

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #12

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

Why Does Violence Erupt? By John T. Polk II

1. The wrong people are free to roam the streets: those who have The Spirit of Barabbas

"Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?'" (**Matthew 27:17**). Pilate could "find no fault in" Jesus (**John 19:4, 6**), but the stirred-up mob only said, "Crucify Him" (**Luke 23:21**). Barabbas was "notorious" (**Matthew 27:16**), in a city rebellion committing murder (**Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19**), "a robber" (**John 18:40**). What a choice: an "evil man," who "seeks only rebellion" (**Proverbs 17:11**), or Jesus Christ who had "no fault." *Pilate represented the "legal system" (today, it's the courts, politicians, demonstrations, and propaganda) permitting removal of Jesus Christ but freeing criminals.* God warned, "Do not associate with those given to change" (**Proverbs 24:21**). "Barabbas" on the streets, instead of Jesus Christ, is to "sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind" (**Hosea 8:7**).

2. There is confusion between A Cause Or A Case?

"The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him" (**Proverbs 18:17**). When "news" often becomes "noise," surely we see Solomon's wisdom. *Just because someone claims to have been wronged, there may be another "side" (or facts!) to be considered.* We cannot jump into a decision with signs, slogans, or street mobs and act too hastily. "The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps" (**Proverbs 14:15**). A "prudent" person uses the responsible filter of personal judgment before any action. "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished" (**Proverbs 22:3**). Prejudice does not help for: "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him" (**Proverbs 18:13**). Timeless truth for our times!

3. The loudest are reported by Media: Bullhorn "Brothers?"

"An ungodly man digs up evil, And *it is* on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends. A violent man entices his neighbor, And leads him in a way *that is* not good" (**Proverbs 16:27-29**). The "ungodly" never forgive for they dig up and live in the past. "A perverse man" (one who "devises evil continually," **Proverbs 6:14**) "sows strife," and where there is no "talebearer, the strife ceases" (**Proverbs 26:20**). *Interestingly, the "ungodly," "perverse," "whisperer," and "violent" people are the ones in mobs with the bullhorns!* Quell the riot with Jesus' words: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (**Matthew 6:14-15**). Sane reasoning and forgiveness of the offender(s) should calm down any reasonable people in the mob.

4. Only one solution is offered: Violence

No one who resorts to violence is for justice. "Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking" (**Proverbs 24:1-2**). "Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them" (**Proverbs 28:4**). *Only lawbreakers praise lawbreakers. Only the wicked defend the wicked. Those who live lawfully must stand up against them.* "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD" (**Proverbs 17:15**). It is an injustice department that releases the guilty and punishes the obedient. "The violence of the wicked will destroy them, Because they refuse to do justice" (**Proverbs 21:7**). "The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates" (**Psalms 11:5**). ---jtpll

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ Forgiveness is a funny thing. It warms the heart and cools the soul.

~William Arthur Ward

~In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

~Theodore Roosevelt

PAUL WAS...ARE YOU?

Paul was the man Jesus chose to go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel (Acts 9:15; Rom. 11:13). Once fully converted and committed, Paul accomplished the Lord's will admirably (2 Tim. 4:7). In three successive verses in the first chapter of Romans, Paul records the formula for preparing ourselves to follow his example, as he followed Christ in seeking and saving the lost (cf. 1 Cor. 11:1; Luke 19:10). Notice for example...

- * **"I am a debtor"** (Rom. 1:14). Paul knew that he was under obligation to preach to the Gentiles. It was not an option for Paul to preach – it was mandatory. Should it be any less for us? We are a part of the Great Commission which binds us to *"preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15) and follow up by *"teaching them to observe"* the things that Christ commanded (Matt. 28:20). Do you feel an obligation to mention Jesus to others?
- * **"I am ready"** (Rom. 1:15). Paul was well prepared to present the gospel to the lost. No matter what lay ahead, he knew that he would be able to handle it, because he was equipped with the knowledge of the Lord's will. How about us? Do we study the Scriptures so that we can properly present the truth of God's Word to others? Are you ready, willing, and able to present the facts of the gospel to your friends, family, and neighbors (1 Pet. 3:15)?
- * **"I am not ashamed"** (Rom. 1:16). Paul unapologetically and unabashedly told others about the saving grace of God. Paul's gospel conviction was such that mentioning it to others never embarrassed him. Sadly, many today cower in fear at the thought of mentioning Bible truths to others. Are you as bold and courageous as the lion-hearted Paul in proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 1:18)?

Paul was very successful using these as the basis of his motivation for spreading the gospel. And if you think about it, it will still work for us. If we would just realize that this is something that Christ wants us to do (I am a debtor), and if we are truly prepared to do it (I am ready), then we will not have any problem going out and mentioning the gospel to others (I am not ashamed).

- Edd Sterchi

"Jesus didn't eat with sinners and tax collectors because He wanted to appear inclusive, tolerant, and accepting. He ate with them to call them to repentance."



**TOLERANCE SHOULD NEVER
LEAD TO ACCEPTANCE!**

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish." **Psalm 1:1-6**

Jesus Speaks Today

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*."

Luke 9:56