Prophets and Teachers

(Sermon Notes)

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Why is the end-time Church of God told to **repent**? All throughout the Scriptures we are warned to make a difference between the **holy** things of God and the **profane**.

The objective of this sermon is to sort out between the true doctrine of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of apostles from among the **heresies** that abound in the last days (Hebrews 6:1-2). If we are wise in these last days – we should be asking ourselves, "What is it that God is so displeased with?"

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

First, sin must be recognized, then it must cease. That's hard – that's **overcoming** sin. Jesus knows that it is possible for His people to be overcomers as He is an overcomer.

Revelation 3:21 To him that **overcomes** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as **I also overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

The Bible makes the point that only a few appointed prophets and apostles were chosen by God to establish His doctrine in the Church.

Acts 2:42 They [the first century Church of God] continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...

It is incumbent upon the saints – the faithful followers of Christ – to sustain and uphold the true doctrine, understanding and teachings set forth by Jesus and the apostles. Included in this blueprint of "faith," is the body of **right doctrine**, belief, practice, history, observance of the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) and the annual Holy Days, which point to the knowledge of God's tremendous Plan for mankind.

Our faith, or belief system, consists of the full meaning of God's coming Kingdom on this earth. Jesus taught:

Mark 1:15 ... The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: **repent** ye, and **believe the Gospel**.

Listen to what God says to those who think they are wise – but they are rebellious against God.

If we look closely we will see that the rebellion of which God speaks has to do with the **source** of instruction and counsel that people look to.

Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the **rebellious** children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, **but not of me**; and that cover with a covering, but **not** of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

These rebellious children – as God calls them – they say they are being led by the spirit.

Certainly they are being influenced – but God says that it is not His Spirit that is doing the influencing—but **not** of my Spirit (Isaiah 30:1).

Isaiah 30:9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not **hear** [obey and respect] the law of the Lord:

That is because Real Christianity and Godliness are very difficult. A Christian's life is one of trials, persecutions and sacrifices—and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:30).

Have you ever noticed how many Scriptural references I use – that is because a minister of Jesus Christ does not give his opinion – he sticks to what the Scriptures say.

Isaiah 30:10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the 'prophets,' [not God's prophets] Prophesy **not** unto us right things, speak unto us **smooth things**, prophesy deceits:

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy **falsely**, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Why do the bigger churches want to improve their "brand" and make their congregations attractive to Protestants?

They are preaching **smooth things** – to get their numbers up – when they should be preaching repentance. I want to make a point right here:

Nowhere in the Holy Scriptures are we told that there will be a wonderful revelation of NEW Truth right before the return of Jesus Christ.

Nowhere in the Holy Scriptures are we told that there would be a select few people who would receive previously **hidden NEW Truth** that would set them apart from the others. No, what the Scriptures reveal – is just the opposite.

2Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Yes, the next verses show a complete breakdown of morality and virtue.

Oh, they want to appear very religious – but notice what God says:

2Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Turning away from those who do not practice true Christianity and Godliness is very difficult – but that is taking a stand.

God tells us it is going to happen! We have to do all we can to help them into God's Kingdom. Some people claim that the sacred Hebrew names of God in the Old Testament must be used in prayers, religious observances, conversations and in Bible reading. They further dupe people into believing that unless you **pronounce** the Hebrew names correctly, you will not receive salvation. They play upon people's ignorance and gullibility to naively believe such things.

James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be **overtaken in a fault**, ye which are **spiritual**, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

2Timothy 4:3 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;

Through the ages there were good prophets and there were good teachers who taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But in this end time, the people of God are warned to be on the lookout for those who would **pervert** the Gospel.

The people Paul warns about with **itching ears** (2Timothy 4:3) have to be continually thrilled and fascinated with new controversies.

Those desires impel a person to believe whatever he wants to believe rather than the actual truth itself.

Sadly, the people with itching ears decide for themselves what is right or wrong, and they often seek out others to support their divergence from the truth.

Those with itching ears only want false teachers who will assure them that the entire truth has been withheld from them.

There will always be "many false teachers" who are willing to provide conspiracies and lies instead of "sound doctrine."

God has ruled out many of the **false prophets** by **not** including their writings in the Holy Scriptures.

Some want to hear all the false prophets and false teachers because they want to know everything, so as to be able to decide for themselves. They enjoy being "in the know" and embroiled in controversy. They do **not** trust God to give them the full picture. They do not believe that God wants only for us to have the good and avoid the effects of the evil.

Without realizing it they are saying God cannot be **trusted** to give us the whole truth—the entire story. That is exactly the same strategy Satan employed with Eve when he caused her to question God.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Satan starts off by "muddying the waters" – confusing the facts by asking a question by implying something else.

Satan implied that Eve could not eat of any of the trees in the garden in order to get her to say that she could eat of them. So Eve responds with a clarification:

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Eve's response demonstrated that she clearly understood that she was to avoid the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," as a life or death situation. Eve continues:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Then Satan – the first **false prophet** – made his move. He planted seeds of doubt in Eve's mind and appealed to her sense of "wanting the whole picture" while maligning and denigrating God's character by implying that God could not be trusted.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:5 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.

Why did Eve allow her eyes to wander to the **forbidden** fruit? That was another mistake after hearing counsel that was not from God.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof...

Eve, desiring to have the **full picture**, succumbed to the lust of the **flesh** and **eyes**, and the **pride** of life.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Galatians 5:24 They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and <u>lusts</u>. [improper desires]

Phillip 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the **LORD hate**: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Proverbs 6:17 A proud look [an attitude of being better than another], a lying tongue [deceitful approach – leading someone on], and hands that shed innocent blood [hurting the innocent],

Luke 17:1 ... woe unto him, through whom offenses come!

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

That is how God feels about His little ones in the faith **being offended** by those who hold **false** doctrines.

Proverbs 6:18 An heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows **discord** among brethren.

God hates that division among the brethren.

2Peter 2 Title comes from this verse.

It is both a prophecy for us, and a warning to us.

2Peter 2:1 But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily, [surreptitiously and secretly embracing false doctrine] shall bring in **damnable** heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

The Truth of God has always been under attack. We are blessed to have received the **warnings** we have received, not only from the prophets of old and the apostles, but from Jesus Himself. Speaking of our day Jesus said:

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Do we believe that? This is speaking about the Church of God. The world cannot be deceived – because they are **already** deceived—not knowing the Truth of God. Who are they? Who is able to identify those who do not teach the true faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3)?

Jude: 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

Where are those who teach the true Christianity and Godliness of the first-century Church of God? Why is it that we cannot find any large break-away church groups that teach Christianity and Godliness?

We find those groups that want their people to be **loyal** to their **leader** or their headquarters' group.

We find those groups that want to change up the **calendar** from that which has been blessed all these years.

We find those groups that teach that the **pronunciation of God's name** is more important than living what God stands for.

Thinking that they have been let in on a mystery known only to a few people – the secret of knowing the hidden way to say YHVH, YHWH, (Yahweh etc) is like a powerful aphrodisiac to some. They become **neo-gnostics** having a secret knowledge known only to a few. The magic potion is mixed with elements of evolution, racism, evil spirits and conspiracy. It is only one of the latest versions of anti-semitism – a hatred for the Jews/Israel.

They think it is religious – but it is not Christianity because there are **no virtues** – forgiveness, mercy , honesty, responsibility etc.

Ephesians 5:9 (The fruit of the Spirit is in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**;)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, **joy**, **peace**, **longsuffering**, **gentleness**, **goodness**, **faith**.

Galatians 5:23 **Meekness**, **temperance**: against such there is no law.

Those are the **virtues** and **morals** that make a Christian. Those who believe they have a corner on the pronunciation of God's name lack **spiritual** understanding. True Christian virtues are done away with – and replaced by the powerful right to be restored to a perceived former dominance. The lure of conspiracies and **hidden** knowledge stimulates a passion for restitution, and even vengeance.

Don't let any perversion get its hook in you. Like a fish at the end of an angler's line – unable to escape the pull toward inescapable seizure.

We find those groups that think that the **Bible** is **not sufficient** unto salvation—but it is.

Holy means "not all" - but those things "set aside" by God for His spiritual reasons and purposes. Notice how 'holy' is used in this next verse:

Paul reminded Timothy; a third generation Christian:

2Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the **holy** (not all writings) scriptures, **which are able** to make thee **wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Read that verse closely because it tells us that the Bible is sufficient unto salvation, in that it contains everything we need to come to Godliness—without going to **outside sources** that are dangerous to the true faith.

2Timothy 3:16 All [holy] scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Please understand that not everything that has been written in the past is "God breathed" – that is, **inspired** teaching from the mouth of God. False writings are dangerous because they fill our mind with untrue information that is not spiritually factual. In fact, over and over God warns us not to **add** or **subtract** anything from the Holy Scriptures He has given us.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall **add** unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Revelation 22:19 And if any man shall **take away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Also see Deut 18:20, 12:32, Isaiah 8:16, Proverbs 30:6)

Why is it that some people want to believe that the **word of God** is **inadequate** in its instruction for us?

Josephus and the Maccabees wrote some pretty good histories – but they were not set down on parchment by converted men who were led by **God's Spirit** to record the things they wrote.

You have heard me speak of the **Apocrypha** and the **Pseudepigrapha**. Those are two words I learned at Louisiana State University (LSU) – before I was called into God's Church. My point is that even the world knows that those writings do not belong in the Bible. They do not **fit** – they do not **belong** – they are **different**!

Pseudepigrapha: That refers to false or spurious or pseudonymous writings, especially Jewish writings **ascribed** to various biblical patriarchs and prophets.

God preserved the Old Testament Scripture in order to make it available for the New Testament Church of God brethren's edification.

Even before Jesus was born, it was necessary that false teachings be purged from the widely circulating tracts of the day because false documents had crept in.

Modern day theologians refer to those non-scriptural writings as the **apocrypha** (Hidden Books) and the **pseudepigrapha** (False Writings). That is simply a fancy way of saying that those writings professed to be inspired teachings, while in fact they were simply spurious, bogus, **uninspired**, and non-authoritative imitation scripture where the claimed author was not writing on God's behalf.

God used Ezra, of the Jewish captivity, to sort out the <u>inspired</u> words of God from the false writings and thereby assemble the Biblical books which are canonical. (Inspired, Greek - 'theo-pneu-stos,' means God breathed)

In 538 B.C. **God put it in the heart** of Artaxerxes, the King of Persia to write a decree granting Ezra free reign to do whatsoever God led him to do.

Ezra 7:27 Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem:

Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.

The word "canon" originally comes from the Greek and means "**standard**" or "measurement." The word is used to designate a collection of writings that were considered authoritative by Ezra (OT) and John (NT).

The Apocrypha are still regarded as part of the canon of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, and that is why we do not use the Catholic Bible.

2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**.

Worse than that, there are men of old who had ungodly agendas that were opposed to the Plan of God. Those writings sometimes include ideas from the demonic world that are hostile to the word of God. Paul had to deal with such heresy in the Church—and he said, "Don't go there!"

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him [God the Father] that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Some see in that verse that there is **another** gospel but that is only due to the shortcomings of the English language.

The Greek clearly shows that this "another gospel" is a **different** false Gospel. And Paul says that:

Galatians 1:7 Which is **not** another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert** the Gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any **other** gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be **accursed** [Damned, condemned!].

Galatians 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Paul said, "**though** [as if, even if] we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel," because spirit beings do not preach the gospel to man – that is not their job – and besides that, there is no other Gospel than that given in the Bible. The angels do not know the Gospel well enough to preach it. Oh, yes, they deliver **messages** from God – but those are God's words.

1Peter 1:9 Receiving the end [the goal] of your faith, even the **salvation** of your souls [lives].

1Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the **prophets** have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

The Prophets of old did not understand what we are privileged to know.

1Peter 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them [they were converted] did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1Peter 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but **unto us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven; which things **the angels desire to look into**.

God inspired the New Testament to be written in Koine Greek - the common dialect of Christ's day. Koine Greek, was the common man's Greek, spoken in trade and commerce. Jesus came to this earth about 318 years after Alexander the Great died. Alexander the Great had left a legacy of speaking Greek.

Jesus could have come anywhere – anytime; even where Hebrew was predominantly spoken – **but He did not** – nor did He condemn those who spoke Greek. What did Jesus teach about God's name? How did Jesus address His Father? You would think that in Jesus' last dying words on the cross, that He would have used the so called "sacred Hebrew names" for God? But He didn't. Jesus cried out on the cross to His Father:

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama** sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

The language Jesus used was **Aramaic** and **not** Hebrew. Jesus did not use the pronunciation of the Hebrew language YHVH, tetragrammaton. Jesus used the Aramaic language of His country.

The Aramaic name for God is written in English as "**Eloi**" in this verse in Mark 15:34 or "**Eli**" where the same record is of Jesus last words are recorded also in Matthew 27:46.

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama** sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

When we closely examine the Scriptures we find that even in the Old Testament, these so called "sacred" names are not at all God's personal names. They are titles describing various great character attributes and great qualities of the nature of God. When God called Moses to send him into Egypt to bring the children of Israel out of slavery, Moses said to God,

Exodus 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is His name**? What shall I say unto them?

Notice God's answer to Moses:

Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Exodus 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

So, we see here that the closest the Old Testament comes to a personal name of God is the declaration, "I AM."

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that **He is**, [That is God's Name, "**I AM**"] and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Jesus did not use YHVH or YHWH when speaking to His Father. Why was Jesus heard and answered in His prayers to God our Father?

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, He hears us:

That means that God answers our prayer as it should be answered.

1John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

1John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, [Why?] because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

That is the relationship that God desires with us. Was Jesus heard **because** He used the YHVH, tetragrammaton name? No – He did not use it. It was because Jesus loved His Father and loved to live by God's laws and Way of life ...and He had a deep reverent respect for the mighty power of God.

John 17:6 I have manifested **Your name** to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. (John 17:26)

God's name represents what Jesus spent His ministry revealing to us about God. He keeps us through the Father's **Name** both by our trusting in what it means and our obedience to how it shows we should live. We used to have a saying, "Stop in the **name** of the law." And it meant to stop by the authority of the law. We say, "Hollowed be thy **name**." That means that God is set apart by power, reputation and **character** from all others—that is what His name means — like when we say that someone has a good name — a good **reputation**.

All through the Bible we are warned by God to stay away from those things that are **harmful to our spiritual life**.

1Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

1Kings 11:2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

Solomon built a little temple for one – and soon they all were celebrating their godless festivals. Thinking that he was impervious and unyielding to their affects, Solomon got caught up in their celebrations.

1Kings 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives **turned away his heart**.

Solomon was the **wisest** man that ever lived. And he fell because he mixed the **holy** with the **profane** after God had warned not to have anything to do with the foreign gods.

1Kings 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after **other gods**: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

The Apostle Paul warned in the strongest possible terms about the attitude of God toward those who would pervert the gospel of Jesus.

Unrepented sin causes one to be separated from the Body of Christ. Everyone has their weaknesses. Anyone can fall as Solomon did. It may be other things than absurdly listening to false teachers so that you can know the "full story." What is the sin that so easily besets you?

Hebrews 12:1 ...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.

That verse tells us that we all have weaknesses. There are those in the church who say they have no sin.

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

There are leading men in God's Church who believe that they have not sinned since they were 17 or 18 years old. God's word says that they are deceived. They do not know what to examine themselves on. Oh, they might ask themselves, "Have I missed Sabbath services or killed anybody" – things like that – but they are unable to explore the realm of arrogance or pride in their lives – or the harm they have done to God's people – and keeping Go's people separated. They do not even question themselves on things like that.

1Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. [shun, or escape]

God warns us not to go near sin because it will get its hooks in us and pull us down. Here are a few examples that can destroy a man.

Fornication – a man may be walking along the street and be lured into a place where God says he has no business going.

Gambling - is so powerful a vice – you know you'll win on the next bet and you cannot resist.

Bet on Horses – "I've studied the stats – my pony is going to win – I just know it!"

Homosexuality - is such a powerful addiction that those who are overtaken by it "know" that somehow God must approve of the way they are. They did not avoid and resist the first urge before it overpowered them. Few escape its clutches.

False Religion – When someone leaves the simplicity of Christ to find "the real story" outside of God's Word it is **idolatry**.

Drugs -

Deceit -

Crooked – thief steal

Covet - and connive

Hate - and anger

We are too close to our goal to let down now. We continue to keep the Sabbath and observe all the Holy Days while worshipping God in sincerity and truth. Jesus taught us to do those things and to avoid the lure of the world.

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** Him;

The Bible we have today has some clerical errors – made by translators – that are easily clarified. We know 'Gentiles' means foreigners from other nations, we know 'Jesus should have been translated as Joshua. We know that Easter is a bogus translation for Passover so we've long ago we marked our Bibles. We know the Trinity (1John 5:7) insertion of a false spurious addition of later scribe.

We know that "Lucifer" is not the best translation in the world – but yet he is still the devil, Satan, and Adversary that Jesus confronted face to face.

Those minor inaccuracies do not warrant throwing "The baby out with the bath water." Those corrections are easily made in our personal Bibles!

Some people want to explore every conspiracy and accept everything ever written by the enemies of our faith. Sadly, those who have the proclivity to want to eat of the **forbidden fruit** will find opportunity to do so.

God is not mocked – and I'm speaking of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – no matter what language they used and you use.

There is the mystery of iniquity that we must be aware of because that "the secret power of lawlessness" is not of God and Paul reveals that it is always at work:

2Thesalonians 2:7 For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now lets will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Those who wish to **accept** the mystery of iniquity are placing themselves in great peril because they will not accept God's word.

2Thesalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie:

Strong delusion is what they sought after – and God allowed them to reject His warnings – and go their way.

2Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be **damned** who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in wickedness.