

TIME OF REFLECTION

“I simply argue that the cross be raised again,  
at the centre of the marketplace, as well as on the steeple of the church.  
I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified  
in a cathedral between two candles but on a cross between two thieves;  
on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad of politics so cosmopolitan  
that they had to write His title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek...  
and at the kind of place where cynics talk smut,  
and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble.  
Because that is where He died, and that is what He died about.

~George MacLeod (1895-1991), Scottish clergyman

“The idols of today are unmistakable – self-esteem without achievement, sex without consequences, wealth without responsibility, pleasure without struggle...”

~Jonathan Sacks (1948-2020), British Orthodox rabbi and writer

“In the world it is called Tolerance, but in hell it is called Despair...the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing.”

~Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957), writer and poet

“The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate...adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), slain civil rights leader

“If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.”

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), novelist and famed Soviet dissident

“Today’s...violence was a tragic illustration of what happens to a nation when it abandons God’s person, principles, and policies.... The result is chaos, conflict, and lawlessness. Only a radical return to God by His people will change this.”

~Dr. Tony Evans, pastor and author regarding the Capitol Building riot

“I really do not know what will remain of civilization and history if the accumulated influence of Christ...is eradicated from literature, art, practical dealings, moral standards and creativeness in the different activities of mind and spirit.”

~Dr. Charles Habib Malik (1906-1987), Lebanese President of the United Nations

---

## *Worship through the Word*

---

**SERMON** – “Seeking God in Troubled Times” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *selected passages*

*2 Chronicles 12 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established and strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the Law of the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> So King Rehoboam became powerful in Jerusalem and reigned there....<sup>14</sup> But he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.

*2 Chronicles 17 (ESV)*

<sup>3</sup> The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he... did not seek the Baals, <sup>4</sup> but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor. <sup>6</sup> His heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord...

<sup>7</sup> In the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.... <sup>9</sup> And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the Lord with them. They went about through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

<sup>10</sup> And the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

*Joshua 1 (ESV)*

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way

prosperous, and then you will have good success.

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

*1 Timothy 6 (NASB)*

<sup>3</sup> If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a sick craving for controversial questions and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> and constant friction between people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

*James 3 (ESV)*

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.