. The Lie is here and daily devouring more and more of the thinking of mankind; one day it will rise to present a man who will declare himself to be God and Christ, and the answer to all of man's problems.

It will necessitate the coming of Christ, the Stone out of heaven, to

destroy this Lie.

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteous-*

*ness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a [the] lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess. 2:8-12).*

**S**

## THE CUTTING OF THE BELL

Dr. H. T. Spence

On rocky shore, near Fundy Bay  
A bell did toll on buoy grey  
The buoy tossed with ringing bell,  
To warn the ships of rocks and swell.

The buoy rocked from side to side  
As bell did toll from tide to tide.  
It rang and clanged its warning sound  
For ships to keep from rocks renown.

One evening found a ship near coast;  
Its anchor fast, asleep its host.  
Yet one, its captain, was in plight,  
For sound of bell caused sleepless night.

He soon arose, and dinghy found,  
And rowed to tossing buoy's sound.  
Disgusted with the clang it wailed,  
He cut the rope that held its bell.

Returning to his ship to sleep,  
And next day sailed to waters deep.  
When voyage took him weeks away,  
He then returned to Fundy Bay.

He entered Bay in thunderstorm  
With winds and waves in divers form.  
He could not see the rocks and reef;  
Relentless squall gave no relief.

He strained his ear to hear the bell  
That sounded forth where rocks do dwell.  
But there was no bell to be found  
To give him needed warning sound.

The captain knew he cut the rope!  
The bell was gone; there was no hope!  
His ship then struck the rocks with force,  
And lost the ship with deep remorse.

The bell that rang, and rang, and rang,  
He hated once in sleepless pang.  
Yet now the silent, warning hope,  
Was down in sea! He cut the rope!

Oh, how the world and church despise  
When preacher's voice and words arise  
To warn of compromise and sin!  
He rings the bell of Truth for men!

The cry is heard, "O bell, give way!  
Your peal for truth, we'll not obey!  
We'll cut the rope! We'll let it fall!  
We want no Word that's Biblical!"

At end of life when God will say  
"I judge you now a castaway."  
You'll long to hear the preacher's bell!  
But it's too late! Your verdict: Hell!