

2 Thessalonians 2:12 - in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (NASB)

1. This verse begins with the conjunction **ἵνα (hína)**: “Because of this,” followed by the pronoun **πᾶς (pás)** and translated, “In order that they all.”
2. Those under scrutiny are unbelievers in the Tribulation. These are the ones who are brought under the “delusion” of error and because of it they will be judged.
3. By application, it refers to citizens of a Client Nation in the Church Age: unbelievers who reject establishment truth or the gospel or believers who reject doctrine.
4. God allows all who reject truth to believe the lie. That’s what freedom means. Good decisions broaden future options while bad decisions limit future options.
5. In our current degenerate society, people who reject truth in favor of the lie suffer the consequences of limited options.
6. A degenerate society, plus a government that no longer functions under establishment principles, results in placating human good and evil.
7. Bad decisions are not allowed to instruct those who live by the lie, but are ignored permitting them to go unpunished.
8. This occurs in opposition to the plan of God which is designed to insure that those that function in violation of truth are judged for finding pleasure in unrighteousness.
9. The phrase “may be judged” in the NASB is the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb **κρίνω (krínō)**: “judged or condemned.”

Aorist tense: Culminative; contemplates the rejection of truth in its entirety, but emphasizes it from the standpoint of existing results: divine condemnation of those who reject truth and believe the lie. Such judgment can be individual or collective.

Passive voice: Both Jewish and Gentile unbelievers in the Church Age and Tribulation receive the action of the verb.

Subjunctive mood: Potential; implies a future reference and is qualified by the element of contingency. The contingency is the availability of truth. Recovery is as close as positive volition to the gospel and, once saved, the consistent usage of confession of sins to God and serious study of the Word of God.

Krínō means “to judge or to condemn”:

Of the condemnation of the wicked and including the idea of punishment as a certain consequence, meaning to punish, take vengeance on. Spoken of God as Judge in 2 Thessalonians 2:12.⁵

The verse reads, so far: “In order that they all might be condemned.”

PRINCIPLES:

1. What people believe is a matter of their own volitional decisions.
2. No one can force them to change their thought process. Volition is free and each person must decide for himself without coercing or cajoling what they believe.
3. What changes the way a person thinks is the personal decision to believe truth instead of the lie.
4. Maintaining objectivity is very important when presenting truth to an individual.

⁵ Spiros Zodhiates, gen. ed. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993), 889.

5. They must never be badgered, embarrassed, pressured, or hurled invectives by those who are overbearing, self-righteous, or cast an air of spiritual superiority.
6. Truth must be presented graciously and courteously. It must be proclaimed with confidence free of arrogance.
7. The speaker must allow the Holy Spirit to convince the person of the validity of the message, whether the gospel or principles contained in Scripture.
8. If a person rejects the truth, then he has bought the lie. He is thus tragically flawed. No matter how likable the person seems to be, hypocrisy lurks just beneath the surface.
9. Once a person rejects truth, he starts the process of collecting an inventory of lies. This results in making choices based on human viewpoint, human good, and evil.
10. Such types begin the process of altering their personalities, lifestyles, and personal character traits apart from the inculcation and application of truth.
11. Who these people really are is just one crisis, one tragedy, one problem, one expedient decision, one lucrative opportunity for self-gratification, or one challenge to their self-constructed world away from exposure.
12. Recovery from these attitudes is only possible by them changing the way they think. Crises in life are purely and simply divine judgment and discipline or testing for blessing.
13. Cursing is only turned to blessing following positive volition toward truth, a solution that requires the process of overcoming the lie with consistent inculcation of truth.

(End CR14-56. See CR14-57 for continuation of study at p. 561.)

11. Ergo: a degenerate society always falls from within long before it is overrun by a predator nation.
12. Verse 11 continues with a result clause, “so that they will believe.” The aorist active infinitive of the verb πιστεύω (*pisteúō*) indicates the result of the information revealed in verses 8–10. The phrase is best translated, “with the result that they should believe.”
13. The aorist tense is constative which indicates the result of verses 8–10 includes the entire course of the Tribulation.
14. Mankind by nature has a hunger and thirst to discover a better way to resolve the problems that plague mankind.
15. No one is able to find the solution until he successfully deals with the one issue which can permanently overcome the misery of his woeful state.
16. Actually, there is really only one issue in life: The grace provision of salvation through the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ.
17. All of life’s issues revolve around this one central event in human history.
18. Once saved, the new believer is duty bound to advance to spiritual adulthood whereby God molds their souls into vessels of honor.
19. Until this molding and sculpting occurs through inculcation of truth, then no lasting change will occur in a new believer’s soul.
20. **PRINCIPLE:** Evangelism is ineffectual as far as temporal life is concerned unless it is followed by consistent spiritual growth.

21. Unbelievers in the context of 2 Thessalonians 2 are under divine condemnation based on **verse 10**: “because they have not received the love of the truth so as to be saved.”
22. Notice that **verse 11** moves away from the grace provision of salvation to abandonment to the Dark Side: “And so for this reason, God shall send to them the modus operandi of delusion with the result that they might believe the lie – **φεύδος (pseúdos)**”
23. This circumstance is followed by their judgment in **verse 12**: “in order that they might be condemned.” This judgment is justified on two counts: **(1)** they “did not believe the truth” and **(2)** “but took pleasure in wickedness.”
24. We have noted the word “condemned” as the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb **κρίνω (krinō)** which contemplates the rejection of truth in its entirety. This results in these unbelievers receiving the action of condemnation based on the prophetic absolute of truth being rejected.
25. Why these people are condemned is found in Paul repetition of charges stated in verse 10 with his second use of the verb **πιστεύω (pisteúō)** plus the negative conjunction **μή (mé)**: “did not believe” in verse 12.

Aorist tense: constative which views the action of the verb in its entirety. No facts are ignored; all the facts are in; they did not believe.

Active voice: The negative *mé* means the subject did not produce the action of the verb. They did not believe in the truth clearly stated in the gospel presentations of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, teaching angels, personal evangelists, or the truth contained in available Bibles.