

**The Author of Life**  
A Call to Biblical Sexual Morality and the Sanctity of Life  
1 Corinthians 6:9–11

When the week began, I did not know I would be preaching today. But when the plans changed, I knew exactly what I wanted to preach on. As God would have it, there are two very important issues happening in our world right now that we, as elders, thought are important for our congregation to be aware of. These two issues are biblical sexual morality and the sanctity of life.

Let me give you some background to these issues and then we will look at what God's Word has to say regarding them. As was already mentioned, today is "Sanctity of Life" Sunday. This is a day where churches around the US celebrate God's gift of life and commit to protect human life at every stage. The issue of abortion has been an important topic of discussion in our country for many years now. It not a topic unique to our age, but we cannot ignore the fact that abortion is more accessible and prolific than perhaps any time in history. It is important to remember that statistics vary from source to source, and these numbers are estimates, but the number of human lives that have been lost through abortion is astounding. In the United States alone, as of 2013 it was estimated as many as 55 million lives were taken by abortion since 1973 when abortion was legalized in all 50 states in the landmark court case of *Roe v. Wade*. By now, that number is closer to 60 million. In 2019 approximately 887,000 abortions occurred in the US.

According to the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute, there are approximately 73 million abortions worldwide every year. 73 million. Approximately 60 million people die worldwide from all other causes. In 2017, California alone, saw about 132,000 abortions. That's 361 a day.

Every single human life is created by God. Every single human is an image bearer of God. The Bible, as we will see more, is explicitly clear on this. The abortion agenda is as strong as ever, and we will likely not see the end of it any time soon.

The second issue we are talking about today relates to God's design for gender and sexuality. A few weeks ago, an email went out from The Masters' Seminary about a new law that was just passed in Canada. The bill titled C-4 passed the Canadian House and Senate without a single dissenting vote. Let me read you a little about it.

The Bill will amend the Criminal Code in Canada to ban conversion therapy. It will criminalize, among other things, **"causing another person to undergo conversion therapy [this will be defined in a moment]; promoting or advertising conversion therapy."**

In the Preamble of the Bill, it says that the belief that **"heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person at birth are to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions"** is a **"myth."**

So according to Canadian law, as of January 8, 2022, the belief in God's design for marriage and sexuality will now be seen as a myth. Conversion therapy is a term that comes from secular psychology. It is not a practice of biblical counselors. *Conversion*, however, is a Christian term.

As our passage this morning in 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 states, God is in the business of converting unrighteous sinners, among whom are those who engage in all forms of sexual immorality, into born again, justified saints. So, you can see the problem here can't you. Let me read you a little more on this.

The Bill defines conversion therapy as, **“a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual; change a person’s gender identity to cisgender; change a person’s gender expression so that it conforms to the sex assigned to the person at birth; repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior; repress a person’s non-cisgender gender identity; or repress or reduce a person’s gender expression that does not conform to the sex assigned to the person at birth.”**

As a faithful pastor in Canada said, “The definition is intentionally broad, and it can clearly be used against any preacher or elder who either speaks against homosexuality/transgenderism or who counsels a person to obey Christ and abandon their homosexual/transgender actions and lifestyle. This means as of January 8, 2022, it will be against the law to preach, teach, or counsel regarding God’s design for marriage and sexuality.” Violating this new bill is punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

So what do Bible-believing Christians do in times like this? We do what the Apostles did in [Acts 4:18–20](#), “And when they [the Jewish religious leaders] had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’” That is what our faithful Canadian brothers are doing this Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, across their country. They requested that other churches across the US stand with them, and so here we are today.

During my time in the music industry, I played for a band originally from northern Canada. I have spent quite a bit of time up there, traveled coast to coast, seen the beauty in the summer, and have never been so cold in my life in the winter. There were a handful of men from Canada who attended seminary at the same time as me. I was sort of adopted into their brotherhood because of all the time I had spent in Canada because when they talked about Tim Hortons and Poutine, I knew what they were talking about.

One of these men, Jacob, now serves in Edmonton, Alberta at Grace Life church as an associate pastor. You may have heard this church because last year their lead pastor James Coates was arrested in February by the Canadian authorities because they continued to meet during the lockdown restrictions. Right after this occurred, I happened to be on a zoom call with Jacob, several other Canadian pastors, and some of the staff at the seminary to encourage him because now that James was in prison, it was his turn to preach. They had no idea what was going to happen the next Sunday. Was he going to be arrested as well? Were they going to shut the church down? This is the kind of persecution our brothers and sisters in Canada are facing. I remember wondering, would I be willing to walk into that pulpit if I were Jacob? Now, with this new bill, preaching the true gospel is a criminal offense.

I want you to think about that. If you and I were in Canada right now, we wouldn't know what would happen after this service. I wouldn't know if I would go home to my wife and girls tonight. That is what our brothers and sisters are facing today. May God give them strength and grace today. And my hope and prayer is that we would all stand on God's Word, never willing to hide the only good news that saves sinners.

There is another thing I want to share with you. About a week that first email went out about Canada, I received another email from the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors, ACBC. Cornerstone is very affiliated with ACBC as we are an ACBC training center, John Marc is an ACBC fellow, Dan and I are ACBC certified counselors, and we have two other members of our church who are certified counselors.

Let me read to you what they sent out.

In West Lafayette, IN a city ordinance has been proposed, **Ordinance 31-21**, which if passed would ban any attempts by biblical counselors to speak biblical truth in love to minors wrestling with sexual orientation or issues of gender confusion. This ordinance is threatening to fine counselors and counseling centers up to \$1,000 per day. While various legislative actions have been taken against what is often called Conversion or Reparative Therapy in the United States over the last decade or so, this ordinance differs from the current legislation on two significant fronts: (1) this ordinance specifically targets unlicensed counselors (2) conversion therapy, as defined by this ordinance, has been given a far broader and ambiguous definition compared to current legislative action. To be clear, the fundamental tenants, practices, and goals of conversion therapy in no way reflect a biblical approach to counseling. But the intentional ambiguity of this ordinance would hold pastors and biblical counselors (both licensed and unlicensed) in violation of this ban if they attempt to counsel a biblical sexual ethic to a minor struggling with same-sex attraction or gender confusion.

Faith Church in Lafayette has been a strong advocate of biblical counseling for decades. These two situations seem strikingly similar do they not? There is an intentional broadening of the language that makes the proclamation of the biblical truth that Jesus calls sinners to forsake their sin, like the sin of homosexuality or transgenderism, illegal. These are the times we live in, and the agenda is intentional and powerful.

So that's a longer than normal introduction, but I'd like to make a few comments before we look at our texts.

This is not a political message about building a kingdom on earth; this is a message about the Kingdom of God and how sinners enter it.

This is not a message of hate, though many will argue otherwise; this is a message of our love for God and our fellow man.

This is not a message of fear designed to get us to hide away from the world; this is a message of courage and conviction to stand on God's Word and proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This is not a message of despair; this is a message of hope in God's sovereign work to convert sinners.

This is not a message about “conversion therapy” this is a message about the divine conversion of sinners by God, to God.

This is a gospel message.

The world is trying to outlaw conversion. But we stand with faithful Christians to teach the truth about God’s Word that there is no hope outside of conversion.

Here is my hope for our time together.

- That we would be aware. Paul says in [2 Corinthians 2:11](#), “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” I fear that many out of ignorance will be swept away by the tide of evil that is no doubt coming our way. God may allow more time, but this seems to be coming to our country.
- That we pray for our brothers and sisters facing persecution and encourage them. It can be hard to stand for the truth. It is harder when you feel alone. Though we know God promises He will never leave us or forsake us, having brothers and sisters in Christ stand with you means a lot.
- That we would remind ourselves of God’s perfect created order so that we gain even more confidence in His Word. [Genesis 1:31](#) says, “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”
- That we would be prepared ourselves to stand for truth. [Ephesians 6:10–11](#) says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”
- That we would proclaim the good news of the gospel to a dying world no matter the cost. Paul admonished Timothy in [2 Timothy 4:2](#), “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” This was specifically given in the context of saying there will come a time when people will not endure sound doctrine. Brothers and sisters, that time is now.

I am so grateful that here at Cornerstone, under years and years of the preaching of God’s Word, this is not new information for us. We know what God’s Word says on these two issues. If you were with us last year, you will remember that we did a 10-week series on biblical manhood and womanhood. That seems especially pertinent in light of what is happening today. In the first message in that series, John Marc preached on what the Bible says about gender, and it is a great additional resource for you if you haven’t heard it or if you would like to revisit it. You can find it on our website.

I want to look at two passages this morning. Genesis 1 and 1 Corinthians 6:9–11. As you might have guessed, we need to go back to the beginning to see God’s perfect design for mankind. Then we will transition to 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, which talks about God’s merciful warning to mankind, and God’s gracious conversion of sinners. So, turn with me to Genesis 1:26–27 as we see God’s perfect design for mankind.

## **I. God’s Perfect Design for Mankind (Gen 1:26–27)**

Let’s read together. “[Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created](#)

them.” These two verses are some of the most important in the Bible because they set the foundation for so many matters. They answer the most fundamental questions about humanity. Who are we? Where did we come from? What is our purpose? What is also interesting is that the issue of sexual morality and the sanctity of human life are both addressed in these two verses because they stem from the same issue—God’s original, perfect design for mankind. There are three fundamental aspects about the nature of mankind taught here 1) God created us 2) we are created in God’s image and 3) we are created male and female. Let’s look at those one at a time.

*First*, God created us. Verse 26 starts with, “Then God said, ‘Let us make...’ I almost passed right by this as I was putting my notes together, but that would be a big oversight. The first thing we must remember is that God made us. The implications of that are massive. We didn’t create ourselves. We didn’t just show up on the scene by accident. We don’t *determine* our own existence; we are *dependent* on God for our existence. This also means God, by divine right, is our authority. He determines that we exist, the nature of existence, and the purpose of our existence. He determines everything.

This is man’s biggest problem with God. God is God, and we are not! So, our strategy is to argue that God doesn’t exist, or re-create Him in a way that is suitable to us. That is why [Psalm 14:1](#) says, “The fool says in his heart there is no God.” That is why [Romans 1:18–21](#) says that man suppresses the truth about God in unrighteousness because although they know God exists by looking at creation, they refuse to honor Him as God or give Him thanks. God says, “I made you.” Mankind says, “No you didn’t.” We as followers of Christ stand on the authority of God’s Word and declare, God created us.

*Second*, these verses teach us mankind is created in the image of God. What does that mean? It means God created mankind to be *like* Him and to *represent* Him on this earth. To be *like* Him and *represent* Him. Look at verse 26. Right after God says we were created in His image and likeness, He says, “and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So, it seems that one of the main ways we bear the image of God is by ruling over the creation. Some refer to this as the kingdom mandate. God rules over all things and set mankind as His vice regent, or second in command if you will, over His creation. Mankind was designed to glorify God by functioning in his God-given role as ruler over the creation. God made mankind to be a “representation” of Him on this earth.

Being created in God’s image also includes other ways that we reflect Him. We are rational, creative, and relational. We have a mind and will. We can reflect elements of His character like love and justice and compassion. Bearing the image of God is uniquely human. What else is created in His image? Nothing. Not the angels, not the animals, not the plants, not the sea. Because of this, mankind is the pinnacle of God’s creation. There is nothing higher than mankind in creation. I know it doesn’t seem like this. I know when you look at me you’re thinking, “This is as good as it gets?!” Well remember, we live between Eden and eternity. Adam and Eve failed miserably in their purpose to glorify God by reflecting His image and ruling over creation. You shouldn’t be thinking of me when you think of the pinnacle of creation, obviously. Who should you be thinking of? The perfect man. The Son of Man. The second Adam who succeeded in every way the first Adam failed—The God/Man—Jesus Christ. [Colossians 1:15](#) says, “He is the image of the invisible God.” Then in [2:9](#) he says, “For in Him all the

fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.” Jesus did not come to redeem angels, as Hebrews 2:16 says, He came to redeem the image bearers because He is the perfect image of God.

One of the implications of being created in God’s image is specifically drawn out for us in Scripture and it directly relates to the sanctity of human life. In [Genesis 9:6](#), God says, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.” Murder is always wrong because it is always taking the life of an image bearer. In the New Testament, [James 3:9](#) says, “With it [that is, our tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.” Even cursing another person violates the sanctity of life that comes from being created in the image of God.

Humans are not valuable because of what we do, but because of who we are—image bearers of God. [1 Corinthians 4:7](#), “For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” Did you choose your parents, your ethnicity, your intellect, your abilities, your gender, where you were born, when you were born, the opportunities that come into your life? No of course not. So why do we boast about these things as if we were self-made men and women?

A child is no more or less an image bearer than an adult. A man is no more or less an image bearer than a woman. A doctor is no more or less an image bearer than a teacher, or a construction worker, or a woman who works at home. An able-bodied person is no more or less an image bearer than a person with a disability. None of these things make us an image bearer. We *are* image bearers. If you are human, you’re an image bearer.

That is why there has been such a push to remove all human language for the unborn. It’s not a child in the womb, it’s a fetus, or a zygote, or as some people will go so far as to say, a clump of cells. But God’s Word says in [Psalm 139:13–14](#) “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.” The first step to destroying life is to dehumanize a person. If they are not a person, they are not protected by laws that govern persons.

If you deny God, you lose the objective foundation for the sanctity of life. If you’re wondering how we got where we are it’s really not that complicated. Abandon God; declare that we came from nowhere and are headed nowhere; argue that life came from nothing, for no reason, and will ultimately be a blip on the cosmic scene. If that’s true, there’s no sanctity of life in general and no sanctity of life for humans. All that’s left is pragmatism and the will of the stronger.

The *third* thing we learn about mankind from these verses is that God created us male and female. Gender is tied to being human. To be human is to be created in God’s image and to be male or female. Now you see why there is such a push in our world away from God’s original design. I’m not even going to go into the number of terms that have been created to talk about gender. How can you even keep up with it? I’ve seen upwards of 70 terms used to define gender and gender “identity” by the world today. But frankly, it doesn’t matter if they come up with another 70 or 700. All of it comes back to one fundamental issue—God has spoken. God made mankind male and female. That’s it. Every idea man comes up with outside of that is in opposition to God. We don’t need to know every term that exists today, we need to know what God has said.



God created two genders, and when we try to alter His good design, all that ends up happening is we profane God's glory, and we destroy human beings. That is why we stand on God's Word on these two issues, because in doing so, we uphold the great commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Do we honor God by being ashamed of the way He created us? Are we more concerned that people will approve of us or that God will approve of us? Is it loving to encourage others to willfully reject God? Is it loving to communicate, whether directly or indirectly, that people can disobey God and there will be no consequences? Is it loving to hide the merciful warning that we will see in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of heaven?

Can you imagine a man who is blind about to walk off a cliff? Is it loving to say, "Well, I don't want to say anything because he's really sensitive about his blindness, and I don't want to come off as a know-it-all, or judgmental?" If there is a perception that to stand on God's Word and proclaim the truth to the world means we say things like, "You know you're a sinner and you're going to hell and you deserve it. Good luck with that" that idea does not come from the Bible. Rather, like Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:20, we say, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

So we will not waver on the truth of God's Word and His perfect design for mankind. He created us, in His image, male and female. If saying that is illegal, then it is time to respectfully disobey. With God's perfect design for mankind established here in Genesis, let's turn to 1 Corinthians 6:9–11. In Verses 9–10 we see God's merciful warning to mankind.

## II. God's Merciful Warning to Mankind – 1 Corinthians 6:9–10

Read with me verses 9–10. "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God." Why is this a merciful warning? Our sin deserves God's wrath. His wrath is coming. We see this ultimately in the book of Revelation, don't we? And while God has given us a conscience and enough general revelation to understand that we are sinners who deserve wrath, He has mercifully given us so much more so that we would understand our problem. He has not minced words. He has not hidden the truth from us. He's the *good* physician, and good physicians don't hide health problems from people. They expose them. And unlike our imperfect human physicians, the good physician heals us! We have page after page after page in His Word describing our problem to us. We have page after page after page explaining the consequence for living in rebellion against God. And we have page after page after page of God's merciful warnings to sinners.

This list of sins is not exhaustive, but it is instructive, especially in light of the sexual morality issues facing us today. There are ten sins listed here. At least four of them, and I believe five, are related to sexual sin. Fornicators, adulterers, effeminate, and homosexuals are all clearly sexual sins. Idolatry often carried with it the incorporation of sexual sin. Pagan religions often had cult prostitutes as part of their pagan "worship" experience engaging in sexual sin. This list pretty much covers all sexual sin, whether or not it uses modern terminology. Fornication is the broad word for all kinds of sexual immorality. Adultery is the specific sin of sexual immorality in the

confines of marriage. The effeminate and homosexuals refer to the specific sexual immorality for both parties involved in a homosexual relationship.

Are we suggesting that homosexuality or transgenderism puts a person further away from God's saving grace than someone else? No. Verse 9 says *no one* who is unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God. [James 2:10](#) says, "[For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.](#)" All sin equally separates from God and deserves God's wrath. We do a disservice to the gospel when we present certain sins as "worse" sins with no hope of redemption. And sadly, that has happened regarding sins like homosexuality and transgenderism.

However, we cannot ignore that sexual sins are often at the top of the list. In light of what we learned from Genesis, this is because sexual sin strikes at the very core of how God made us. Just like abortion strikes at the very core of how God made us. This is why sexual sin and the sanctity of life have been at the core of Satan's attack on God from the beginning. Cain murdered Able. Sexual perversion was a key issue in the sinfulness of mankind that resulted in the flood in Genesis 6.

Regarding the issue of biblical sexual morality, here is the issue: The world, through bills like C-4 now active in Canada and others like it, are essentially saying, you are not allowed to tell people that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Can you hear the words of Satan from [Genesis 3:4](#), "[You surely will not die.](#)" We might as well rename the bill in Canada or Lafayette and any other bills that argue this, the "Genesis 3:4 bill." Because this agenda is the same lie that Satan told in the Garden. God says if you disobey me, you will surely die. Satan says you surely will not.

And we know it's a lie because what does Paul say in [verse 9](#)? "[Do not be deceived.](#)" Why would he say that? Because the whole world lies in the power of the evil one—the deceiver, and he's trying to deceive people. What doesn't the deceiver want people to know? That their sin separates them from God. So he'll try legalize it, normalize it, and make those who hold to God's perfect design look like hateful people. So he continues the lie, "you surely will not die." What else does Satan not want the world to know or believe? Verse 11 and our final point.

### **III. God's Gracious Conversion of Sinners (1 Corinthians 6:11)**

Read with me [verse 11](#), "[Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.](#)" Sin separates, but God washes us from our sins. Sin separates, but God sanctifies. Sin separates, but God justifies. Sin separates, but God converts sinners to saints. Is there any sweeter news than that? Such were some of you! Such were some of us in this room. Such are all who come to faith in Jesus Christ.

What's the difference between those who are still living in unrighteousness and those who have been washed, sanctified, and justified? What's the difference between the sexually immoral and the sanctified? Grace. Grace. "There, but for the grace of God go I." We must never forget that.

This issue is not the kind of sin that separates you from God. We are all born separated from God. The issue is, are you reconciled to God through Christ? We happen to be dealing with the issue of sexual morality and abortion in light of some current events, but the same issue



exists for all the sins on this list. If the world says premarital, heterosexual sin doesn't separate you from God, we say that's not true. If the world says homosexual sin doesn't separate you from God, we say that's not true. If the world says that thieves, or the covetous, or drunkards, or revilers, or swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God without repenting of their sin and turning to Christ, we say that's not true.

John Marc, in his sermon on gender from our series on biblical manhood and womanhood, quoted from Rosaria Butterfield, a formerly practicing lesbian who converted to Christ, and I think that is pertinent to our discussion here. She said "I wasn't saved out of homosexuality. I was saved out of unbelief." Her unbelief manifested itself in homosexuality. Others manifest their unbelief in the other sins on this list. Our sin of unbelief is what separates us from God.

Here's the problem, if we don't stand up for God's Word and tell people that their sin separates them from a holy God, what motivation do they have to forsake their sin and turn to God? And if we don't who will? So, if the Canadian government, or the local government of Lafayette, Indiana, or the government of California, or the United States, or the whole world says, "you can be whatever you want to be and there are no consequences for that," we will lovingly say that is not true. We will proclaim the gospel. We will tell people the good news that though they are separated from God for their sins, sins like abortion and sexual immorality, if they repent of their sins and turn in faith to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, God will graciously save them from the coming wrath.

So, what do we do? Jesus said in [John 18:36](#), "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." There is no more noble cause than preventing the Son of God from being crucified, but still, Jesus told His disciples to not fight. Is our response to change the law? Is our response to make it illegal to be homosexual? Is our response to criminalize anyone who speaks against the Word of God?

Are we grateful when our government is in agreement with God's Word? Yes of course! But you can make homosexuality, or transgenderism, or abortion illegal without a single person repenting of their sin and putting their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. That is not what we want. Our response is to boldly, and lovingly, proclaim the only message of hope there is. We won't downplay sin. We won't downplay God's righteousness and holiness. We won't downplay the eternal hell that awaits those who reject Jesus and say in their hearts, "there is no God." We will warn them. We will tell them, "Do not be deceived. The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God." And we will not be silent on God's only solution to our problem. The perfect sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of all those who put their faith in Him.

Right now, in our country, we are not facing the same persecution our brothers and sisters in Canada are facing. But if this bill in Lafayette passes, they too may be facing consequences for faithfully preaching the gospel, and California may not be far behind. As it stands, we will all walk out of this room today without fear of reprisal for speaking the truth of God's Word.

But the question is, are we ready? Will we stand on God's Word no matter what comes? Can we say with Luther in *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Let goods and kindred go; this mortal life also  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever!

Nothing can stop the power of the gospel that converts sinners into saints. Nothing can prevent Jesus from building His church. Not even the gates of hell can prevail against Him. So out of love for God, and love for our fellow man, let us never cease to proclaim the gospel, and as [Hebrews 10:23](#) says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”