

I have struggled with the matter of what to preach this week. We are all stressed by what is taking place in this world. Just as we were beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel regarding the covid 19 pandemic, the nation witnessed the brutal killing of George Floyd at the knees of police. Warranted demonstrations to peacefully protest Floyd's death, which had the potential to unite the country, then erupted into violent riots, looting, burning of property and the senseless deaths of law-enforcement officers and rioters alike. All across the nation, cities are nightly under violent siege and our politicians, left and right, liberal and conservative point the finger of blame at one another. And news media, which rarely reports the news objectively anymore, now stokes the fires of political unrest with edited and redacted reports akin to the propaganda machines of Nazi Germany or modern socialist states. People have run the gamut of emotions from fear, anxiety, despair, frustration, anger, and uncertainty about the future. This is true of Christian and non-Christian alike. And so, many ask, "What is God doing in this world?" and "How shall I then live in light of the current state of affairs?" **Well I have some Good News and some bad news.**

#### **WHAT IS GOD DOING IN THIS WORLD?**

I wish I could give you a definitive answer, but the Lord is not giving direct revelation at the present despite the claim of some false teachers. As Jude says **Jude 1:3-4**—*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

**Deuteronomy 29:29**—*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

After declaring that he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it displays the power of God for the salvation of all who believe, the Apostle Paul states **Romans 1:18**—*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

**God is revealing His wrath present tense active indicative—right now, God is expressing His wrath.** Why? Because men suppress the truth of God and worship the creation rather than the Creator. How? By letting people continue on the path of their sinfulness. If this is the way you want to go, go ahead, I'll not stop you. **Romans 1:24-26**—*Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,<sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;*

**Romans 1:28-32**—*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.<sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,<sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Dear friends, all of us are indicted here.*

Some will say, well that's judgmental Paul not the loving Jesus of the Gospels: **John 3:19-21**—<sup>19</sup> *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

### **HOW SHALL I THEN LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS?**

**This question boils down to that in which you place your hope and trust. Are you trusting in yourself and your perceived capabilities to weather this storm? Are you trusting in a political solution, a solution posed by science, philosophy, or anarchy? Or are you trusting in the sovereign, just and loving God.**

Listen to how he describes himself and the confidence he might have in his lineage, intellect, and abilities: **Philippians 3:4-6**—*If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;<sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.*

**Philippians 3:7-21**—*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.<sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.<sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.<sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.<sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.<sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*