

It's Aug 2, 2020

What I'm about to say - Is NOT Political Commentary

It is **APPLYING God's Word** - to our **Current Culture**

In **Portland** the "**peaceful rioters**" have added "**Burning Bibles**" to the **list of things** – that they're **burning down**

They've been burning down & **destroying** people's **lives** & **businesses**

They've been destroying anything that **points** to the **History** of our **country**

They've been burning the **American flag** - **nightly**

But – it's **not enough** - **NOW** -

They're **Burning Bibles**, **Along with** the **American Flag**

If you **watch** the **videos** – you'll often **notice** - a **pig** **strategically** located - **In** the **fire** - **for the video**

one video – has an actual – **bloody severed pig's head** with a **Police Officer's hat** on it

set on **fire**, **along** with the **American Flag**

& now – they're fueling the fires with Bibles

& here's the connection we've got to make as Christians

The Main-Stream Media

A large percent of our Gov't Leaders

& a large percent of our Country

Are Fully Supporting – The Violent Overthrow
Of our Current Culture

To replace it with their conflicting Ideologies

& the Propaganda machine of this country
Has made us all believe this is about RACE

But all you have to do is look past
the Talking-Heads of the Media

To see – there's something much bigger
than racial equality - That they're after

It seems to me

RACE may just be - the emotionally charged "FRONT"
These organizations are using

To get the Masses –
to help them accomplish their Larger Goals

Here's what I'm trying to point out to you

There is a MOVEMENT in this country
that is working very hard to DRIVE US →

FROM a POST-Christian Culture
TO – an ANTI-Christian culture

& because of this - we have got to go
onto HIGH-ALERT – As Christians

FIRST – In order to be part
of Turning the Country BACK to God

But THEN - We have also got to prepare (Spiritually)
to potentially live - in a FULL Anti-Christ culture

I want us to PRAY for - & Be part of - the Solution
to TURN our Country BACK to God

I WANT US to pray, & live out - 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)
14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

I want us to pray that – for real

BUT - - if those “Peaceful Protesters” make their way
to NUEVO - & decide to burn THIS church down

Then I want to know that I've done all I can

to help you continue to be found
Standing Up in a Fallen World

Let's Pray

Eric Metaxas – Who wrote the biography on *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*,
along with other great Christians

Had this to say about the Bible burning

Eric Metaxas 8/1/20

A century before the Third Reich, German poet Heinrich Heine prophesied that where books are burned, humans will soon be burned also. Antifa/BLM has chosen the brazenly atheist path of Joseph Goebbels. Let the reader understand

Joseph Goebbels was
the infamous NAZI Propaganda Specialist

who was the mastermind behind the Nazi's - convincing
the people to support the murder of 6 million Jews

& Metaxas says - those behind the burning down of our system
have chosen a similar approach

to get us to support their plan
to destroy this Previously Christian Culture

We pray that doesn't happen

But **if it DOES – Will YOU continue to
STAND UP for Christ – In a FALLEN WORLD?**

**TO THAT END - I want to apply PSALM 1
to our Current Culture today**

if you follow our teaching closely

you **know** –I've taught **Psalms 1 – 2 Times** already this **week**

ON **Facebook Live - Wed Night**
& ON our **Real Daily Devotions PODCAST**

**BUT today – I want to apply this Psalms
to the Current State of our nation**

So – **Let's jump** in to **Psalms 1**
& **see** if there's **any GUIDANCE** for us **there**

Psalms 1:1 (Nlt)

1 Oh, the joys of those (Lit trans - blessed are those) who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

The **1st vs** of the **Psalms** – **starts** with **3 things**
That We are **To TURN FROM**

In order for us to **BE - God-Blessed - & Joy-filled**

- (First) v.1 says – ***blessed (joyful) are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked***

The **word** for '**wicked**' **describes** a **person** – or a **culture**

That is **living** in ***Rebellion to God***
& is **Actively Rejecting God's wisdom**

& **Psalm 1** says - ***do not follow the advice of those people***

& this <u>would</u> certainly <u>apply</u> - to <u>whatever MEDIA</u> we are <u>CHOOSING</u> to be <u>INFLUENCED</u> by

We've **Got** to **accept** – that **we** are **INFLUENCED**

by whatever **MEDIA**
we are **Watching & Listening To**

We've **GOT to KNOW** - **That's True**

because the **people** who are **putting** that **stuff** out **there**
Absolutely KNOW IT'S True

So – **The 1st step**
to a **God-Blessed & Joyful life**

is to **NOT** follow the **ADVICE**
or the **INFLUENCE**

of **those** who **Live** in ***Rebellion to God***
& **Reject his Wisdom**

- **NEXT** – middle or V.1 – ***blessed (joyful) are those who do not stand around with (or stand in the path) with sinners***

The **phrase** “**Stand around**” or “**Stand in the path**” with **Sinners**

Refers to **living** a lifestyle **alongside**, or **along with**, **those** who are **living** in **rebellion to God**

This **DOES NOT MEAN**
we **should not** have **CONTACT** with **them**

IT MEANS we **should not**
‘live the same lifestyle as **them**

We **cannot direct** our lives - in the **same way** –
or **by** the **same influence** - that **directs** their **lives**

- & **finally** - at the **end of v.1** - we read – ***blessed (joyful) are those who do not join in with mockers***

The **word** for ‘**mockers**’ or ‘**scoffers**’

refers to **people** who **arrogantly**, & **pridefully**,
reject the **Wisdom** & **Direction of God**

Let’s say for **example** – **those** who **would inspire**
the **Burning of Bibles**

Or call for the **Tearing Down** of all **statues** of **Jesus**

to “***Join in***” or “***sit in the seat***” with them
means **TO BE IDENTIFIED** with them

& **God calls** us **NOT** to **be Identified** with **them**

Even if they **Scream Really Loud**
That it’s **all** about **RACISM**

& - **I know** if the **wrong people** hear me **say this**

they **may come all** the **way** to **Nuevo**
to **burn** this **church down**

But – the **Truth** is – **God’s Word** says

Do Not be identified with people
who **Arrogantly**, & **Pridefully**,
reject the **Wisdom** & **Direction** of God

& I think **Burning Bibles** & **Tearing Down Statues** of **Jesus**
FITS in that **Category** – **pretty well**

We’ve GOT to be **More careful**
about **WHO** we are **Being INFLUENCED BY**

→ → →

**We've Got to be MORE INFLUENCED - by GOD
& LESS INFLUENCED - by a God-Hating World**

We've Got to be **MORE INFLUENCED** - by **God's Wisdom**
& **LESS INFLUENCED** - by **Social Media Propaganda**

Ok – that's v.1 - - moving on

Psalm 1:2 (NLT)

2 But (in contrast to v.1) [But] they (the God-Blessed, Joy-filled person) [they] delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

This is a simple two-step plan from God

**Step 1 – DO NOT - be influenced, or led-around,
by those who are set against God (v.1)**

**Step 2 – INSTEAD - Delight in the Law of the Lord
& Meditate on it day and night (v.2)**

To 'delight in God's Word –
is to 'take pleasure in' - & 'to embrace' God's Word

It involves a strong desire
to have God's Word 'set the direction' of your life

We DELIGHT in Meeting God - in His Word
We DELIGHT in having God's Word - Guide our life

& because this God-blessed & Joyful-filled person
DELIGHTS in God's Word →

they MEDITATE ON God's Word day & night

To 'meditate' is to slow down
& genuinely embrace the Word of God

It's Taking in the Word of God in such a way
that it STICKS - & it causes CHANGE in our lives

Meditating on God's Word

gives the Holy Spirit fuel
to light a fire in your life

& Meditating on God's Word

hides the Word
in your heart (Psa 119:11)

So that the Holy Spirit can bring God's Word up
in your mind - when you need it

DELIGHTING IN God's Word
& **MEDITATING ON** God's Word
Will **SET the DIRECTION** of your Life
ACCORDING to God's Word

The reason this is so critical

is because V.3 tells us - THE RESULT of learning
to DELIGHT IN & MEDITATE ON God's Word

Psalm 1:3 (NLT)

3 They (the person who turns from wickedness (v.1), & delights in, & meditates on God's Word (v.2)) **[They] are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.**

The picture of the tree
implies STRENGTH - & STABILITY – & FRUITFULNESS

Which is Exactly What we Need
To STAND in the Culture Crisis we live in today

& so - The person who turns
from the influence of the Ungodly →

& instead Delights in, & Meditates on, God's Word

That person will become like a Tree
planted on the bank of God's Life-Giving River

& they will gain the Strength & Stability
To be able to Stand In A Fallen World

AND they will bear fruit –
The fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

& then – God can begin to USE YOU for GOOD
in other people's lives

Which is may be pictured by the tree providing shade
for other people to take shelter in

& then – the END of v.3 says
and they prosper in all they do

What IS that Prospering?

The Verse - IS that Prospering

That your **Roots** will go **Deep** into **God**
& your **Strength** in **God** will **Grow**
& you'll **Produce** the **Fruit** of the **Holy Spirit**
& **Others** will **find Shelter** in your **life**

It's **TURNING FROM** - the **influence** of **the Ungodly**
& **TURNING TO** - the **Life-Giving Water** of **God's Word**

That will **make** us like a **STRONG TREE**
planted on the **bank** of the **RIVER OF GOD**

& **we** will be **able** to **Stand Up in a Fallen World**

THAT is the picture of a Godly Person

**But the Final HAMMER – to drive the Point home
is the 2nd half of the Psalm**

The Final Blow – is the Contrast

Between the God-Blessed Person - & the person
who Chooses to REJECT - the Truths of the God

Let's Just finish the Psalm – by reading Vs's 4-6

These vs's don't need much comment
So – just take in the weightiness of them

Psalm 1:4–6 (NLT)

4 (in contrast to vs's 1-3) *But not the wicked!* (or the wicked are not so) *They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.*

5 *They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners* (those who live in rebellion to God) *will have no place among the godly.*

6 *For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.*

We are faced with a decision like I've never seen it –
For Christians in this country

**Will we Walk The Path of the GODLY
described here in Vs's 1-3**

**OR – will we Walk The Path of the WICKED
described here in Vs's 4-6**

If we will **TURN FROM**
the **INFLUENCE** of the **UNGODLY**

& if we will Genuinely **TURN TO**
the **Life-Giving Counsel** of **GOD'S WORD**

Then **we** will **GROW** - in **the Blessing** and **the Joy**
of **Walking in God's Ways**

& **We** will **be like** a **Strong, Stable Tree,**
Planted by the **River of God**

& **we** will **be able** to **continue** to

STAND UP in a FALLEN WORLD

Let's Pray