

No 298.

20.

The Refugees of Sicily

DETROIT FIRE

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Ps. 81: 8-16

2 Chron: 18: 1-22

2 Thess. 2: 1-17

63 Ps. 3 pt

145 Hy

416 Hy

81 Ps.

2 Thessalonians II: 11. That they should believe a lie.

Context. Paul been addressing church at Thes.
Salonica. Present chapter: Subject steadfast

ness in truth). Referred to that mysterious man
of sin to be revealed in latter days. Antichrist

His a parallel instituted between Xt as Gods dear
son manifest in flesh. to whom God gives all

power etc. Antichrist as dear son of Satan to
whom Satan gives all power etc. Christ wrought

miracles. Antichrist shall work wonders.

Christ's miracles designed to draw ^{from} evil to God

Anti Xt's wonders to draw from God to evil.

In 10 v. Paul speaks of some doomed to perish
as being led astray to follow Antichrist by the de
ceivableness of unrighteousness i.e. the deceitful

of a wicked course of life. and says it is because
they received not the love of the truth. and adds for
his cause God shall send them strong delusions that
they should believe a lie.

Idea is: the truth is presented to humanity for loving
reception. if they open hearts to it. becomes incorporated in
them - radiates outwards its brilliancy upon the error and
exposes the lying deceipts. if rejected, natural result
is deceivableness of unrighteousness. Tendency of sin
is to darkness. obscuration of truth. confusion of er-
ror + verity. moral perceptions etc. judicial providential result
is withdrawal of H. Spirit, so that men lose intellectu-
all conscientious + spiritual perception and are given
over to blindness. seared consciences, moral apathy.
God "sends them" - permits a strong delusion to overcome

Consequence is they come to believe a lie. very strong,
 not only to believe what is a lie; but what they them-
selves recognize or did, as a lie. They wanted to dis be-
 lieve the truth + to believe its opposite: they succeeded in it

General application: What a man hears the truth
 he may ⁱⁿ either of three ways, hear it. 1. Conscientiously
 2. Indifferently 3. Resistfully. The 2 + 3 are equiva-
 lently one, as indifferency is first stage of opposition
 When truth touches conscience, there is no way but to
obey. Evide or deny it. Evasion is only indirect denial
 and so we may say that those who under preaching
 remain unconverted, must resist + deny the truth
 in some form. This resistance etc = believing a lie

To illustrate. The truth comes to a man and
 convinces him of sin, righteousness + judgment etc

Explain here.) What can he do. In order to quiet his
 conscience he must either embrace the way of salva-
 tion or in some way evade the pressure of truth. It is
 done in either of four ways 1. Procrastination 2. Occupation
Fiction 3. Misinterpretation 4. Infidelity - all four
 classes risk destruction and run into deception -

God permits them to believe a lie and be damned.
 At beginning they believe the truth, ^{intentionally} but won't take
 refuge in hope set before us. must find shelter from
 condemnation of God + accusation of conscience. they
 can find shelter only in a false persuasion, ^{refuge of lie} but
 they are so anxious the lie should be true they try to
 believe it + God allows it, at last. When we want to
 hide ourselves under a delusion like jona's gourd,
 when we want to believe a lie God lets us

I have already said four things in which men may resist truth. Each one of these involves belief in a lie. Let us look at the first in order.

1. Postponement - Commonest way perhaps. go the way "Felix." To tomorrow + tomorrow. The lie here is the false persuasion that tomorrow will be a good time as to day, for consecration to Xt + his service

Fact is thou knowest not what a day etc. Death sudden + unexpected. Present is while it is called to day. Yesterday a word of memory - tomorrow of hope to day is reality. The only reality is to day. Yesterday + tomorrow creatures of imagination. Yesterday a phantom of past - tomorrow of future.

Suppose you live till tomorrow or the future you imagine, may your convictions + impulses draw

you as strongly. May you ever occupy that
 standpoint intellectually & morally you do
 now. Do not imagine these summits from which
 we see duty in clearest light are attained often
 Moreover operations of H. S. make it a vital ne-
 cessity. "To day." "I was in my wrath." Ps. 15
 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found. Says
 Isaiah 55 Chap. 6 verse.

Implication is there is a time when He is not
may not be found. while he is not near. The
 impossibility may all be on our side; but
 practically it is the same as though it be
 upon his side since he is not found etc

Is it wonderful if Patience of God is sometime
 exhausted Jer 15:6. Lit. weary of having compassion

Moreover Postponement overlooks idea of the ser-
vice we can hope to render to Christ in holy liv-
ing as well as need of time for our own growing
conformity etc. Justification an act. Sancti-
fication a work - it takes but a moment for
acceptance of it it takes time continually
for growth in grace.

So of serenity. Procrastination is self-
ish. it overlooks everything but salvation. True
salvation - whole question of sanctification &
serviceableness overlooked.

Hence we say No tomorrow not as good as today
Procrastination in persuading us of opposite
leads us to strong delusion. to believe alive

2. Intoxications. That is obvious, for gettiness through
pleasure. As a drunkard through cups, drowns reality
of his lost manhood. So sinners go to pleasures cups
to intoxicate soul into forgetfulness of his condition
(Expand) Cannot get away from Conscience - so he
plunges deeper into pleasure or business. Etc.
The practical lie here: That a man destroys the
force of a great reality by blinding his eyes to it. as
though oblivious of a fact by our forgetfulness can
annihilate God

It used to be fabled, though scientific research refutes it
as trick when you run after ^{it} ~~his~~ ^{buries} ~~his~~ head in the
sand or hides it in bush and believes itself safe
from the Enemy it cannot see.

Sinners act in same way. they act as though
they were secure in blindness. They fall in a
spiritual intoxication across track of God -
awake and hear afar off the thunder of his
approach. stop their ears + shut their eyes and
suppose themselves safe - immerse themselves in
gayety, money making, sensual pleasure and
imagine there is no god.

They may not express it to themselves but they
practically believe they lie that in forgetting God they

2. ~~Misinterpretation~~: wresting plain Biblical statements from their true meaning etc.

1. Illustration Universalism. Prof Packard? and his amiable wife. They want to believe this for a selfish reason. Sometimes they confess this in conversation as though God was about to move out of his marked path to make an exception in favor of us or our friends on account of some supposed human virtue or excellence.

~~2. Fundamentalism of obligation & dependence~~

On some accounts we should all like to believe the doctrine of universal salvation. If it could consist with God's moral government and the unequivocal statements of the word of God so that you must wrench half the

~~3. A fairer view of presumption and despair.~~

bible to an unnatural interpretation in order to accept it we unhesitatingly pronounce it a delusive lie.

We say that it is not conceivable that God should give a revelation to mankind and allow it to convey on its face an untrue doctrine.

So plain are Biblical statements on this subject that if the final destruction of the impendents be not taught with certainty nothing is. We believe therefore that all attempts to wrench these direct statements to mean anything else involve misinterpretation. in general cases it is taking refuge in a lie to escape submission to Xt. Men see their danger + remedy - they want to escape the danger + yet not use the remedy - so they try to believe there is no danger - and at last succeed. A natural process - the very prepossession gives bias to investigation. disposes to emphasize every Sophistry that supports + pass lightly over every objection to the false view

2. perverted views of obligation + dependence
Bible says work out your own salvation as need
Men endeavor to get away from obligation
to Christ. So they seize on doctrines
of divine sovereignty + human dependence
and press them to extremes they persuade
themselves that they can do nothing with-
out the H. S. and so make up their minds
deliberately to wait till they are carried
to Heaven. Now we say men know this
to be a perversion, a delusion, a lie. though
they may grow really to believe it. God may
allow them to be really deluded. But at
first they recognize it as a lie. could not
apply same principle in other things. pro-
perty in business comes from God etc of mind

3 opposite errors of presumption & despair
the man takes refuge in his good works
etc. trying to persuade himself he is as
good as others - or that in some way or
another he will be brought to ^{it} ~~it~~
his ordinary occupations so that it
was at that time & at the age of 18 that

Another despair of anything he can do to
merit Heaven - and so leaves every thing to
God etc

Both practical lies - lie of first is
supposing that because good works can
purchase heaven they can't be of use to
make efforts which are considered as a new thing
in the nature of having reduced to machinery

4. Infidelity. few ever take refuge here. direct de-
nial but when they do it shows a God forsaken
soul more conclusively than in any other case.

17.
The banquet opens; at the board,

Her Kendall we behold:

"Who, like a faithful steward, brings
Forth treasures new and old."

Tomorrow, comes her Fisher man,

Her Samuel the seer,

With fish of an historic fame

To feed the hungry ear.

And now that Samuel shall succeed,

'Twas eminently right

That Joel, minor prophet, came

To whet our appetite:

While Bacon, served in welcome slice,

At the Alumni board,

And what is the grandest success: not
fame nor honor nor station nor any
outward and brilliant achievement;
but usefulness. This is that highest
success, the possibility of whose at-
tainment clothes life with such dig-

nity & grandeur
all that is in it, resolution, determination
Feeling he has - sometimes too strong for himself
much of God & himself to be happy unceasingly
shakes at night - Knows he has: he knows the
earth drives him to Xr. He is not in any danger
mission. He feels that everything in heaven & on
conscience accuses him of sin of omission & com-
praise sin, but makes saved by Xr. Christ
He feels the condition of decline to be true: he is a de-

found I had one with a hoal in it!

Tharfour, my yeerurs, without a more distended eggsorduum, I proceed to diskiver and diskuss, the followin subziek, naimly, viz, as follows. Intemperance. My diskoorse, speach and orashun will be diwyded intew three heds, ind, tempur and anse, witeh diwistun will appeel itself to yoor confined taiste my yeerurs, as pints flowin naturally from the subziek itself.

Furst Inns. And, my yeerurs, I wud not hev you draw the preferunse from my remarks that I am firmlygu with this bransh of my subziek by fussonal experiment. My yeerurs, it is onlee thru the observin revelashuns of othurs that I kan kummunikate to you this pint in my diskoorse. For I hev traviled thru the passed foorty yeers of my eventful and perspiekyuous lyff, more or less, havin bin more than seven myles from my nativity at toun time! my yeerurs, during my kayrear, yet I hav not enturd any in excep to eat drink sleap or for some other purpos, durin this lower of travel.

got, and got and got, then I went back to my cow
and laid & laid agin - after witeh I got up and
got and got, but I was unable to deewest my
self - thrown off my impressiv and undescríp
tionabul feelins.

And this brings me to the thurd and conelusion
hed of my diskoorse naimley anse.

My yeerurs, I do not refer to the passage
in the "Allmeniek" go too the anse thow slug
ger considur hur waize and with all thy gis
tin be like the bumble bee witeh improves
eech shinin hour. Those anse however as I
might remark in passin in the summer
seelzon lay up their fud fur the winter of dis
content, and tharfoov teek the inebrius and
drunkard man a lessun. But jes at present
I make delusion or referunse to the anse of
the young man - and my yeerurs those anse
may be matchin with paternul solieidy and
anxiitude over the carear of the young man
and if he gets intew bad habits he may bring

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