

## A CROOKED AND TWISTED GENERATION

**Philippians 2:15** “...in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation

“Paul admonishes the believers at Philippi (and us as well), that our character in the world should be above reproach. We should stand out like beacons or lighthouses, which reflect the light of Christ. The gospel is to be shared not with words only, but by our deeds or our whole lives. This is truly difficult at times, isn't it? In order to do this, we must constantly submit ourselves to the Father's will, allowing Him to work in and through us for His glory.

Any Christian who says this is easy may not be doing it correctly and should look closely at their lives and motivations, because the battle of wills – our will for God's – seems constant. Paul understood that the generation he lived in then – roughly 2,000 years ago – was perverse and crooked. It was so because society in large measure rejected the truth of God in Christ.” — *Study Grow Know Blog*

**Isaiah 5:13-23** “Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst. <sup>14</sup> Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her. <sup>15</sup> Man is humbled, and each one is brought low, and the eyes of the haughty are brought low. <sup>16</sup> But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness. <sup>17</sup> Then shall the lambs graze as in their pasture, and nomads shall eat among the ruins of the rich. <sup>18</sup> Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes,<sup>19</sup> who say: “Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!” <sup>20</sup> Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! <sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! <sup>22</sup> Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, <sup>23</sup> who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!”

Like Paul, Peter and others who lived in a generation of people who were terribly crooked and perverse, we also, as Christians live in a generation that is possibly even more crooked and perverse. Because of technology that exists today, which did not exist 2,000 years ago, there is all sorts of spying, espionage, fallacious murmuring and more. Society has become



increasingly licentious and even within the visible Church, we find alleged spiritual leaders advocating congregants to abandon critical thinking and give themselves over to the way they *feel*. Times of worship simply becomes a time when people are fully enamored by their feelings, which is done through a form of self-promotion and with an eye on *self*.

But if we consider the tone and character of society today, it is easy to adopt a deep sense of helplessness over it. Lies from those who live to obfuscate everything that is absolute truth. Hate, harassment, bullying of conservatives is also becoming the norm and the mainstream media support these things without question.

### **Obfuscate**

*transitive verb*

1. To make so confused or opaque as to be difficult to perceive or understand.
2. To render indistinct or dim; darken.
3. To darken; to obscure; to becloud.

## **THREE TYPES OF LAW FOUND IN THE MOSAIC COVENANT**

“We must therefore distinguish three kinds of precepts in the Old Law; Moral precepts, which are dictated by the natural law; Ceremonial precepts, which are determinations of the Divine worship; and Judicial precepts, which are determinations of the justice to be maintained among men.” — *Summa Theological, Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)*

What is the difference between the three types of law found in the Mosaic Covenant?

1. **Moral Law** – this is law which reflects God’s character and his design of this world. Examples of this law would include but are not limited to commands regarding murder, children honoring and obeying their parents, adultery, covetousness and theft.
2. **Ceremonial Law** – this was a brand-new set of laws that God gave to Moses that were specifically for the nation of Israel as a theocracy. These laws dealt with the qualifications for priests, requirements for how and when to perform sacrifices, cleanliness laws, dietary laws, festival laws and tithing laws.
3. **Civil (Judicial) Law** – All nations must have civil laws to help deal with disputes between their citizens as well as to enforce the morals of the people. While not all of



the Mosaic civil laws dealt with moral issues, a great deal of the Civil laws for Israel did in fact deal with how to punish or make restitution for violation of God's moral laws. So, when we examine the Old Testament to search for the moral law of God – we must look for moral laws that stand alone as well as civil laws which prescribe punishment and restitution for breaking God's moral laws.

Blatant examples where the world is realizing Isaiah 5:

1. Main stream media
2. Homosexuality
3. Transgenderism
4. Abortion
5. Economy

among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.”

**1 Timothy 6:3-10** “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

Holding fast to the Word of life.

- This is not casual, it is intentional.
- This is not indifferent, it is purposeful.
- This is not uninterested, it is concerned.



**Revelation 3:14-22** “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

<sup>15</sup> “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

**2 Peter 1:3-11** “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

