

Your Letters



The real delusion

Among the notable people at the recent Hay literary festival was Richard Dawkins, author of the book *The God Delusion*. During an interview he was asked why he had written the book now. (Dawkins says he has been an atheist since he was sixteen, becoming so after reading Darwin's *Origin of Species*.)

Dawkins said it was because "he cared for the truth". Whatever the interviewer's reasons for questioning his motives is not the real issue here. Of real importance is the statement that he "cared for the truth". What irony! This is what the Bible is all about. This is what we care about more than anything else in the world!

There is further irony. It is found in the specific wording of his book, *The God Delusion*. The real delusion is the one that God sends (2 Thess. 2:11). This verse is the only occurrence of the word 'delusion' in the New Testament. Of particular

interest is the reason why God sends this deception: "because they received not the love of the truth . . . but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (vv. 10,12).

The nature of this delusion which is sent by God cannot be treated in depth within the compass of this letter. In any case it is possible that God sends a different form of deception to suit each age or generation. However, it is advisable that we consider the suggestion that the big delusion of the present age is the theory of evolution. If that is so, how appropriate!

The concept that God does not exist is hugely palatable to a pleasure-seeking world. It removes the rightful supervision of a Maker. It is sad to witness an increasing culture of unashamed evil, but it affords a boost to our faith in the truth of the revealed Word, which says that "iniquity shall abound, [and] the love of many shall wax cold" (Mt. 24:12).

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