



May 25, 2021

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel L Russell
295 E Wigwam Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89123-1655

Dear Dan and Jane,

Of all the ways to describe the times in which we live, I think the most concise is this: The days are *evil*. Every age since the Fall has been dominated by evil, but that doesn't mean it won't become **more blatant, pervasive, grotesque, dangerous, and institutionalized**. Scripture is clear that over time, evil men will grow worse (2 Timothy 3:12-13).

So while the continuing push to sanction and normalize homosexuality is troubling at many levels, it isn't particularly surprising. **The trajectory was set long, long ago.**

What *has* been surprising is how the moral slide has accelerated in recent years in the United States, and how hostility toward Christians has become so overt in such a short time. Usually, a culture changes so slowly, the change is barely perceptible. Not so now. The recent, seismic ruptures in our society have been swift and catastrophic.

While many people fear that the current moral crisis will someday lead to God's judgment, I believe we're far past that. **What we see happening now is God's judgment.** Romans 1 indicates that divine judgment involves three stages. First there's a *sexual* revolution, followed by a *homosexual* revolution, and finally an *abandonment to a reprobate mind*. Ultimately, the culture's way of thinking is so corrupt, there is no way back to truth and goodness. **We see the reprobate mind in full bloom in the government, corporations, education, the media, and the popular culture.**

As a result, Christians are feeling pressures we've never before experienced and facing mockery and abuse simply because of what we believe. Our gospel, our values, our priorities, our doctrine—our entire lives—are comprehensively and irreversibly at odds with the world. And as challenging as the situation is, it can and will get worse. I've commented several times that **I believe the hostility toward Christians in the West will give way to full-blown persecution.** A decade ago, many Christians would have laughed at such a suggestion. No one is laughing now.

What should our response be to these new realities? First, I believe we should be supremely hopeful. God has not been surprised by the moral slide we are witnessing, nor have His good and loving purposes been thwarted by it. **He reigns sovereign over everything,** from the smallest details of individual lives to the monumental, collective acts of rebellion and sin of a nation. While He is offended by sin, He is neither a victim of it nor is He a helpless bystander. He is acting in patience and mercy to many, meanwhile storing wrath for

His ultimate day of righteous judgment. We can rejoice both in His mercy and in the knowledge that He will someday make things right.

We also must stay focused on Jesus Christ and the mission to which He has called us—to live and proclaim the gospel. While Romans 1 offers a bleak diagnosis of the world's lost condition, it also assures us that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and that we must preach it without being ashamed. **External circumstances have no real power over us**—rather than being gripped and distracted by fear and discouragement, we should fix our eyes on Christ, walk in obedience, and trust Him. He will not disappoint.

The current circumstances should also create in us an increased sense of expectation. Expectation of seeing the grace of God displayed in and through His church. Expectation of seeing many people gloriously converted, as a refined, purified church fulfills its role as salt and light in a fresh, powerful way. Expectation of seeing the return of the Lord and the final consummation of our salvation. **Now is not a time for fear and shrinking back, but for trust, obedience, and, yes, expectation.**

As for how the Bible-teaching ministry of Grace to You is responding to these evil days, the answer is simple: Hold nothing back. We are going to articulate biblical truth more clearly and assertively than ever. In fact, as the culture continues to degenerate and biblical standards are challenged, every new attempt to undermine Scripture is going to elicit from us a loving—but clear—confrontation.

With that in mind, we've just published a new booklet on the issue of homosexuality. As a timely ministry to you and your family, we wanted to send you a copy of the booklet titled *What the Bible Says About Homosexuality*. (If you've asked to not receive the free resources we mail out each month but you'd like this one, simply drop us a note or give us a call. It will be our joy to get you a copy.)

We know we are not alone in our commitment to biblical truth. There are many believers who are taking a bold stand on God's Word, and one way they're doing that is through their support of Bible-centered, doctrinally faithful ministries such as Grace to You. With our financial needs being met, principally by Grace Partners like you, we are able to focus on developing teaching resources that bring people what they need most: scriptural truth. Folks are hearing the gospel and coming to faith in Christ. Believers are turning from error, growing in their understanding of Scripture, and being strengthened to stand firm, minister to others, and serve their churches.

Your support helps make all that a reality. Thank you for making an eternal difference in so many lives. It is a joy to serve and stand with you, even as you stand with us.

Love in the Truth,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John MacArthur', written in a cursive style.

John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher