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The wicked have always been destitute of the truth â€” despising it, trampling it, mocking it with disdain. I saw an example of this in The New York Post, as one writer confidently declared, â€œScience has now replaced faith.â€

Paulâ€™s greater concern was always for those who had known the way of truth, confessing their faith in Christ, and yet flirted with sin. â€œWho changed the truth of God into a lie . . . For this cause God gave them up unto vile affectionsâ€

- (Romans 1:25-26).

Others, held in bondage by their lustful pleasures, turned to false teachers to try to find peace. They ended up accepting â€œdamnable heresies . . . and many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken ofâ€ (2 Peter 2:1-2).

All of Paulâ€™s messages on apostasy and the Antichrist were aimed at such carnal Christians. They werenâ€™t meant for the idolaters of Rome, the heathen of Greece, the pagan tribes in unknown places. No, he meant for them to be read in churches, directly to believers!

You see, Paul was calling Godâ€™s people everywhere to love the truth â€” to search it out, study it and obey it. He wrote, in essence, â€œLet the truth be your guide! Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see it, ears to hear it, and a heart to love it. Otherwise, youâ€™ll open yourself to deception and end up believing a lie. Satan will be able to initiate you into the cult of Antichrist!â€

The Bible says that in the days just prior to Jesusâ€™ return, Satan will attempt to deceive even the elect, if that were possible. It wonâ€™t matter how long a Christian has walked with Jesus, he will face temptations he has never had in his life. Even the strongest believer will be tempted to doubt Godâ€™s faithfulness and mistrust His Holy Word.

â€œFor there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very electâ€ (Matthew 24:24).