

Some Things That Destroy

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. 2 The basis for our study is 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9:

“since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”

2. I'd like you to notice in this text that he says when the Lord comes He's going to bring rest to some people and to those who know not God and that obey not the gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction.
 - A. Just as surely as this statement was made nearly 2,000 years ago there will be times when men will be destroyed if they fail to live up to the standard of the Bible, the word of God.
 - B. There are a number of things that can be attributed to that destruction.
 - C. This morning I'd like to look at some of those lest we be guilty of some of the very things by which we are destroyed.
3. 3 I want to talk to us this morning about **Some Things That Destroy**.

II. DISCUSSION:

One thing that may destroy you is...

1. 4 Lack of knowledge:

- A. God has always expected his people to be a people who know:

Matt. 11:28-29: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

2 Tim. 2:15: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

- B. You see, God expects his people to know! God's people are a taught people!
 - (1) The Lord said in **Matt. 9:13:** *“But go and learn what this means.”*
 - (2) In the book of John chapter 6 and verses 44 and 45 Jesus said, *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”*
- C. So when you look at these passages and others like them you can begin to see that the Lord expects us to know!
- D. In Romans chapter 10 and the first three verses we have the prayer of the apostle Paul.
 - (1) He said, *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”*
 - (2) As a result of their ignorance they went about to establish their own righteousness and did not submit to the righteousness of God (verse 3).
- E. But also, in **Hosea 4:6**, the prophet said, *“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.”*

- (1) That makes it evident that this has been true for a long, long time that God expects His people to be a **knowledgeable** people.
 - (2) That's the reason it's so vital that you bring your young people to Bible study early in life.
 - (3) That's why it's so important that every member attend every service possible!
 - (4) How can we say we are "*a workman that needeth not to be ashamed*" if we don't take advantage of every opportunity to increase our **knowledge** of God's Word!
 - (5) In **John 6:68** Peter said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"
 - (6) What does it say about our desire for eternal life when we don't attend Bible classes in which "*the words of eternal life*" are taught?
- F. We should make it a goal that every time the church assembles to be present that we might "*grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.*" (**2 Pet. 3:18**)
- G. Peter said in **2 Peter 2:20**, "*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*"
- (1) You see, it's by that **knowledge** that we escape the pollutions of the world.
 - (2) However, some members of the church are lacking in basic Bible knowledge and have no apparent desire to gain more knowledge!
 - (3) If while on the job or at school someone were to ask you questions about God's plan of salvation could you give an answer?
 - (4) One, two, three...here's what the Bible says about it?
 - (5) If you're discussing why it is we observe the Lord's Supper on a regular, weekly basis could you give reasons for that? Why premillennialism is unscriptural? Why "once saved, always saved" is false?
- H. 1 Peter 3:15, "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"
- (1) And so we need to study that we might have that knowledge on hand.
 - ☛ The story is told of a Bible class teacher who asked the question, "Who tore down the walls of Jericho?"
 - ☛ One little boy said, "I didn't do it!"
 - ☛ And they got in a squabble about that and the teacher talked to the parents about it and the parents said, "If the boy said he didn't do it, I'm sure that he didn't."
 - ☛ But they just kept arguing about it and they went to the preacher.
 - ☛ Finally, they came to the elders and it ended up that the elders said, "Well, let's not cause a big church fuss over this. Let's just pay the bill and forget it."
 - (2) You know, we smile at that but I'm afraid the knowledge of some is about that pitiful.
- I. The Lord said his people were "*destroyed for a lack of knowledge*"!
- (1) I urge you to begin to "*add to your faith, virtue, and to virtue **knowledge**...*"
 - (2) If you don't you will be destroyed!

2. **5** Unbelief:

- A. **Jude 5:** "*I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that **believed not**.*"

- B. So, **unbelief** will cause individuals to be destroyed!
- C. The Bible says in **John 8:24**: *“Unless ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.”*
 - (1) You don’t want to die in your sins do you?
 - (2) Well, you can begin to see then that **unbelief** becomes the route by which many people will be destroyed.
- D. There are dozens and dozens of passages in the Bible which say that a man must have faith in order to please God.
 - (1) In **Hebrews 11:6** it says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
 - (2) It is extremely important that we continue to have our faith deepened in God and in the Word of God.
 - (3) With the world the way it is with all its infidelity, atheism, and skepticism it’s absolutely essential that we see the need for believing in God!
- E. The Bible teaches that the Lord died to save those that believe (Heb. 4:6, 11).
- F. But someone says, “Oh, sure, I believe Jesus is the Son of God”; so “I’m good! I’m in! Right!”
 - (1) No, not necessarily, there’s more to belief than just “I believe Jesus is the Son of God.” Or, “I believe there is a God.”
 - (2) **Disobedience** is unbelief!

Heb. 3:16-19: *“For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who **did not obey**? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**.”*
- G. Are you a believer? Are you an obedient believer? We will not enter God’s rest unless we are an **obedient believer**! **Lk. 6:46**: *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”*

3. **6 Adultery:**

- A. We live in a society in which the world has grown accustomed to this problem; it’s not even considered a problem anymore; it’s taken for granted.
 - (1) If we’re not careful, we’ll raise an entire generation that believes this sin is acceptable and that it’s alright to participate in it.
 - (2) Judging by what’s on TV and in the magazines adultery is acceptable by society.
- B. In Proverbs 6:32 the wise man said: *“But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it **destroyeth** his own soul.”*
 - (1) Jesus even went further: *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* (Matt. 5:28)
 - (2) Mark it down: if you want to destroy your soul just be guilty of the sin of adultery!
- C. Sadly it’s something that is widespread throughout the world today; even sadder is that it’s accepted sometimes by some of the Lord’s people.
 - (1) In Hebrews 13:4 the apostle said, *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*

- (2) Sex is only acceptable in God's eyes when it is in the context of a **legitimate** marriage (man/woman marriage!). That is the only kind of sex that is "honourable" or acceptable; otherwise it's defiled sex; it's *dishonorable* and *unacceptable* to God!
- D. Long ago Job said: *"For this [adultery] is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges."* (Job 31:11)
- (1) Adultery is *"an heinous crime,"* don't start, don't do things that will lead you to it!
- (2) That's the reason divorce is wrong; whoever divorces their mate causes them to commit adultery.
- Matt. 19:9:** *"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."*
- (3) And if folks continue to live in that situation it will eventually **destroy** them.
- (4) There's a popular concept today you can just marry, divorce, remarry, divorce, remarry again and again; and then when you're baptized all of those past marriages are wiped away and the one you happen to be with at the time is the one you can stay with.
- (5) But the Bible doesn't teach that!
- (a) If it was adultery before I was baptized then it's adultery after I'm baptized.
- (b) Suppose I'm guilty of drinking before I'm baptized; is drinking a sin? Sure it is.
- (c) Now I've decided I'm going to get baptized but I'm going to continue drinking; does that make it okay? Of course not!
- (d) Well, the same thing applies to adultery; if adultery is a sin before you're baptized, it's still a sin after you're baptized!
- (e) But there's a popular concept today that baptism washes away marriages!
- (f) However, the Bible does not teach that at all; sin is sin regardless when it's committed.
- (g) The Bible teaches when you repent of a sin it doesn't make any difference what that sin is, be it drinking, adultery, cussing, you name it, I've got to quit it when I repent.
- (h) To repent of cussing, I have to quit cussing; to repent of drunkenness I have to quit drinking; to repent of an adulterous marriage I have to leave the marriage! Hard? Yes! **Matt. 19:10:** *"His disciples said to Him, 'If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.'"*
- (6) Our young people need to know this before they get themselves into circumstances from which it's almost impossible sometimes to get out of (important decision!).
- E. **Prov. 6:32:** *"Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul."* Don't let it happen to you!

4. **7** Pride:

- A. Many people think they know all the answers; unfortunately I've studied the Bible with some of them! e.g., Dennis the Menace; Jehovah's Witnesses; Henrietta's son-in-law
- (1) None of these prideful and arrogant people would ever admit it!
- (2) But, on the contrary, the Bible teaches God's people must be characterized by humility, lowliness, meekness and gentleness.

Eph. 4:1-2: “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”

Phil. 4:5: “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.”

Phil. 2:3-5: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”

B. Solomon said in **Prov. 16:18:** “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

- (1) When an individual sets himself up for a big fall you’ll notice it’s often preceded by pride – arrogant pride (e.g., When confronted for his error, Uzziah’s pride caused him to become “*furious...and angry with the priests*”; 2 Chron. 26:19).
- (2) We’re not talking about taking pride in your work, pride in doing a good job or pride in your children when they do good.
- (3) Some people have the idea that when you talk about pride that it’s always meant in a negative sense; but that’s not necessarily so.
 - (a) A fellow can take pride in his work and be motivated to do a good job and there’s nothing wrong with that.
 - (b) A parent can be proud of their child when they do the right thing; get good grades; achieve some legitimate success.
 - (c) But when we become arrogant and self-righteous the Bible says that will destroy us.

C. The Bible says in James 4:6 that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

D. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.” (NIV)

- (1) When folks are puffed up and begin to get a “big head” let it be known there’s no room in God’s kingdom for things of that nature.
- (2) The Lord rejected the prideful prayer of the Pharisee: “stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.” (Lk. 18:11-12).
- (3) In 1 Cor. 10:12 Paul said, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
 - (a) I bid you this morning don’t be guilty of being lifted up with pride.
 - (b) It will destroy you!

5. **8** Wresting scripture:

A. The scriptures are the word of God and there are people who wrest or twist them.

- (1) In 2 Peter 3:15-16 the apostle Peter talked about that very thing:

“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”
- (2) The word wrest carries with it the idea of twisting something out of its place; Thayer says, “to pervert, of one who wrests or tortures language to a false sense, 2 Peter 3:16.”

- (3) So one “wrests...the...scriptures” when they pervert or abuse their meaning; when they take it out of its context in an effort to try to make it say something it doesn’t say.
 - (4) And, this passage says individuals can literally be destroyed by wresting the scriptures!
- B. Do you know anybody who takes the scriptures and literally twists them out of their setting?
- (1) They believe they’re doing things right but they’re really going towards self-destruction.
 - (2) Folks do it all the time by teaching false doctrine, by listening to false doctrine, believing false doctrine, and obeying false doctrine.
 - (3) That’s the reason Paul said in **Galatians 1:8-9**, “*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. 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.*”
- C. Sometimes there are individuals who read the Bible just to justify their error (proof texting).
- (1) There are a lot of people out there who read what they want into the Bible; who reject what it says even though it’s right there in black and white and cannot be misunderstood.
 - (2) Or, they twist these things out of their context And it says they do so unto their own destruction. I can give you a lot of examples of that.
 - (a) People who deny that man has an eternal soul is a good one: The Jehovah’s Witnesses say that and even though they have great zeal for their work they literally twist what the Bible says into falsehood (Matt. 10:28; Mk. 9:42ff).
 - (b) The once saved, always saved folks who believe you can’t fall from the grace of God are another (**Gal. 5:4**: “*You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*”).
 - (c) Premillennialists: **Rev. 20:4**: “*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*”; 1 Thess. 4:17
 - (d) People who deny that baptism is essential to salvation even though Jesus clearly stated, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*” (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)
 - (e) Brethren who have liberal tendencies toward the truth and take scriptures like Galatians 6:10 and James 1:27 and apply that to the church when the context clearly shows that he’s dealing with the responsibility of the individual.
 - (3) The common thread here is people taking the scriptures and making them teach something they do not teach.
 - (a) When they do that they twist it or “*distort*” (NIV) it out of its context!
 - (b) Peter further describes such people as “*untaught and unstable.*”
 - (c) And the Bible says that men do that to their own destruction!
 - (d) The list just goes on and on.
- D. We would all do well to remember the warning of John (Rev. 22:18-19) when he said at the conclusion of the New Testament: “*For I testify unto every man that heareth 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: 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.”

- E. I'd hate to stand before God having taken plain and simple passages and twisted them out of their own setting, wouldn't you? Gal. 1:6-9; **Psa. 119:128:** *“I hate every false way.”*

6. **9** The tongue:

- A. James chapter 3 James talked about the power of the tongue: **Jas. 3:1-12**

- B. The inability to control one's tongue can cause a person to be destroyed:

Prov. 13:3: *“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”*

Matt. 12:36-37: *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”*

- C. Despite what we may think we can't hide these things from the Lord! **Lk. 12:2-3:** *“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.”*
- D. It's scary to think the things I say in private, even when nobody is around, that someday I'm going to be held accountable for those things! These words may destroy me eternally! So I need to be very careful what I say!

7. **10** The broad way:

- A. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus contrasted two ways:

(1) You remember what they were?

(2) One was narrow and the other was broad; He said, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

(3) Now did you notice what he said about the “broad way”?

(4) He said the “broad way”, first of all, is the way of the “many.”

(5) It's broad enough to include all but it's the way that leads to destruction!

- B. The “broad way” is the “path of least resistance”; you don't have to even really make a conscious decision to walk that way.

- C. The other way is the “narrow way”; it's also broad enough for all who would walk in it.

(1) But to walk the “narrow way” we must make a conscious decision to obey the gospel and live faithfully all of our lives.

(2) The “narrow way” is the only way that leads to heaven; Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* (Jn. 14:6); it is available to every individual who understands, believes, obeys and values the truth.

- D. Don't follow the crowd because they are walking in the “broad way” that leads to destruction.

(1) Remember the text we read in the very beginning of our lesson?

- (2) In 2 Thessalonians 1 it talks about how there will be those who'll be destroyed because of disobedience: **2 Thess. 1:9:** *"These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"*
- E. The Bible says in the book of Acts 3:22, *"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, 'A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.'"*
- (1) But Lord, suppose I decide not to listen?
- (2) Listen to verse 23: *"And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."*
- F. Just as surely as I make up my mind not to listen to the words of the Lord I choose that path that leads to eternal destruction!

III. CONCLUSION: !!

1. It's important we learn these things because there's a real possibility we might be on the path that leads to destruction: 2 Cor. 13:5

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|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ☛ Lack of knowledge | ☛ Wresting the scriptures |
| ☛ Unbelief | ☛ The tongue |
| ☛ Adultery | ☛ The broad way |
| ☛ Pride | |

2. But you can avoid destruction!

3. Invitation