

It May Not Be Over Until The Center Changes

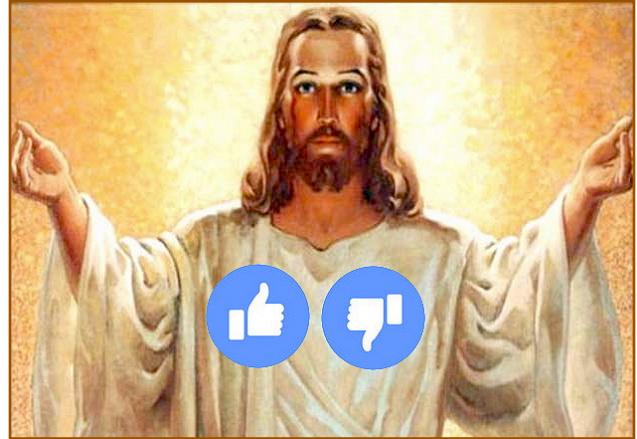
Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

When we're going through difficult times, we all like to know when the worst is behind us. Just knowing that the greatest difficulties have passed often makes our previous discomfort seem less painful and gives us hope for the future. But think about this. What if our collective national distress *isn't* about to end? What if our heavenly Father hasn't yet finished accomplishing what He has in mind for this nation? How will you respond?

Please take this to heart. Our current society has so many similarities to the Greek and Roman civilizations when these two cultures were enduring their death throes. Like those societies our population has bought into the lie that **“Man is the center of all things, not God.”** When you examine many aspects of Christianity in this nation, you can readily observe that human-centered goals and ways exert far more influence than do God and the Bible in the way people actually live their daily lives. How do you know that? **Until the indwelling Spirit of Jesus is in control** of those who claim to belong to Him as Lord of their lives, those individuals and their personal life agendas occupy the center of their goals and motivations.

Like people who make no claim to love and honor Jesus, compromising “Christians” are captive to **self-obsession** and **independence**. Having confined Jesus to the pages of His Book, they are the center of their world.

A terrible trend has taken over so much of western Christianity: it no longer matters what our Lord Jesus thinks of our lives. All too often it's become *our appraisal of Him* and to what degree He meets our wants.



Christians like to view themselves as the “good guys” when it comes to living “decent” lives. But as long as Christians are a product of public education, which actively fosters the humanist lie that man is the center of all things, they will mince their spirituality with the deceit into which they’ve been immersed for 12 to 16 years. While their weekly dose of religious teaching may convince them that they are “saved”, too many have hearts that have grown cold when it comes to living with Jesus as Lord of their lives.

How this grieves our heavenly Father! As the Perfect Parent, Father is going to chastise these individuals until they repent and until His Son, the Lord Jesus, is the center of all things. Take a few moments to read Paul’s vivid description in 2Timothy 3:1-5 of our land’s populace, both secular and religious. Blending in with all that’s wrong in our society is unacceptable to our heavenly Father!

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Most people don't want to hear this painful reality: **The United States is no longer a blessed nation!** The vain longing of the motto “Make America Great Again” was a flimsy web of hope for a certain select fraction of our society to continue in personal comfort even while the majority suffered in countless ways. And since our Lord Jesus is no longer at the center of “Christian” life, the desire for ease and pleasure in those who call themselves “Christian” is no less than in people who don't claim to belong to Him.

The comfort and ease which so many in this society have ardently sought have been maintained through national debt financing — a staggering tally which is nearing \$28 trillion, or \$83,917 per person. The increase since calendar year 2000 is almost beyond belief in its magnitude: only 2 decades ago the debt stood at \$5.629 trillion, or \$19,948 per person. In the minds of many, our collective and heedless self-indulgent lifestyle signifies America's greatness.

Yet this mad pursuit of personal gratification has been made possible by accumulating monumental debt which we never intend to repay. This is not a plan which our Father has endorsed or blessed. Rather, this debt is a curse which we have brought on ourselves and on our

families in our disobedient disregard for our Lord Jesus and for His always relevant Word.

We realize it's impossible to wrap our thoughts around such vast financial sums, or to understand that over 63 million abortions have taken place in this nation. Such a huge number of helpless lives crushed out of existence is beyond our ability to fathom. It evokes depths of grief in our Father's tender heart that we could never grasp. And because we neglect or resist even trying to see ourselves from our heavenly Father's vantage, our minds slide readily along the slippery pathway of self-deceit: **"If I don't see it or I don't feel it or I don't know about it, it's not my problem."**

Do you earnestly want our heavenly Father to relent of His current chastisement of this nation? Then self-identified Christians must collectively humble themselves and repent, casting off the ugliness of the world's ways with which they've garbed their minds and hearts. Then we must put on the outworking of the righteousness which Jesus has made available to us as His Spirit-indwelled people. In other words, we must begin to truly live with Jesus as Lord of our lives — giving Him the reins of our lives by His Spirit within!

We need to throw off our "tunnel vision" of an individual being "saved" and balance that precious truth with being collectively committed to living day by day with Jesus as Lord in fulfilling our Father's will.

Our only hope for Father to restore His blessing rests on our repentance – affirming to our heavenly Father that we will no longer live as the world around us does. He is delighted to shower His grace upon that kind of resolute determination in the power of the Holy Spirit, to live with Jesus as our Lord to the glory of God the Father.

A truthful fact. Our Founders laid down the ideals of this nation in the Preamble to the United States Constitution, a brief introductory statement of the Constitution's fundamental purposes and guiding principles:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

These ideals have solid biblical support and are worthy to be a goal of every citizen of this nation who calls upon the Name of our Lord. Our land’s current disunity is being enflamed by the lie, “Everyone is the center of their own life.” Through enacting that deceit, there is no hope for national unity.

But with Jesus in control as our Lord and the center of our lives, we have hope for **love, forgiveness** and **compassion** to flourish in this nation.

Mike & Sue

(Jude 24,25)