

Classen Blvd. Baptist Church

*SONday morning*

September 14, 2025

*CALL to PRAYER* - Pray for godly reactions to ungodly actions. Ps. 97:10 / Rom. 12:9 / Eph. 4:26a

*Intro* - The sermon today is not the one I intended to bring. Lord willing, next week we will talk about the important subject of *FAITH* (how to define it & recognize it). But the violent events of the last week(s) have compelled me to address something else. Charlie Kirk's assassination - he was a prominent Christian voice and now a Christian martyr. He courageously spoke biblical truth on college campuses (often a hostile environment to biblical thinking). He wanted open dialog about the divisive issues of our day, and he shared Christ love as he did it (Is. 1:18). He used his words to stand for the gospel, faith, family & patriotism. He was on the front line in the struggle for the soul of this nation...and those on the front line get shot at...literally (Ps. 116:15). But because of his public stature, his violent death has overshadowed other violent deaths and recent acts of wickedness. On the same day as the assassination there was also a school shooting (a student shooting students - then himself). Last week an illegal immigrant beheaded a man in front of his wife and son....in broad daylight! Children were shot at a Catholic school, as they prayed, all because a wicked deranged trans individual hated the church and biblical truth. After media suppression, we find out weeks after the fact that a young woman (who had fled the war in Ukraine) was brutally attacked and killed on public transportation (she was apparently killed for being a different color). A shockingly unprovoked and evil act. An innocent woman minding her own business is slaughter in public. And just as shocking... the male bystanders don't intervene and try to confront the vicious murderer or protect the other passengers. (The perpetrator was a criminal repeat offender the justice system let out and unleashed upon the public.)

Our society has some serious *SOCIETAL ROT* going on. You can see it in the breakdown of family and common decency. The embrace of perversion, division and violent aggression against those with a different opinion. And when such violent acts take place there is not a unison of reaction against the wickedness among us. We have become desensitized to it. Some even defend it and celebrate the evil...like the killing of the CEO of an insurance company shot in back for being rich (this murderer is applauded by some as handsome hero). Or like Charlie Kirk, who after he was killed for being a Christian and conservative...many reveled in his death and continue to demonize him (John 16:2).

I think it is the church's responsibility and a pastoral responsibly to bring the Bible to bear upon the present situation our society is in. In just a moment I am going to read a text of Scripture that is horrific. It describes a society on brink and shows a divided citizenry on how to deal with the evil that is among them and in them. Some want to coddle it & defend it ... while others want to condemn it & punish it...deal with it, but in a depraved way. This account shows a society that has been untethered from *the Word of God* and everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes. God save us from a similar and predicable outcome.

*Judges 19:1-4, 8, 10-17, 20-30, 20:1-8, 11-14; 21:25*

*Barbaric But Better than Us*

*Holy Father, we thank you for Your Word, we tremble before it and we shudder at our propensity towards evil. We need Your Law and Your Gospel. We need You and Your Son to save us from ourselves and from the wrath that is to come. We need Your Spirit to enable us to believe and behave right. Bless us with this grace in Christ's Name...*

- The Holy Spirit was pleased to preserve this historical account for our instruction
  - 1 Cor. 10:6
  - 1 Cor. 6:11-12 warning (and hope Rom. 15:4)
- The main happenings of the horrific account
  - A Levite (priest) & his wife were working through marital problems...
    - The priest was delayed at in-laws house ...started travel home late
    - Didn't want to stay in foreign town (Jebus /Jerusalem)
    - Went to Gibeah (a Benjaminite town) and arrived as the sun set
  - An old man warned then not to stay in open square... took them to his house
    - It was a town that was not safe at night - Judges 19:20
    - You can tell a lot about a society on whether it is safe at night (women)
      - Broad daylight?
  - This town in Israel had become just like Sodom of old several similarities in accounts
    - The men surrounded the house and wanted to rape the priest
    - The priest and his host offer the women to the raging perverted crowd
      - They followed Lot's bad example (offering up daughters - Gen. 19:5-8)
    - Instead of laying down his life for his wife... hides behind her
      - Role reversal is nothing new
      - a society where wives aren't defended and women aren't protected is a corrupt society
    - The priest's wife is gang raped and killed by the vicious perverts
  - The priest takes her body home...dismembers her and sends the message to all 12 tribes of Israel
    - The nation is shocked at the news of such evil and the method of delivery
      - Judges 19:30
      - just as we are shocked to see a video of a vicious murder
        - woman on train / assassination on campus
    - The priest gives a public testimony of the shocking wickedness against him and his wife and calls for contemplation and a verdict - Judges 20:7
    - The nation demands justice
      - Judges 20:12-13
  - The Benjaminite's refuse to deal with the evil...in fact they defend it... Rom. 1:32
    - They fight to protect the perversion and violent aggression
    - A civil war ensues
    - 66,130 soldiers die in the fight (plus many civilians)
      - **Barbaric but better than us**
      - become calloused about corruption -nonchalant - indifferent about depravity/iniquity)
  - This is a sordid account of the chaos that happens if sinful men are not restrained by the Word of God and the grace of God

- This shocking passage is the result of one of the saddest passages in the Bible
  - Judges 2:10-12 (this is the first bookend to this bad behavior)
  - The inspired commentary about that society's corruption - Judges 21:25
  - No enforcement of God's Law. People were a law to themselves
- Law & Gospel -and- Church & State a civil and Christian society needs them all
  - We need the Law to show us our sin and define sin.
  - We need the Gospel to show us where to find forgiveness of sin
  - We need the Church to proclaim both Law & Gospel
    - To define sin by God's Law and give the remedy for sin in God's Gospel
  - We need the State to enforce God's Law
  - We need the next generation of young men to be godly men
    - That is...if we want a civil society
- We need the Law
  - Rom. 7:12 - the law is holy, the commandment is holy & righteous & good
  - Rom. 3:20 through the Law comes the knowledge of sin
- We need the State
  - The State has the God-given responsibility to punish the evil in society
    - Church & State are separate with separate God-given responsibilities
    - **THE STATE IS NOT TO ACT LIKE A CHURCH**
    - They are not in the business of forgiveness
  - Rom. 13:1-4 - they are God's deacons to dole out God's vengeance on evildoers
    - Individuals are not to take revenge - that is the States responsibility
  - 1 Peter 2:13-14 fight the nations wars without and combat the nation's wickedness within
  - Jer. 21:12 government is to execute God's wrath on the wicked
  - Eccles. 8:11 if slow to do it then they will increase it
  - Numbers 35:31, 33 Gen. 9:6
  - Ezekiel 13:19b dual evil of putting to death those not deserving...&... keeping alive those should die
- We need the Church
  - To preach the Law
    - Be a prophetic voice to the State and society on God's will
    - God has not changed and His standards have not changed
    - *"Thus sayeth the LORD!"* *"It is written"*
  - To preach the Gospel
    - We need to be saved from our sin
    - Gal. 3:24 - the law is our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ
    - Jesus is the only Savior of sinners Acts 4:12 1 John 5:11-12
      - Matt. 1:21
      - 1 Tim. 1:15
    - He came to call sinners to repentance
    - 1 Cor. 6:9-11
    - God will save the: Idolater, Blasphemer, Sabbath breaker, Rebellious, Murderer, Adulterer/sexually immoral, Thief, Liar, Covetous
    - He graciously give sinners His righteousness - 2 Cor. 5:21

- The church is to give the law to the saved
  - The law is written on our hearts in the New Covenant - Heb. 8:10
  - Rom. 3:31
  - God's law is the standard for righteous living
- To be salt & light                      salt of the earth & light of the world
  - **There is a lot of societal rot ...we are to stop the rot and delay the decay**
  - The salt is to flavor society and help stop the decay of society
  - People of light are to push back the darkness and expose the darkness
  - Eph. 5:8, 11
  - If the salt loses its savor it is good for nothing but to be thrown out
    - Are we a salty church?
- We need to teach and pray for the next generation....especially the young men
  - Like Charlie Kirk did
    - Faith                      Believe in God. Trust in Christ. Go to church
    - Family - get married and have kids
    - Responsibility -            men.... be a protector and a provider (~~hurter or taker~~)
      - Who are protecting and who are you providing for?
    - Courage                      take a stand for truth in a land of lies
      - Rev. 21:8
- Pray for the State that it doesn't act like a church
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- Pray for the Church - that the Law & Gospel are clearly proclaimed
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- Pray for faith and Family
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- Pray for young men to be godly
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- Pray that God's kingdom would come, His will would be done and that He would deliver us from evil and the evil one