

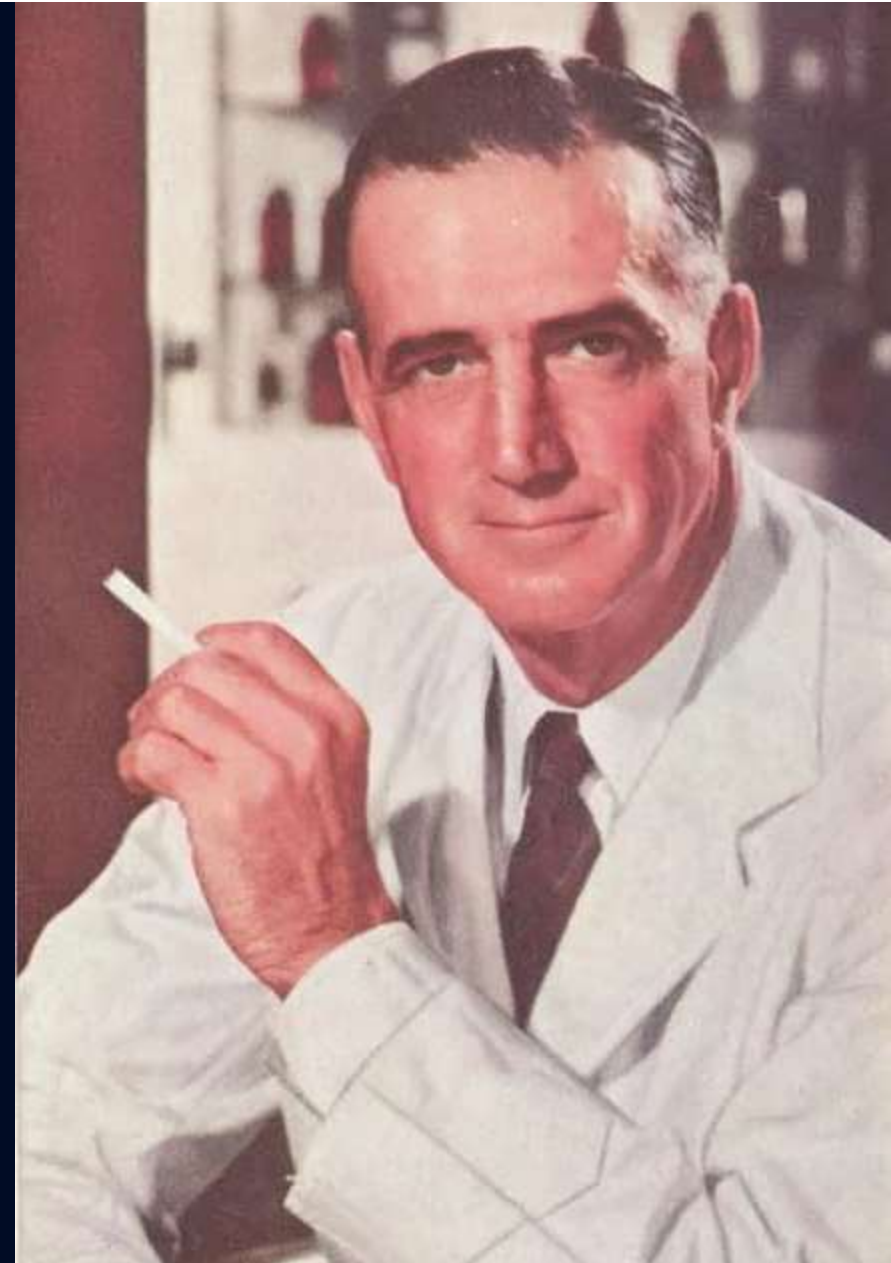
Hold tight to the truth

2 Thessalonians 2

Slides from Mike Hood's sermon
at the morning service, Sunday 18th August 2024

“Cigarette smoking is no more ‘addictive’ than coffee, tea, or Twinkies.”

James W. Johnston, CEO of R.J. Reynolds, 1994



*Lies are deadly, but the truth leads to life:
so it is vitally important that we hold on
tight to the truth we've received.*

- **The point of it all (v1-3a, 15-17)**
- **The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)**
- **The profound contrast (v9-14)**

The point of it all (v1-3a, 15-17)

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the day of the Lord

has already come.
is at hand.

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~~has already come.~~

is at hand.

The point of it all (v1-3a, 15-17)

LIES:

easily unsettled,
alarmed

TRUTH:

eternal encouragement
and good hope,
strengthen you in every
good deed and word

The point of it all (v1-3a, 15-17)

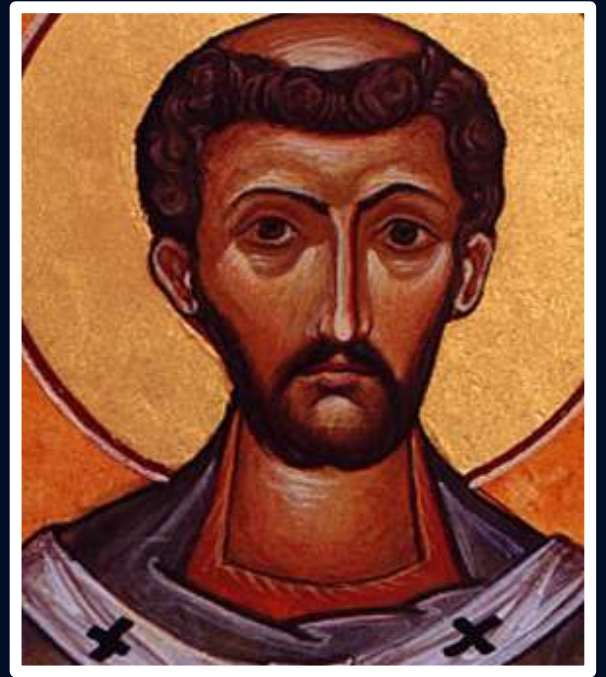
- a) we don't know when it will happen
- b) as believers we should never be panicked and should never despair
- c) we always want to be alert and ready
- d) the truth about the future should strengthen us in living good lives now

The puzzling reinsurance (v3b-8)

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

“I honestly confess that I do not know what [Paul] meant.”

Saint Augustine, *The City of God*



The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

God has spoken to us so that we can understand everything we need to know, if we use the help he's provided.

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

“Not all things in Scripture are equally plain in themselves, nor are they equally clear to all people.

Yet those things that are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly discussed and made clear, in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the educated but also the uneducated may reach a sufficient understanding of them with the adequate use of ordinary means.”

The Westminster Confession of Faith, 1646 & The London Baptist Confession of Faith, 1689, modernised

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

God has spoken to us so that we can understand everything we need to know, if we use the help he's provided.

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

What's clear?

- Jesus can't be returning right now because several things will happen first (v2-3)
 - There will be a 'rebellion'/'apostasy' (v3)
 - The 'man of lawlessness' will rise up, promoting sin and trying to replace God (v3-4)
 - The power behind him is already at work but subtly (v7)
 - He will be totally and easily defeated by Jesus (v8)

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

What's not clear?

- What and who will the 'rebellion' involve?
- Who will this man be?
- In what way will he oppose God?
- What is being described in v6 and v7?

The puzzling reassurance (v3b-8)

Why are they telling them this?

- Reassurance...
 - that Jesus' return wasn't imminent
 - that if they see these kinds of things happening, God isn't losing his grip
 - that Jesus will win in the end, easily

The profound contrast (v9-14)

The profound contrast (v9-14)



The profound contrast (v9-14)



What does this look like for us today?

discerning confidence

What does this look like for us today?

discerning confidence

- Don't be naïve and overconfident about discerning the truth solo

What does this look like for us today?

discerning confidence

We need:

- one another
- pastors and teachers
- believers with different backgrounds and experiences
- faithful Bible experts

What does this look like for us today?

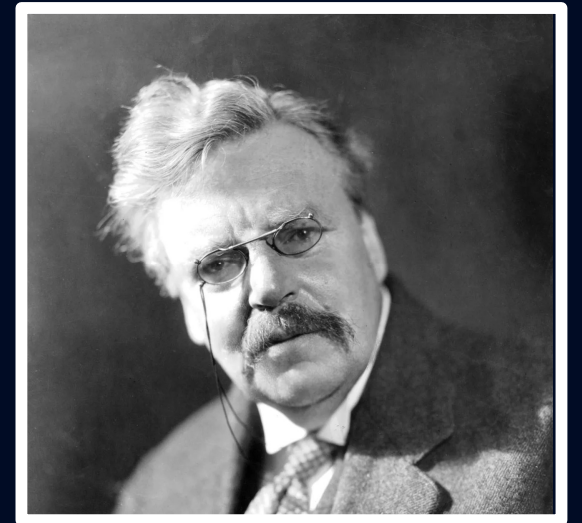
discerning confidence

What does this look like for us today?

discerning confidence

“The object [the point] of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.”

G. K. Chesterton



What does this look like for us today?

discerning confidence

We can be confident because of who has given us the truth.

- God the Father
- The Lord Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

The Nicene Creed

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

The Nicene Creed

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy, universal and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.