LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

"Where We Go From Here"

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NLT)

"You should know this, Timothy, "that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!"

2 Timothy 3:12–13 (NKJV)

"12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NKJV)

"3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

What Are We to Do Now?

FIRST: WE ARE NOT TO STAY SILENT...

John 15:18-20 (NKJV)

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..."

Acts 7:54-60 (NLT)

54 The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. 56 And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him 58 and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

SECOND: WE MUST NOT GROW BITTER...

Romans 12:21 (NKJV) "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Charlie Kirk:

- When people stop talking, that's when you get violence.
- The weak can never forgive.
- Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.
- The only way out of the labyrinth of suffering is to forgive.
- Welcome without judgement, love without condition, forgive without limits.
- Always forgive your enemy, nothing annoys them so much.
- When you stop having a human connection with someone you disagree with, it becomes a lot easier to commit violence.
- When things are moving very fast and people are losing their minds, it's important to stay grounded. Turn off your phone, read Scripture, spend time with friends, and remember, internet fury is not real life, it's going to be OK.

THIRD: WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP

2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT)

5 But you should keep a *clear mind* in *every situation*. Don't be afraid of *suffering* for the Lord. Work at *telling* others the *Good News*, and fully carry out the *ministry* God has given *you*.