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2 Thess. ii.

All sinners err from the truth through unbelief, and the love and practice of sin. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of *them which believe not*, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine in unto them."—2 Cor. iv. 3, 4. This passage plainly teaches that Satan himself cannot blind the minds, nor prevent the light of the glorious gospel of Christ from shining into the hearts of any human beings, excepting these *who believe not*. If men will not believe the Word of God, then Satan can blind them to his heart's content, and lead them captive at his will;—"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God."—John iii. 19—21. Here we discover that the cause of a man's condemnation is the rejection of the truth, and he rejects the truth because he loves sin in his heart, and practices it in his life. He loves darkness rather than light, because his deeds are evil. The sinner, therefore, is in error willingly. He lives in error in defiance of God, and, consequently, is guilty of the grossest injustice and the blackest ingratitude, as well as the most egregious folly.

The ways of the sinner are fatally erroneous. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death."—Prov. xvi. 26. "Destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known."—Rom. iii. 16, 17. Our blessed Saviour declares that the broad road, in which all sinners are found walking, leadeth to destruction. Solomon declares, that "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness."—Prov. iv. 32; the Psalmist declares, that "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."—Psalm xi. 6; and Jesus declares of all the wicked, "These shall go away into (*κολασιν αιωνιον*) punishment eternal."—Matth. xxv. 46. These are fearful declarations, and prove, beyond all doubt, that the ways of sinners lead to eternal damnation; and that God does justly in cursing the sinner with eternal death for his error, is clearly evident from the following reasons which God assigns for punishing sinners with so great a punishment: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched