

# CONSOLATION & HOPE

Tomorrow (Sunday, 09/20) 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 (2:13-17).

Paul had written to the church of the Thessalonians to confront the lie that Jesus had already returned and the persecution and affliction they had suffered was due to them being left behind and going through the “Great Tribulation”.

He had begun the chapter by reminding them that three things had to take place before Jesus returned. First, the apostasy had to come, and it hadn’t; second, the man of sin had to be revealed, and he had not; and third, the restrainer (The Holy Spirit within the church) had to be removed and He had not.

After Paul laid the foundation concerning the Pre-Tribulation rapture of the church, he soothed their anxiety by writing concerning the *“everlasting consolation and good hope by grace”* (2 Thessalonians 2:16) that had been given to them. And, like all gifts from God, it wasn’t something that was earned or deserved but freely given due to God’s love for them.

Because of this incredible gift, the church shouldn't ever worry about being left behind when Jesus returned. Why? Because God is love and it's not possible for, nor would it ever enter into His mind, to allow His people to suffer by going through a Tribulation that was not meant for them but for the Christ-rejecting world.

When believers are *“able to comprehend what is the width and length and depth and height- and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge”* (Ephesians 3:18-19), then they will be filled with an incredible *“peace that transcends all understanding”* (Philippians 4:7) and be able to *“rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory”* (1 Peter 1:8).

And, when believers are constantly reminded of the absolute, solid as a rock, truth of God's Word, then they will be able to discern between that which is true and that which is false. And, instead of being *“tossed to and fro from every wind of doctrine”* (Ephesians 4:14), they will be steadfast and established in the faith.

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