Contemporary Comments

"Keeping the Church Faithful" | September 29, 2012 | Order Info


This week fall came to North America. With the change of seasons came the release of some of the most talked about new and returning shows on television: 666 Park Avenue, Kitchen Nightmares, Revenge, Mike and Molly, Partners, Modern Family, Vegas, The Neighbors, Grey’s Anatomy, CSI, Bones, The Amazing Race, Revolution, Homeland, The Mentalist, Scandal, Fringe and 48 hours of Mystery, The New Normal, Dancing with the Stars: All Stars, to name just a few.

"I definitely think it's a strong season for TV," Chrissy Le Nguyen, managing editor of Yahoo! TV, told ABCNews.com. "You're going to need more than one DVR set up."

What criteria will you use as to whether or not your time is worth watching a show or setting your DVR to one of the shows’ time-slot? Would any of the principles we have studied for the last 13 weeks in the 1st and 2nd letters to the Thessalonians be helpful? After all Paul was addressing a church living in a challenging environment not unlike our own today.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 Paul admonishes the church members to “Test all things, hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” Now that is one measure we could use.

Throughout Paul’s writings to the Thessalonians he explains to them that Satan is real and false teachings can trip them up but God is faithful if they focus on Him. He explains that Christians can expect false information and that the only way to
resist false teachings is to cling to the truth about God that has been passed down to them.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Paul writes, “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.” More than likely Paul is referring to the great controversy that will occur between Christ and Satan before the second coming of Jesus.

Is it too far out to ask this question today? Could Satan employ script writers or web bloggers to be his agents to accomplish his will to deceive us? Do some shows or websites capture us even though its origin is focused on the dark side of life?

As we close the books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians we hear an appeal from Pastor Paul that is not unlike an appeal one might hear from a pastor in a church today. “Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:2-3).

Stand firm to the truth in Scripture, shun evil and remain faithful to Jesus, who is faithful to you.

Video Resource here: Faithful: You Tube

1. ABC News

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