

## ORDER OF SERVICE

May 23, 2021

Worship in Fellowship  
Worship in Music  
Worship in Communion  
Worship in Message  
Worship in Giving

Dan Cox  
Wayne Braudrick

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### Christianity Promotes A Hateful God

*Selected Scriptures*

*Apology Accepted Series*

Life Change: We turn to the One who suffers for us.

**“Surely the universe has some plan for this.”**

**People want an answer to suffering.**

The no god approach destroys humanity.

Psalm 8:3-5

The [materialist] view of the universe erodes the foundations on which we balance life and humanness itself. If there is no good or evil, why do we lament? If our sympathy for others is just a by-product of evolutionary kinship, why empathize with the suffering of those outside our tribe? ...Removing [God] from the equation of suffering does not solve the riddle. Rather, it unravels our very self.

– Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity*

The no suffering approach is impossible.

Isaiah 59:11

**The biblical solution: God suffers.**

**Luke 22:42**

**People want an answer to the presence of evil.**

We make mankind the measure of morality.

Psalm 2:1-3

We declare there is no such thing.

Prov 12:15

**The biblical solution: God is.**

God calls out fugitives from reason.

**Is 45:20-24**

Real truths are not often sought after in a world filled with sound bites and fake news. But since we are a church whose mission is to do the great commission, maybe we can grow into a church that produces strong reasoners – people who [show from scripture] that God is and He rewards those who seek Him through faith in Jesus. (Hebrews 11:6)

– Juliette Ulrich

God predicts perfectly.

God alone is Lord.

All will deal with Him in His glory.

God saves all who trust Him.



# APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy happiness



**Surely the Universe  
has some plan for this.**





**Surely the Universe  
has some plan for this.**



courtesy freepik

- **God can't be sovereign because then He would be responsible for human hurt. That would make Him bad. Better He not be God than be God and not good.**
- **I can't pretend that my pain isn't real, and others who do so are playing make-believe.**
- **An all-powerful, impersonal universe is the best answer. It doesn't have to answer to me because, unlike God and people, it doesn't want a relationship with me.**

# Psalm 8

<sup>3</sup> When I observe your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you set in place,

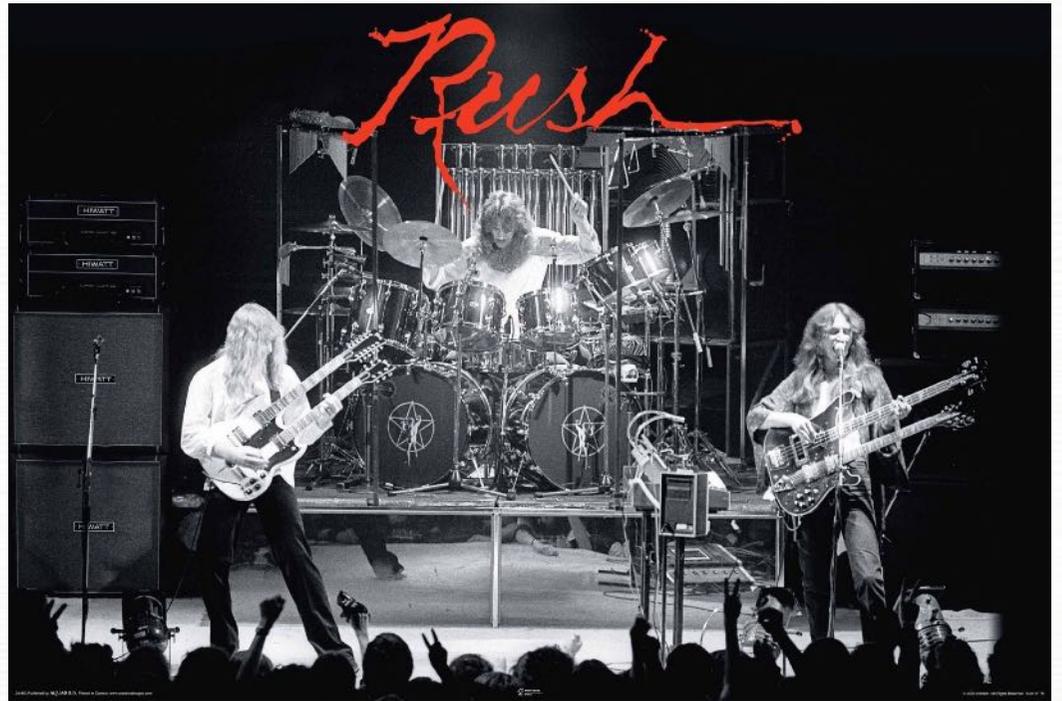
<sup>4</sup> what is a human being that you remember him,  
a son of man that you look after him?

<sup>5</sup> You made him little less than God  
and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>CSB</sup>

**The [materialist] view of the universe erodes the foundations on which we balance life and humanness itself. If there is no good or evil, why do we lament? If our sympathy for others is just a by-product of evolutionary kinship, why empathize with the suffering of those outside our tribe? ...Removing [God] from the equation of suffering does not solve the riddle. Rather, it unravels our very self.**  
– Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity*



**You can't pray for a place  
In Heaven's unearthly estate  
Each of us  
A cell of awareness  
Imperfect and incomplete  
Genetic blends  
With uncertain ends  
On a fortune hunt  
That's far too fleet.  
– Neil Peart, "freewill"**



courtesy Rush

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***Siddhartha Gautama***  
**James J. Choi**  
**2018**





ឥតម្ម ព្រះអង្គ ទ្រង់បរិនិព្វាន

***Gautama Buddha  
attains Nirvana***  
**traditional Khmer  
wall painting**  
**Botum Wattey**  
**Reacheveraram,**  
**Phnom Penh,**  
**Cambodia**

# Isaiah 59

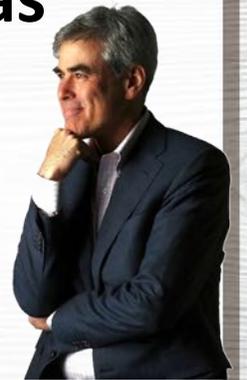
**<sup>11</sup> We all growl  
like bears  
and moan  
like doves.**

**CSB**



courtesy goodfon

**When I began writing this book, I thought that Buddha would be [right]...His diagnosis of the futility of striving felt so right, his promise of tranquility so alluring. But in doing research for the book, I began to think that Buddhism might be...an error. Research proves that even people in painful situations tend to live meaningful lives. Instead...of limiting suffering... non-attachment seems to deprive us of meaning...Just as plants need sun, water, and good soil to thrive, people need love, work, and a connection to something larger.**  
– Jonathan Haidt, *The Happiness Hypothesis*



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## Luke 22

**42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”**

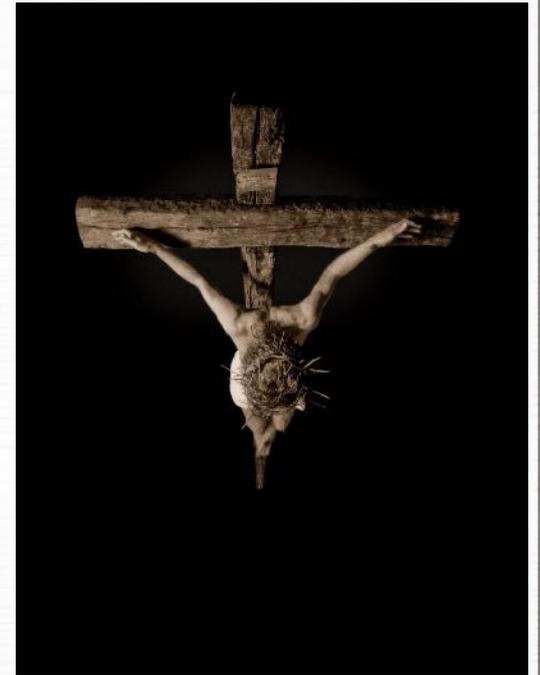


**The OT prophets used the image of a wine cup to represent the wrath of God – the price that must be paid for the evil in the world.**

**As human, Jesus is in agony – literally sweating blood. As God He is willing to suffer and drink the cup of wrath that must be paid to remove sin and suffering.**

**Here is the answer to human suffering:**

- **Not that God is absent or not god.**
- **Not that suffering is an illusion overcome by detachment from reality.**
- **The answer to suffering is that God suffers for humans.**



## Luke 23

**<sup>41</sup> “We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” CSB**

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- **I can't pretend that my pain isn't real, and others who do so are playing make-believe.**
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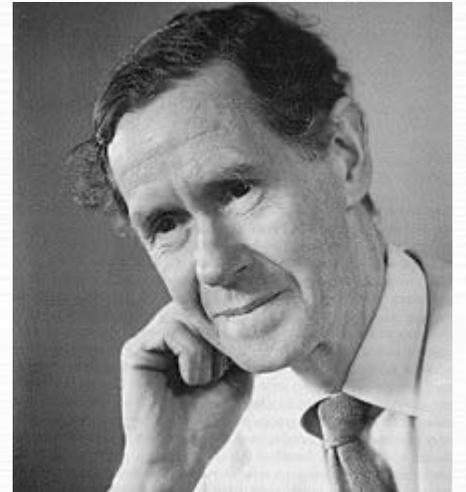
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**Gottfried Leibniz**

**Christianity promotes a hateful god.**

**J.L. Mackie**



## **JL Mackie's proof that God cannot be good:**

- 1) God is omniscient (all-knowing)**
- 2) God is omnipotent (all-powerful)**
- 3) God is omnibenevolent (morally perfect)**
- 4) There is evil in the world**

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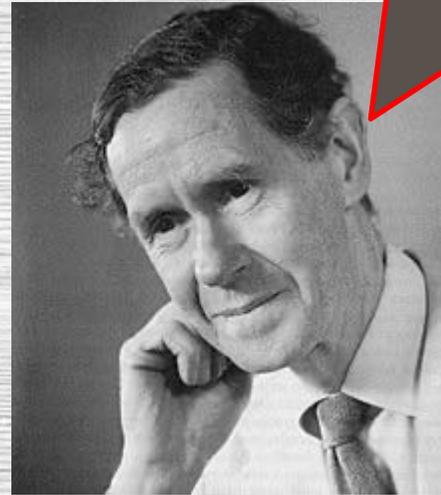
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- 4) There is evil in the world**

**Why? Why does the presence of evil mean God can't be good? – Alan Plantinga, *God, Freedom, and Evil***

**Making mankind  
the measure of  
morality is a paltry  
way to prove God  
isn't good.**



**He is correct. Mankind as  
a measure of morality is  
implied in my proof and  
cannot be used to declare  
God isn't good.**



# Psalm 2

**<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?**

**<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,**

**<sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.” <sup>ESV</sup>**

**Man's emotions [must] be redeemed from the murk of mysticism and redirected at its proper object: man. It is in this sense, with this meaning and intention, that I would identify the sense of life dramatized in *The Fountainhead* as man-worship.**



**– Ayn Rand, May 1968 Introduction to 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of *The Fountainhead***

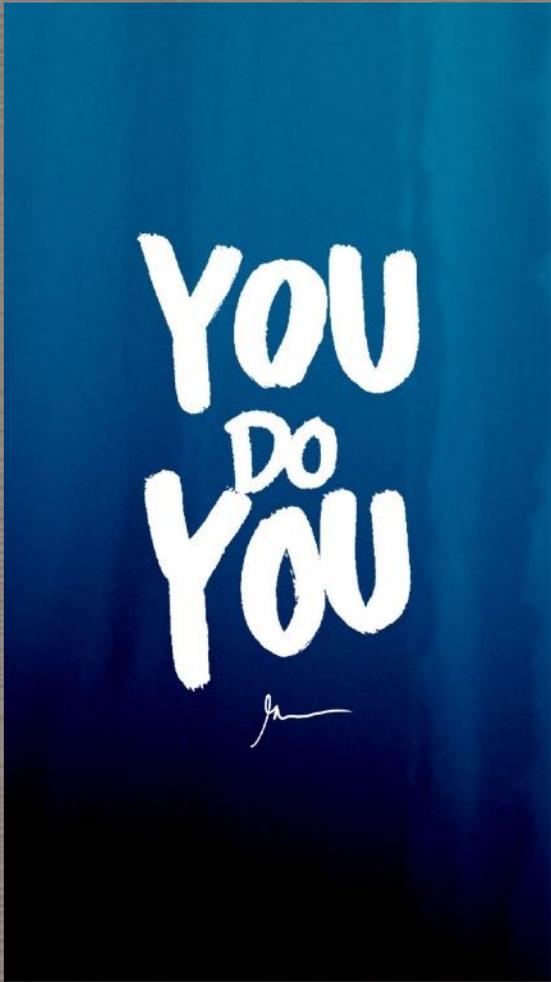
# Psalm 106

**36 They served their idols,  
which became a snare to them. <sup>CSB</sup>**



YOU  
DO  
YOU





**YOU  
DO  
YOU**

**Often that statement “you do you” is about human worship, especially self-idolatry. It really means: “Don’t let anyone or anything reason you out of doing whatever you desire. You do what you want because you are the arbiter of what is good.”**



**“You’re a profoundly religious man, Mr. Roark – in your own way. I can see that in your buildings.”**

**“That’s true,” said Roark [an architect and committed atheist].**



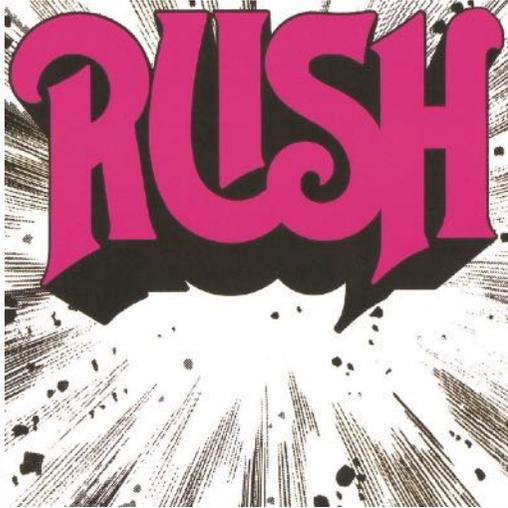
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***The Tower of Babel*  
Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563**



courtesy World



**You can choose a ready guide  
In some celestial voice  
If you choose not to decide  
You still have made a choice  
You can choose from phantom fears  
And kindness that can kill  
I will choose a path that's clear  
I will choose free will.  
– Neil Peart, “freewill”**

**There is no grace: there is no guilt:**

**This is the Law:**

**DO WHAT THOU WILT!**

**– Aleister Crowley,  
*The Book of the Law***





# Purse SNATCHER

courtesy Manitoba Post

# Proverbs 12

**15 A fool's way is right  
in his own eyes,  
but whoever listens to  
counsel is wise. <sup>CSB</sup>**

**If there is no moral agency [of evil], then no act of moral courage is real either...If the ISIS judge who held Nadia Murad as a sex slave, raping and abusing her night after night, cannot be judged for his actions, neither can Harriet Tubman be commended for her courage as she risked her life night after night to help black slaves go free. If Larry Nassar, the USA national gymnastics team doctor who is serving multiple life sentences for sexually abusing more than 250 young girls, cannot be held accountable for his callous crimes, then neither does Rachael Denhollander – the first woman to accuse him – truly love her children. – Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity***

# Isaiah 45

<sup>20</sup> “Come, gather together,  
and approach, you fugitives of the nations.  
Those who carry their wooden idols  
and pray to a god who cannot save  
have no knowledge.

Ps

Pr

Ecc

Song

Isaiah

Jer

Lam

Ez

Dan

# Isaiah 45

<sup>21</sup> Speak up and present your case—  
yes, let them consult each other.

Who predicted this long ago?

Who announced it from ancient times?

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# Isaiah 45

**Was it not I, the LORD?  
There is no other God but me,  
a righteous God and Savior;  
there is no one except me.  
<sup>22</sup> Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth.  
For I am God,  
and there is no other.**

# Isaiah 45

**23 By myself I have sworn;  
truth has gone from my mouth,  
a word that will not be revoked:  
Every knee will bow to me,  
every tongue will swear allegiance.**

**24 It will be said about me, 'Righteousness and strength  
are found only in the LORD.'"**

**All who are enraged against him  
will come to him and be put to shame. <sup>CSB</sup>**

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**Any educated person should, at some point, have critically examined the claims for Christianity and should be able to explain why he or she does, or does not, believe them. – Harvard Professor Tyler**

**VanderWeele, “Evidence, Knowledge, and Science, how does Christianity Measure Up?” Feb 12, 2016  
Veritas Forum**



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**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL**

JOSH. 13:6-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



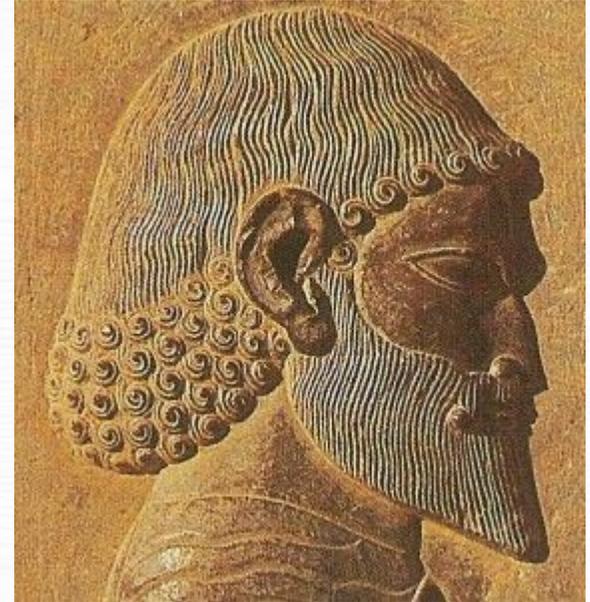
# Genesis 50

**<sup>5</sup> Simeon and Levi are brothers; their knives are vicious weapons.**

**<sup>7</sup> I will disperse them throughout Jacob and scatter them throughout Israel.** CSB

# Isaiah 44

**28 [I am the Lord] who says to  
Cyrus, “My shepherd,  
he will fulfill all my pleasure”  
and says to Jerusalem, “She  
will be rebuilt,”  
and of the temple, “Its  
foundation will be laid.” CSB**



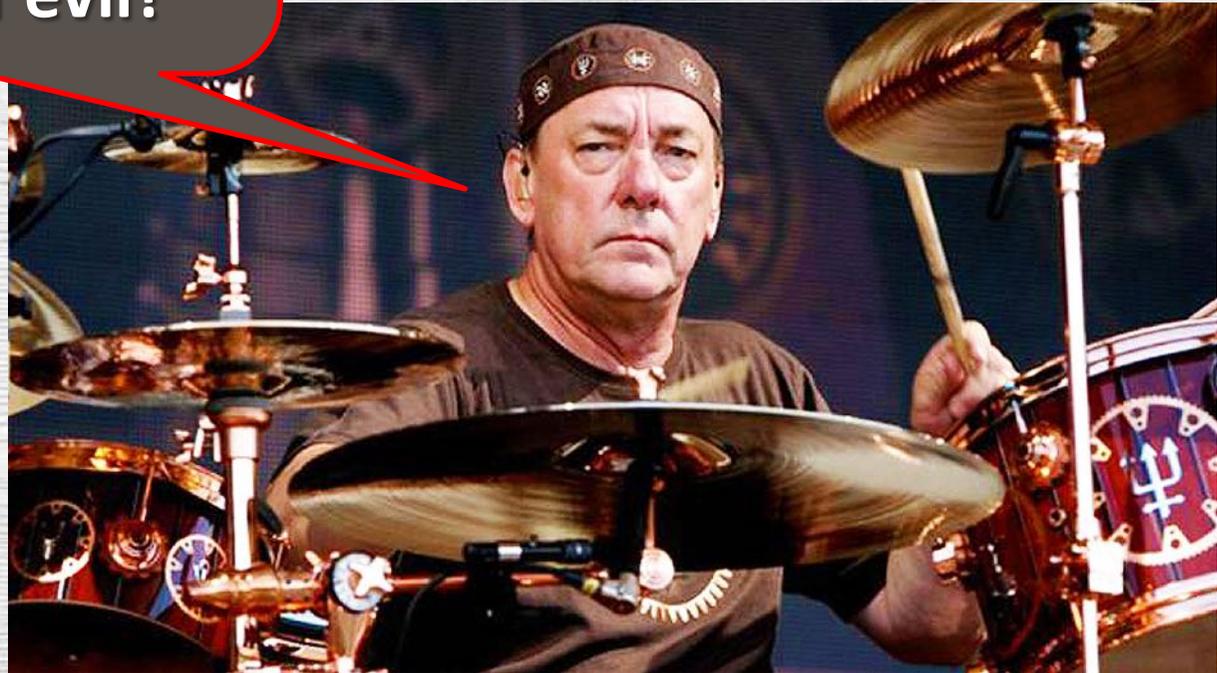
# Micah 5

**<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
are only a small village among all the people of Judah.**



**Yet a ruler of Israel  
whose origins are in  
the distant past,  
will come from you  
on my behalf. <sup>NLT</sup>**

How do God's  
perfect predictions  
help me with the  
problem of evil?



courtesy societyofrock

**If I prove to you that I can hit that tiny bullseye, are you confident I could then responsibly hit the large target?**



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**21 There is no other God but me,  
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**My argument against God was that the universe seems so cruel and unjust. But how did I get this idea of just, unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he first has some idea of straight. What was I comparing the universe to when I called it unjust? – C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain***



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Insert audio here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR9P82WbQug> stop at :40.

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## Hebrews 2

**17 It was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be**

**our merciful and faithful High Priest before God.**

**Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.**

**18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. <sup>NLT</sup>**

**You spoke of praying for forgiveness. But Larry, if you have read the Bible you carry, you know forgiveness does not come from doing good things, as if good deeds can erase what you have done. It comes from repentance which requires facing and acknowledging the truth about what you have done in all of its utter depravity and horror without mitigation, without excuse, without acting as if good deeds can erase what you have seen in this courtroom today.**

**The Bible you carry says it is better for a stone to be thrown around your neck and you thrown into a lake than for you to make even one child stumble. And you have damaged hundreds. The Bible you speak of carries a final judgment where all of God's wrath and eternal terror is poured out on men like you. Should you ever reach the point of truly facing what you have done, the guilt will be crushing. And that is what makes the gospel of Christ so sweet. Because it extends grace and hope and mercy where none should be found. And it will be there for you.**



**I pray you experience the soul crushing weight of guilt so you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness from God, which you need far more than forgiveness from me – though I extend that to you as well.  
– Rachel Denhollander**



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED