

**are not.** It might be they are not told the truth, therefore they do not and cannot receive the truth. They like their church because it's a club with friendly people.

The scripture is quite clear – "... *because they received **not** the love of the truth, that they **MIGHT** be saved.*" (2Thess 2:10).

It doesn't say they can't or won't be saved. So the above apostasies/false beliefs/wrong doctrine limit the chances that a person might get saved. They still can, but their window of opportunity is reduced being clouded by false beliefs and teachings.

### **What do you mean?**

An unsaved person walks into a Pentecostal service and is urged to get out the front to get filled with the 'holy spirit'. They are filled with a lying spirit (1Kings 22:22; 2Chron 18;21). Man, they're jumping around and feeling good. "Wow! This 'spirit' is the same 'spirit' that the Catholics have. They must be Christians too! They love Jesus like me." But they never got saved!

Let me stress, it's not called **the** strong delusion, meaning just one delusion, but is simply called **strong delusion**. 'Strong delusion' is made up many apostasies, delusions and many false beliefs.

### **But doesn't the scripture say they will all be damned?**

No. The wording is very important. See what it says, not what you think it means. *That they all **might** be damned who believed **not** the truth, but had pleasure in **unrighteousness**.* 2 Thessalonians 2:12

1. It doesn't say they **will** be damned, but the possibility exists they **might** be damned.

2. Believing **any** of the above list of apostasies, means you have not believed the truth. You **might** end up being damned.

3. The above list of apostasies, false beliefs, wrong doctrine are all unrighteousness.

**Look no-one is perfect!**

The scripture says **believing** any of the above list (and there's more) means **you will be deceived**. There are 3 possibilities: 1. You **may** be saved. 2. You **may not** be saved. 3. You **might not** get saved.

In fact, talk to any of those involved in the above list, not only are they wrong, but they have pleasure in being wrong. They have pleasure in being unrighteous. They have pleasure in not believing the truth. They are arrogant and blinded.

### **I'd like more proof!**

The word "**saved**" is a Pauline word used for a person's permanent salvation before the rapture ... *that they might be saved.* 2 Thess 2:10. The jailer asks "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). This is eternal security, never to be lost! During the seven year tribulation, no-one can be saved and have eternal security. It's a Jewish dispensation or time of temporary salvation. You can lose it!

### **Well I still think that a 'strong delusion' occurs after the rapture.**

No problem there, but Paul's 'strong delusion' occurs before the rapture. God says

***I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.*** Isaiah 66:4; Rom 1:32

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY?**

Delusion and fear have gripped the whole world. You may have rejected Christ. You may have false beliefs. You may have received a false Christ. You may or may not be saved. You might not get saved.

The **mystery of iniquity** is not a sudden thing. It's a **slow, creeping and insidious work of Satan** (2Cor 11:14-15)

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# "Strong Delusion"

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

***"...the mystery of iniquity that doth already work" (2Thess 2:7)***

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## This 'strong delusion' happens after the rapture, right?

No. That is what is popularly taught. But it actually takes place **before** the rapture.

### I think you are wrong

Look, after the Lord has come for his own, caught up to meet him in the air (*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) there will not be a single Christian left on earth. There will be no-one left to discern the truth. Those that are left, the unsaved, will be 'ripe for the picking'. You are correct, the anti-christ will subject the world to his lies. But this is not what God calls "strong delusion" *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 2 Thessalonians 2:11*

### What do you mean?

If I can put it bluntly, what happens in the seven year tribulation (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week) is really not a concern for Paul and for the following reasons. Don't get me wrong. Paul 'bleeds' and 'intensely desires' after the Jew and wishes himself accursed in their place (Romans 9:3). But when he writes to the churches his focus is on the churches.

1. Thirteen of his books are to the Christian churches, Timothy, Titus and Philemon.
2. Events of the tribulation are covered in Matthew 24 and Revelation.
3. The main message of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians is the rapture encouragement for the persecuted church.
4. The rapture is in both his books (1Thess 2:19; 4:16-18; 5:1-11); 2 Thess 2:1-3)
4. They have **received** the love of the truth and they **will escape** the wrath of God

*... when ye **received the word** of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which **effectually worketh** also in you that **believe.** 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

*Forbidding us to speak to the **Gentiles** that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the **wrath is come upon them** to the uttermost. 1 Thessalonians 2:16*

5. Before the rapture there is a falling away *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first** 2 Thessalonians 2:3*

6. The chapter in which the phrase "**strong delusion**" occurs, is addressed to the church, not the Jews or those in the tribulation. Paul's concern is for people before the rapture not after. Events in the tribulation are covered in Matthew 24, Revelation 6-19, Luke 21 and so on). It's like Paul is saying "I've done my best warning everyone about the state of the church (**apostasy** 2Thess 2:3) and **strong delusion** 2 Thess 2:11) that **may** stop people getting saved.

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

### Well what is this 'strong delusion' then?

The "strong delusion" will be made up of strong delusion**S** (**many delusions, plural**).

### Like what?

1. The Catholic mass is the actual body and blood of Jesus.
2. The 'Pentecostal Jesus' is the Jesus of the New Testament
3. Put your hands on the TV screen and you can get healing from God, especially if you send the money as well.
4. All versions of the Bible are as good as, and even better, than the Authorized Bible, The King James Bible.

**Look I go to a Christian church and that's good enough for me!**

The delusions were rife back in Paul's day with over 100 cults by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The mystery of iniquity was already at work in Paul's day. Today, we have the **ecumenical movement**, Promise Keepers, speaking in 'tongues', the **Alpha** course, **replacement** theology, physical healing in the atonement, **apostles and prophets are for today**, the **prosperity** gospel, the faith gospel of Ken **Copeland**, Benny **Hinn**, Derrick **Prince**, Joyce **Meyer**, Creflo **Dollar**, **effeminate dressing** and long hair by men, **sodomy is not sin**, **British Israel theory**, God pre-destinates some people for hell, **TULIP**, **no literal hell**, **Freemasonry**, back to the Jewish feasts and ceremonies, **loss of salvation**, emphasis on the Lord's prayer, **inter-faith dialogue** between churches, the **self-esteem gospel**, **psychiatry** and **psychology** in the church, misunderstanding of baptism of the Spirit, stress and money management courses and prosperity seminars in churches, **yoga** and **healing of memories** in churches, **martial arts** and **acupuncture** philosophy, worldly tests (**Meyers Briggs**) to identify gifts, rejection of the inspiration, **infallibility**, **inerrancy** of the King James Bible, the **social gospel**, **disbelief in dispensations**, acceptance of Rome's doctrine, the denial that Rome is behind all other versions of the Bible, **theistic evolution**, the **gap theory**, co-operation with **Charismatics**, creation not in six literal days, **2<sup>nd</sup> chance at salvation** after death, **inter-faith** church services, **water baptism** needed for salvation, emphasis on unity, **loss of salvation**, **infant sprinkling**, **tithing**, **signs and wonders**, **God is love not wrath**, **women preachers** and **pastors**, no belief in the rapture, getting **slain in the 'spirit'**, rapture happens mid-trib, Jesus only died for those who will be saved and are selected (**Calvinism**). I could go on.

### Are you saying these people are not saved or can't get saved?

There are lots of people who go to Christian churches like the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Brethren (not the cults of the SDA's, Mormons, Roman Catholics and such like) who **think they are saved but they**