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THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS

Yesterday, while hearing a news broadcast about George Floyd, the young man that was “murdered” by police officers, I heard the Holy Spirit say: “Spirit of Lawlessness”. It was so clear what I heard.

In II Thessalonians 2:7 Paul writes to those in Thessalonica **“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work ...”** (NKJV) **“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...”** (KJV) The word iniquity means lawlessness. What we are seeing in the streets of America is lawlessness. Hearts are full of hate, and people are playing the blame game. No one wants to take responsibility for this atrocity.

So, who is responsible? I can tell you that easily. The church is responsible. What?? You might say, “why would you say that?” God tells us that judgement starts in the house of God. When a nation is in the shape ours is in, the blame comes back to those in the house of God. So, how did this happen? It happened when the fire went out of the pulpit, and the preaching did not bring people to repentance. What is happening in the streets of the United States, and around the world is not a “skin” problem. It is a sin problem. The only thing that takes sin away is repentance.

Russell and I have been visiting many churches since we lost our building last summer. We have yet to have seen an altar call for salvation in any of the churches we attended, except for the time when I was preaching at a guest church and gave an altar call. There is something wrong when souls aren’t the number one reason for a church’s existence.

This lack of fire is nothing new. Years ago, (1997) I was in the First Assembly of God Church in Ft. Myers. Dan Betzer shared that at a district meeting he asked the Pastors how many had seen any converts in their church the previous year. Sad to say very few hands (there were many there) were lifted into the air. No souls? They had lost their first love.

The church as a whole is like the church of Laodicea. Neither hot nor cold, full of all the earthly possessions, but no fire for souls. I truly believe that the COVID19 virus has been used by God (not necessarily sent by God) to bring Christians into their prayer closets and seek God like they never have sought Him. Have they? Well, when I see the anger and hatred on social media that comes out of so called “Christians”, I would have to say for the most part no.

The blame game started in the Garden of Eden. I often wonder if Adam had confessed his sin, and Eve had done the same what would have happened. The sinner always plays the blame game until they admit the sin, confess it, and get rid of it.

Is there hope for America and the rest of the world? I would like to say yes, but what I see is a slippery slope downward. Yes, the spirit of lawlessness is here. In II Thessalonians the above

quoted scripture takes place just before the antichrist comes on the scene. Are you prepared for that? Is your heart right with God? Are you truly walking the walk, or just talking the talk? II Chronicles 1:7 begins with ***“If my people which are called by my name...”*** It is addressed to “my people,” not the outsider, but those that profess to know God. It will take the rest of the verse: humbling ourselves, praying, seeking God’s face, turning from our wicked ways to bring change. Let it start with me.