

COMING OF THE LAWLESS ONE

Tomorrow (Sunday, 09/13) there are several opportunities for worship. On campus (10:00am & 12:00pm), drive-in church (92.1fm), and online (Facebook: Calvary Inverness).

We continue our brand new series, "*The Return of the King*", by turning our attention to the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians (2:7-12).

Paul had ministered to the Thessalonians for a very short period of time, and, due to an ensuing riot, had been swiftly escorted out for safety.

After leaving and stopping in several cities, he eventually landed in Corinth where he would spend the next two years.

During his time in Corinth, he had dispatched Timothy back to the Thessalonians to find out how they were doing.

After spending some time with the church, Timothy reported back to Paul their concerns which prompted Paul to pen his first letter to them answering their questions and reminiscing on the fruitful ministry the Lord had done among them.

When Timothy delivered the letter to the church, he noticed an item of concern that had arisen since his last visit. False teachers had infiltrated the fellowship and began spreading the lie that Jesus had already returned, and that the persecution they had been enduring was the "Great Tribulation". That lie brought confusion, disappointment and an eroding of faith in Paul's teaching.

When Timothy returned to Corinth, he shared with Paul what had taken place. Then, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote this second letter. He began by commending them for their “faith, love, and patience” as they waited for Jesus to return.

After commending them, he confronted the “lie” that had been spread about “Jesus’ Second Coming”. He wrote with inspiring detail, what things had to take place before Jesus did return, and that they must continue in the doctrine that he had given them.

He wrote to assure and help them understand that the evil acts that men had committed, against them, had been brought about from the hidden power of darkness. And, that they would know It was Satan, who behind the scenes, had inspired and empowered corrupt, vile, wicked men to afflict, persecute and harass the members of the church.

And, even though it had been a confusing and painful time, for the church, Paul wanted them to know they had not been left behind to go through the seven year Tribulation.

Paul also reminded them that they, the church, were the salt and light of the earth. It was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in them, that was restraining evil. And, once they were removed, and not a moment sooner, then evil will no longer be restrained and “The Lawless One” also known as the “Anti-Christ” would appear.

He told them this truth so that as long as they remained, they were not to live in fear but in the hope of Jesus' love for them. And, that God had empowered them to be His witnesses in a world that was desperate for a message of hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Look forward to our time together. Please pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the entire Calvary Chapel family.

Awaiting His Return,
Pastor