



THE RISE OF LAWLESSNESS, PART 2

Special Lesson: October 5, 2025



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Review:

- Today's lesson is the second and last lesson of a two-part special series I am calling "The Rise of Lawlessness." I taught the first part three weeks ago.
- Between that point and now, we had our "Potluck with a Purpose," *and* we celebrated The Lord's Supper last Sunday.
- So - today we continue our normal routines. Next week, I will resume with our series in the book of Jonah which I expect to conclude somewhere around late November.
- But, as I shared in Part 1 of *this* special series, there are those times I feel I need to pivot from our normal routines.
- These are occasions I feel led to address – *according to God's Word* – those matters which occupy our attention and weigh on our hearts.
- This special two-part series on "The Rise of Lawlessness" is one of those occasions, and Part 1 of this series is already posted on our YouTube channel under 'Solid Bread Community.'
- As far as I can tell, that lesson has received more attention than any other one which has been posted on our YouTube channel to date.

NOTE: In Part 1, I introduced a three-point outline:

1. WHY are things the way they are?
 2. WHERE is all this ultimately going? (and lastly)
 3. WHAT should be our response as Christians?
- We addressed the first of these three points in Part 1. We dove into the question, "WHY are things the way they are?"
 - We looked at **Romans 1:18-32** to help us understand the surge of senselessness and violence we see fracturing our nation and the rest of the world.
 - We saw how this passage from **Romans** reads like it was ripped from today's headlines. It underscores some VERY important things that we cannot overlook:
 - This passage is NOT a commentary on the general unsaved population. Plenty of people who are without salvation are NOT defined in this passage.
 - Rather, this passage describes a subset of sinners who remain unsaved by their deliberate and conscious choice to reject God. It's a rapidly growing bunch, and I'll be referring to them as the **Romans Ch. 1 crowd**.

- It describes who they are, who they become, and how they act because of this choice.
- This passage spells out in no uncertain terms that this group of people are highly motivated ‘truth suppressors.’ It’s their core mission in life – to suppress truth and to elevate deception.
- They may be doctors, lawyers, politicians, broke college grads, fast food workers, actors, social media influencers, etc. It doesn’t matter how old or young they are, what gender they are, or how educated they are or are not.
- Their common bond is they are violent and wicked “truth suppressors.” **Romans Ch. 1** is clear - - and so is all the news and developments around us.
- What joins them together in rabid union is their HATE for all forms of truth and common sense - particularly if these things find their source in God’s Word.
- And this is because, at the very outset, they have chosen to reject God. Again, this is VERY important to understand. It’s not an ignorance issue; it’s a choice.
- The Bible says they “*know God*,” and God has “*made Himself plain to them*.” It says they recognize His “*eternal power and divine nature*,” and this testimony about God is ‘*obvious*’ to them in the universe and in Creation.
- In other words, they have what they need to properly respond to God, to seek Him out, to ‘*thank Him*,’ and to humbly subordinate themselves to Him.
- But - - **Romans Ch. 1** shows us that they refuse to do any of this. And so, they become “truth suppressors.” They want no reminders of God in their lives, and that is why the Bible also says they are ‘*without excuse*.’
- (And) this is why this specific group of people habitually acts in a certain way. These folks are easy to spot. They all march to the beat of the devil’s drum.
- They are predictable. Their SYMPTOMS are predictable because their CAUSE (or their disease) is uniform: they’ve willfully rejected God.
- Anything that finds its source in God’s Word, any law or virtue or standard that emanates from God’s order of things - - these are things these people hate. They elevate the opposite position instead.
- For example, God designed humans to be **heterosexual** – and so these people embrace **homosexuality** instead.
- God intended for humans to exist within ‘*natural*’ laws of gender and sexuality – and so these people promote *unnatural* ideas like transgenderism, the fallacy of multiple genders, tampons in boys’ bathrooms, and the ridiculous notion that men can become pregnant.
- God intended for men and women to be physically different – and so this group is a radical proponent of men in women’s sports.
- God intends there to be nations and national sovereignty – and so this bunch dissolves borders, promotes illegal immigration, advances globalism, and attacks patriotism.
- God esteems proper law and order and true justice – and so this crowd wants to defund the police, promote activist judges, free criminals, and jail victims.
- God values human life, from conception – and so this group has an insatiable and bloodthirsty lust to end the lives of unborn babies.

- I could go on and on here, but you get the point. **Romans Ch. 1** is very clear that there exists a certain subset of depraved people who have rejected God, and so they are at war with all truth and common sense as a result.
- This passage in **Romans Ch. 1** goes on to describe this group of people as violent, murderous, angry, deceitful, and altogether lawless.
- Moreover, we learned that these people believe they are wise and intelligent, but they are clearly fools instead.
- This passage literally states in the original Greek that their minds no longer function as they are supposed to.
- They are angry all the time because God has supernaturally wired their conscience to know right from wrong. That's why this group is always a hair-trigger away from rage and violence.
- They know they have made wrong choices, and so their goal is to censor, shut down, and even assassinate anybody that reminds them of that.
- And perhaps one of the most damning things we learned about this bunch last time is they *'invent new ways of doing evil,'* and they openly *'approve of those who practice'* all forms of depravity, violence, and senselessness.
- We've seen an avalanche of this proof these past few weeks. All sorts of support has gushed from these folks for the violence and lawlessness which others of their own kind have produced.

NOTE: So, in summary, there IS A REASON for the mounting chaos, violence, depravity, and lawlessness we see around us now.

- It's because there is a certain group – a certain subset of unsaved sinners (again, I'm calling them the **"Romans Ch. 1 bunch"**) that is rapidly growing in size and influence - that has willfully rejected God, AND...
- This group is 100% committed to being 'truth suppressors.' They HATE the truth – in all its forms, especially the truth about God and any Scriptural values.
- THAT is WHY things are the way they are! **Romans Ch. 1** is very clear.

NOTE: Today, I want to unpack the next two questions in our three-point outline: "WHERE is all this ultimately going?" and "WHAT should be our response as Christians?"

A. First, WHERE is all this ultimately going?

NOTE: I want you to imagine – in this room – various points, dots, or locations on this wall behind me: up there, over there, down there, and so on.

- Each of these locations represent some specific depravity or some specific agenda element that is embraced by this group we are talking about.
- It's all spread out – these various points are the many different 'symptoms' we've talked about – things like sexual depravity, globalism, socialism, violence, hatred, and so on.

- Now, on the opposite wall (that back wall), I want you to imagine just one point – one specific dot someplace - - just one.
- Now, in your mind, draw a line (think of a laser beam, for example) from each of these points on the wall behind me to that ONE dot over on there on the opposite wall.
- What happens as all these lines that start from this wall connect with the wall over there? They get closer. They begin to converge. At that final point, they all become one single dot, and all their individual energy is concentrated.
- This is what is happening around us today. All this depravity we see around us is moving along these lines from this wall behind me to collect at that one spot over there - - and we are very close to everything becoming one dot.
- Everything is getting closer. It's all becoming concentrated. It's getting more frequent and more intense. It's all blending and becoming inter-related.
- Things are heating up. Energies are graduating. The behaviors seen in **Romans 1:18-32** are becoming plainer, more out-in-the-open, more vicious, and more senseless and lawless.

NOTE: We should not be surprised at this. My illustration parallels what Jesus said about 'birth pangs' or 'sorrows' in **Matthew 24:6-8**.

- In this passage, Jesus outlines a series of escalating events—wars and conflicts, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes—that precede the end of time.
- While Jesus' focus in **Matt. Ch. 24** is a bigger picture view of worldwide issues and societal dynamics, His points are severalfold:
 - The church will become more ineffective.
 - Things are only going to get worse – not better.
 - Nations and cultures will not be healed by politics or leadership.
 - The consequences of human depravity will become MORE and GREATER.
- Paul said much the same thing when he warned us in **2 Tim. 3:1-7** that '*perilous (or terrible) times would come in the last days.*'
- That passage reads as follows, and I want you to note the parallels with the text we studied last time in **Romans Ch. 1** which Paul was also inspired to write (I will emphasize these things):

*"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, **boastful**, proud, **abusive, disobedient to their parents**, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, **slandorous**, without self-control, **brutal, not lovers of the good**, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure **rather than lovers of God**— **having a form of godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, **always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.**"*

- But here's a kicker. The text we studied in **Romans Ch. 1** is about those who have willfully rejected God. They are violent and activist 'truth suppressors' as a result. But this text, from **2 Timothy** is ABOUT THE CHURCH.
- Paul is writing to his protégé, Timothy, and he's instructing this young 'pastor' in his work with the church at Ephesus - Paul tries to give Timothy encouragement and fortitude in his ministry there.
- A side point I want you to understand is some of the very same intolerances, slanders, abuses, and rejections of truth that we see in the 'big bad awful world' out there are also happening INSIDE THE CHURCH.
- The problems we are talking about are far greater than we may realize. Many churches today are teaching (or tolerating) the same tenants of 'truth suppression' and senselessness that are ripping our culture apart in other places.
- The Barna Research Group, in a 2024 national survey, showed only 4% of adults have a biblical worldview (a view where the Bible governs one's values and perspectives).
- That survey also showed that only 37% of pastors have a biblical worldview. Those are terrible commentaries on the state of the church today.
- This is a good time to note Jesus' words when He criticized the religious leaders of His time - - and those religious leaders who are the same in other times:

*'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'*

- We have – in the etiological terms of the medical field – a 'broad systemic infection' within our world today. In every place, God and truth are under assault.

NOTE: So, this brings me to that dot on the far wall, where all these individual lines of violence, humanism, globalism, truth suppression, hate, depravity, etc. converge.

- We naturally wonder today, "Can things get any worse?"
- Unfortunately, everything we've talked about will get much worse.

1. I'm convinced that these rapidly eroding cultural and political trends we see within our nation and around the world are showcasing RIGHT NOW a prototype population that will reach full expression in the Tribulation.

- ✓ All these events and trends taking place now are just the tip of the iceberg. This will all get much worse.
- ✓ I am convinced that, after the Lord raptures His church, this **Romans Ch. 1 bunch** we have talked about will be the antichrist's strongest allies.
- ✓ ("GASP!!!! Whaaaaat?!?) How can you say that? That's so intolerant, so racist, so totally, uh...white male! You're creating division! You are not promoting healing. Shame on you!" Yeah - - whatever.
- ✓ The facts are clear. This group – this subset of people we've been looking at, starting last time in **Romans Ch. 1** – they don't WANT healing! They want their way – and they'll play by any rules they need to play by to get it.

- ✓ They govern by mob rule and if they can smear others and move the goalposts in the process, that's just fine. Disruptions and crises are useful to them. It's all patently obvious.
- ✓ Think about it. My points are less an issue of OBVIOUS partisan leanings, and much more an assessment of the basic facts.
- ✓ Those who most despise God, His gospel, His values, His followers, and His systems of law and order – are those who are MOST likely to be left behind in the Rapture. That's just logical.
- ✓ And further, none of this group's behaviors are about making a cogent case. They will elevate the absurd, the insane, the deceptive, and the patently corrupt to achieve their goals.
- ✓ Over and over, we've seen these people praise anything which calls sound reason and moral integrity into obvious question.
- ✓ This is why it's this group that exalts the senseless premise of climate change, and it's why they celebrate economic and immigration policies which are not supported by third grade math.
- ✓ It's why it is predominately THIS group that attacks secure borders, pushes for government dependence, expands welfare, riots against free speech, hates Israel, applauds violence as a means of expression, lies to gain an advantage, assassinates truth-tellers, puts down Christians, and believes in redistribution of wealth.
- ✓ None of these positions hold any honest water, but together they ARE the identity of this population – and this population is quickly growing!
- ✓ So again, let me be blunt. The kind of folks that are going to enthusiastically rally behind the antichrist and his depraved policies are exactly the kind of people we see fostering these ideas and activities today.
- ✓ They want to constrain freedom, create chaos, control power, and change the responsible order of things. Like it or not, that's the plain truth, and none of this bodes well for where things are all ultimately going.

2. (NOTE: I'm now going to enter a tough part of this lesson – at least it MAY be for some of you. But I need to be blunt about the facts.) I am still addressing the second question, "Where is all this ultimately going?"

Let's assess my conclusions so far from another point of view. Let's see what the Bible says about the antichrist and his style of leadership. I believe that will help us imagine the sort of people his supporters will most be like.

- ✓ A pithy portion of Scripture that lays out several bullet points about these matters is found in ***Daniel 8:23-25***.
- ✓ Here, the angel, Gabriel, explains some things about the antichrist to Daniel, and the picture that emerges is a revealing one. Let's review by reading this passage.

“In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

- ✓ **FIRST, the antichrist will cause deceit to prosper. As another verse in *Daniel 8:12* also states, he will “*throw truth to the ground.*”**
- ✓ This is an over-arching condition that reinforces the end times will be upside down. Lying lips will be the foundation of this last chapter of human history.
- ✓ That dot on the far wall is one where good will be bad and bad will be good. Right will be wrong and wrong will be right.
- ✓ It’s all going to be topsy-turvy and utterly senseless. That will be the norm. Things are bad now, but it’s all going to get much worse.
- ✓ The antichrist’s political system and the people he will set up to advance his globalist agenda will **ACTIVELY PROMOTE** deception. That’s the goal – and the antichrist’s efforts will be strategic, ruthless, and unapologetic.
- ✓ Lies of all kinds will infuse the antichrist’s brand, and his supporters will openly approve of his ruses the same way those tactics are defended by this group of people today. For them then, as it is now, “the end justifies the means.”
- ✓ Various other translations state the antichrist’s deceit will come by way of his “cunning,” and “policies.” This is simple to understand. He’s intentional about his shams.
- ✓ If someone wants to advance law and order, promote accountability, and fight for justice during the antichrist’s rise to power, they’re not going to be welcome. He’ll see to that. Deception is key to the end times depravities at every turn and level.

NOTE: I have little doubt the antichrist’s agenda will seek to promote “hope and change” during turbulent post-Rapture times, but that’s all part of his deception.

- ✓ His real objective will be a godless one-world government with himself at the top. He wants to be seen as God; he wants to be worshipped as God (***Cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-4***).
- ✓ To achieve this, he must control the minds of the masses. His supporters will believe things which are not true – why do they do this?
- ✓ It’s because they have already rejected God and their minds don’t work properly anymore (***remember what we learned from Romans 1:28***)?
- ✓ They will also be this way because the antichrist has “*caused deceit to prosper,*” and so – despite the obvious appeals of common sense – his followers will be fine with all of his lies and shams.
- ✓ **SECOND, the antichrist will ‘destroy mighty men.’**

- ✓ This phrase closes out **Daniel 8:24**. It emphasizes the theme of destruction which characterizes the antichrist throughout the Scriptures.
- ✓ But here, every translation states he will destroy TWO specific groups of people, and I think this is something we should take note of.
- ✓ “*Mighty men*” is the most used term for the first group, but other translations call them “*powerful leaders*” or “*powerful people*.”
- ✓ In other words, these are folks with resources and networks. They are probably wealthy. They are powerful, prominent, and privileged.
- ✓ Put another way, these people have the potential to resist the antichrist and to influence others.
- ✓ It’s vital to recognize that socialist despots (and that’s what the antichrist will be) throughout human history have always ruthlessly destroyed this prominent class of people in their own rise to power.
- ✓ Rich people, scientists, scholars, politicians, and businesspeople have always been a threat to narcissistic dictators, and so they are eliminated at the outset. The antichrist will do the very same thing. God’s Word is clear.
- ✓ It’s likely that many of these “mighty men” in **Daniel 8:24** will be self-made. Many of them will be independent – not in the political sense, but in terms of shaping their own destinies.
- ✓ And so, they may be suspicious of the antichrist’s plans. They’ll hesitate to give up what they’ve worked hard to achieve.
- ✓ These “powerful people” ALSO missed the Rapture so we can assume most of them by this point will still be godless – but like many of their classic type, they will be self-reliant or self-made.
- ✓ They will be the type that “does their own thing,” and this non-conformist bent makes them a lingering threat to the antichrist’s agenda. The Bible says in **Dan. 8:25** that the antichrist will eliminate them when they least expect it.

IMPORTANT: Believe me – the antichrist will find STRONG support for destroying this influential group of people. We already see the basis of this argument today.

- ✓ Millennials and Gen Z form the bedrock of today’s violent activists and mobs. They constitute the majority population of the “Occupy Wall Street,” “Black Lives Matter,” “Antifa,” and “anti-ICE” crowds.
- ✓ These two groups prove you only need TWO things to succeed: ignorance and confidence.
- ✓ Because they fail to understand basic economic principles, and because they generally lack a strong work ethic, Millennials and the Gen Z bunch distrust capitalism.
- ✓ They deeply resent those who are successful. They constantly demand entitlements, even if it means others need to give up what they’ve legitimately acquired.
- ✓ Newsweek called the Millennials “The Me Me Me Generation” in 2013. I personally think it’s one of the very few times this publication has stated the truth.

- ✓ I understand I'm painting with a broad brush here, but if the brains of many Millennials' and Gen Z were taxed - - they'd get a refund.
- ✓ Many studies show that most Millennials want socialism which only proves this group has learned nothing from history. Obvious modern political and economic failures like Venezuela, South Africa, and most of the European continent are shrugged off.
- ✓ Various studies consistently show that Millennials and Gen Z's don't have much clue about many facts, and so they still want everything for nothing.
- ✓ But in defense of these two groups – the Millennials and the Gen Z crowd – it's impossible to be well-informed when your news source is SNL and The Comedy Network.
- ✓ It's challenging to gain a responsible perspective of the world when you're still dependent on Frosted Flakes and Pop Tarts, or when you think less cops = less crime.
- ✓ But here's something to think about: this entire state-of-affairs is a convenient situation for the socialists and globalists! At a campaign-style rally in Las Vegas some years back, Michelle Obama encouraged folks who "know nothing about nothing" to get out and vote.
- ✓ It's very clear that the "low information voter-types" fuel a godless and entitlement-oriented agenda, and THEY'RE GOING TO BE A BIG PART OF THE BUNCH that will endorse the antichrist's destruction of "powerful people."
- ✓ I believe the antichrist's deceptive plan will appeal to ignorant folks, to their socialist ideals, to their lack of responsibility, to their foolish prejudices, and to their warped sense of justice. Human history, and the human condition, does not change. And so what we see now we can anticipate then....
- ✓ **There is another group mentioned which the antichrist will also target**, and this group is going to receive much more of the same hate and bias we already see levied against it today.
- ✓ The antichrist, in **Daniel 8:24**, will also destroy the "holy people." Other translations call them "God's people," "saints," and "Holy ones."
- ✓ These are folks which will come to salvation AFTER the Rapture. They didn't have a right relationship with God before that point, but they get there later! The Bible makes that clear.
- ✓ But these people ARE the real deal! **Revelation** defines them as those who will be killed "for the Word of God and the testimony they had maintained" (**Rev. 6:9; 12:11**).
- ✓ It's clear from **Revelation** and other related passages that the antichrist will do all he can to get rid of them. This is also the point of **Daniel 8:24**.
- ✓ The followers of God during the antichrist's reign share something in common with the "powerful people" we noted earlier - - though they differ in most other ways.
- ✓ This second group also resists the antichrist and his system. They are therefore ALSO a threat to his plans.
- ✓ Now, the motives of "God's people" will be much different than the motives of the "powerful people." Since the saints are marked by a right relationship with God, their stance is a righteous one rather than an economic one.

- ✓ But it's the same net result for the antichrist. This second group will not conform to the antichrist's godless, deceptive, and self-serving ideals because these things are in violation of a Holy God and His standards.
- ✓ They will not yield to the antichrist's economic policies and his corrupt governance. In fact, we know the saints will speak out against all of this. Again, **Revelation** makes that clear.
- ✓ This second group will be reviled, attacked, persecuted, and killed for placing their faith in Jesus Christ and for living according to God's Word. They will refuse to conform to the sham of a one world system.
- ✓ Putting all this another way, "God's people" of **Daniel 8:24** will be square pegs in a new world order where all the holes are round.
- ✓ It's that way for "God's people" right now, so it's easy to see this dynamic becoming much worse. You can clearly see where all this is ultimately going.

- ✓ **THIRD, the tribulation Scriptures plainly lay out the murderous behaviors directed against God's followers by those who support the antichrist.**
- ✓ We already see these murderous behaviors and passions today, and this is another insight into where all this is ultimately going.
- ✓ Several passages in God's Word provide startling parallels between the vile behaviors that are prominent in these radical folks today and the abhorrent deeds that qualify the globalists during the end times.
- ✓ For example, the antichrist will oversee and orchestrate the relentless persecution and killing of the Tribulation saints (**Cf. Daniel 7:21, 25; Dan. 11:33; Rev. 12:11; 20:4; et. al.**).
- ✓ The antichrist will not tolerate the resistance of these saints, but more importantly, he absolutely hates God.
- ✓ In exact imitation of the antichrist's hatred of God's followers, his supporters will rage en masse against God's truth and against those who dare to speak it. The mobs will react in unspeakable ways as a result.
- ✓ A particularly grotesque example of this is when the two witnesses of God are killed in Jerusalem in **Rev. 11:5-10**. This text says the world will applaud the death of these two witnesses and will refuse their burial.
- ✓ They will even "send each other gifts" to celebrate this occasion. It'll be party time for the real "deplorables." Sound familiar?
- ✓ This occasion will be a big deal to the unsaved world because these two witnesses will have had a strong "testimony" and they will have backed up their words with evidence of God's power.
- ✓ The world that will reject Christ at that time will want no reminders of WHO they have rejected – in the very same way the world that has rejected Christ today is obsessed with ridding our culture of His followers and His values.
- ✓ It's plain there is very little distance to connect between the way the **Romans Ch. 1 crowd** hates God's people now, and the way the antichrist's supporters will hate God's people then.

- ✓ **FOURTH, one of the clearest displays in the Tribulation of behaviors we see in the *Romans Ch. 1* bunch today is the way the followers of the antichrist will CHOOSE to remain in their sin.**
- ✓ Their depravity will persist even when they are presented with the truth and when they face consequences for it. **Rev. 9:20-21** makes this very clear:

“The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

- ✓ All around them during the Tribulation, the evil ranks of humanity will have been killed by God’s judgments. There will be constant evidence of God’s sovereignty, power, and truth.
- ✓ It will all be on plain display like no other time in history. The Bible says none of this will matter to the antichrist’s followers. They will choose to remain in their sin, and they will curse God instead of repenting.
- ✓ This is the same pattern we see in this ***Romans Ch. 1*** bunch today. For example, **Rev. 16:9** says:

“They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.”

- ✓ In other words, this crowd will do whatever it takes to continue in their depravity the same way they do whatever it takes today to protect their wicked ideals.
- ✓ One only needs to look at the violent behaviors of those today who defend abortion, transgenderism, pedophilia, gay rights - and who do everything they can to suppress the truth - to see this egg has been let out of the shell – and it’s not going back in.
- ✓ **FIFTH, the antichrist will be the ultimate socialist, and so he will be a hero to the ranks of those who lean socialist today.**
- ✓ One of the hallmark qualities of that crowd which is defined by the details we studied in ***Romans Ch. 1*** last time is their desire to control the flow of money, to redistribute wealth, and to implement a global system of economics.
- ✓ This highly regulated situation defines the socialists’ utopia, and the antichrist will succeed in accomplishing what other before him have been unable to do.
- ✓ Perhaps it may all start matter-of-factly enough. The Rapture will take out millions of people, and this will result in abandoned properties and resources being left for everyone who remains.
- ✓ There will be money and other “goodies” to redistribute for a while, and this will further cement within the future earth dwellers the socialist ideals they are already conditioned to want.

- ✓ But eventually, even these resources will run slim. There will be too many takers and not enough givers to keep the corrupt process going. The bottom line is socialism never works.
- ✓ Former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, said, “The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people’s money.” This dilemma will inevitably arise in the Tribulation as it has with EVERY socialist experiment before it.
- ✓ There’s no doubt that the “mark of the beast” in **Rev. Ch. 13** is strategically designed to cause further persecution of Jews and Christians during The Tribulation. It is also designed to promote worship of “the beast.” The Bible makes these points very clear.
- ✓ But – given that the antichrist will be the ultimate socialist dictator, it is no surprise his mark will also be a tool to institute global economic control. Quite simply, this worldwide fiscal rule is the ultimate objective of socialists today.
- ✓ If they can control the flow of money and resources and place themselves at the top of the food chain, then they can acquire everything else they most covet. It all follows from there.
- ✓ Other facets describing the antichrist’s socialist constitution emerge elsewhere in the Scriptures. He redistributes land and wealth in **Dan. 11:39**, his policies become the economic ruin of many in **Dan. 8:25**, he accumulates vast amounts of resources for himself in **Dan. 11:43**, and he will speak out against God throughout the entire process in **Dan. 7:25** and in **Rev. 13:5-6**.
- ✓ Stride for stride, each of these things are the hallmarks of every socialist despot in human history, and sadly – they are also the passionate bent of swelling numbers of mindless people today.
- ✓ The antichrist will emerge to become the ultimate “show and tell” of the ruthless, intolerant, godless, violent, globalist agenda we see manifesting today, and the entire world will suffer unfathomable traumas as a result.

NOTE: So now, the third question in our outline, and I am quickly wrapping up with this last one:

B. “WHAT should be our response as Christians?”

NOTE: Let me say right off the bat that meeting violence with violence is not the answer. That is NOT the Biblical position. So let me just offer a few quick points:

1. This is not an issue of self-defense.

- ✓ As a case in point, there have been calls by various leaders and influencers in the wake of Charlie Kirk’s assassination to step up violence against the right, against conservatives, against Christians, against Jews, and so on.
- ✓ I don’t wish to be partisan here, but I DO need to lay out the plain facts:
 - A recent study from the Center for Strategic and Int’l Studies concluded that left-wing violence and terrorism has hit a 30-yr high.
 - According to the Family Research Council, attacks on churches in the U.S. surged during the Biden administration, rising from 98

incidents in 2021 to 485 in 2023. For comparison, the baseline in 2018, at the midpoint of Trump's first term, was 50 incidents.

- Another study documents how, since the 1960's, violence from the left against free speech and against law and order has risen by over 3,000%.
- I could continue here since there are numerous studies showing the sharp radicalization of one side of the political aisle.
- It is not hard to see that we live in a culture where hatred of conservatives, where hatred of God, and where hatred of God's laws and values is so normalized that educated adults now think it is appropriate to openly laugh about an assassination - - and plenty of them have done that in recent weeks.

2. Back to my question: "What should be our response as Christians?"

- ✓ For Christians, there's no flex room here. Jesus taught in **Matt. Ch. 5:** *"Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you."*
 - That doesn't mean we roll over and play pacifist. It doesn't mean we pretend the facts around us are not the facts.
 - It DOES mean we need to have the self-discipline, and we need to exercise the Godliness that keeps us from being consumed by the same hatred and intolerance that assassinated Charlie Kirk, and which seeks to destroy all things that are virtuous.
- ✓ Jesus said in **John 15:18-19**, *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."*
 - Jesus nailed it. It's all about Him. The world hates Christians, hates law and order, and hates all values and things of God's design because it hates Jesus Christ.
 - And so there is no achievable solution in responding TO violence WITH violence.
 - Peter tried that in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was being arrested. Peter swung his sword and cut off someone's ear. Jesus rebuked Peter for that act
 - Why? In his zeal to defend Jesus, Peter was standing in the way of God's greater will. Peter's short-term ideas overwhelmed his long-term objectives.
 - So none of this is an issue about self defense. In **Exodus Ch. 22** it says, *"If a thief is caught breaking in at night and is struck a fatal blow, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed."*
 - There is a major difference, however, between self defense (which is proper) and picking up arms to protest or exercise rights (which is not proper).

- Getting back to that incident with Peter - - Jesus told Peter in **Matt. 26:52**, “*Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*”
- Christians are called to be patient and prudent. They are supposed to see the bigger picture of God’s plan.
- We are not called to set up a perimeter, exist on rice and pond water, and take out the ‘bad guys’ with our guns and ammo. We are not supposed to stoop to the level of our attackers. I don’t care who says otherwise - - they are wrong!
- None of our hopes and dreams should be in this life. We need to maintain a proper perspective of eternity, and we need to trust God. He is sovereignly working all things out for HIS glory.

LET ME CONCLUDE:

We live in a rough time. No doubt. Truth and faith are under severe attack, and it’s not going to get any better. It will get worse.

We are surrounded by a growing population of intolerant people that have rejected God, and so they hate anyone and anything that reminds them of their wrong choice. As we proclaim the truth of God’s Word, we will be called ‘hateful’ for doing so. But that is no fault of ours.

Today is going to look like ‘the good old days’ in just a few years. All the problems, all the violence, and all the depravities we see now are going to markedly increase. That’s assured.

As believers, we need to remain strong. This is all a test of our faith. We need to rest in the wonderful promises of Jesus Christ and in our eternal hope to come.



**SOLID
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Solid Bread Community was started with a passion to teach the truth of God’s Word – every part of it, as it was divinely inspired to be understood.

The rules are simple. First, teach what IS there. Don’t pretend the Bible is not saying what it is saying.

Second, don’t teach what is NOT there. Don’t force a passage to mean something it really doesn’t.

And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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