CITIES STRUGGLING:

Minneapolis, MN:
Floyd’s death Monday – for which four Minneapolis police officers were fired Tuesday and one of them, Derek Gauvin, was arrested and charged with third-degree murder Friday – has sparked protests and rioting across the U.S., from New York City and Washington, D.C., to Chicago; Columbus, Ohio, Louisville, Ky., and Dallas, to San Jose, Calif.; Los Angeles and Portland, Ore.

“The arrest of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the brutal killing of George Floyd is a welcome but overdue step on the road to justice,” Floyd family attorney Ben Crump said Friday, according to FOX 9. “We expected a first-degree murder charge. We want a first-degree murder charge. And we want to see the other officers arrested.”

Meantime, all across the nation came reports of arson fires, looting and smashed windows and vehicles. From some cities came reports of gunfire against police officers. And all of it happened as the nation continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 100,000 Americans.

Portland, Ore:
In Portland, Ore., a crowd smashed windows and sparked a fire inside the city’s Justice Center, FOX 12 of Oregon reported.

San Jose, Calif:
In San Jose, police officers fired on an SUV that struck at least two people, according to the Mercury News.

“The whole crowd started chasing the car but it got away,” Saul Duarte, a protester who recorded the incident on video, told the newspaper. “After that, everyone surrounded the two injured people and tried helping but the cops started tear-gassing us.”

Oakland, Calif:
In Oakland, Calif., police said several officers were injured by projectiles, FOX 2 of the Bay Area reported. Bystanders also reported being injured.

NYC, NY:
In New York, rioters torched a police van and NYPD officers reported hundreds of arrests, The New York Post reported.

Washington, DC:
In Washington, the White House was briefly placed on lockdown as crowds reached a boiling point, FOX 5 of DC reported.

Atlanta, GA:
In Atlanta, a crowd stormed the entrance to CNN headquarters, at one point climbing onto the TV network’s logo outside the building. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms issued an impassioned plea for rioters to stop their violence and simply go home.
"What I see happening in the streets of Atlanta is not Atlanta,” Bottoms said, according to FOX 5 Atlanta. “This is not a protest. This is not in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. This is chaos. A protest has purpose.”

Chicago, Ill:
In Chicago, demonstrators shut down streets in the Loop, many of them chanting, “I can’t breathe,” which Floyd was heard saying on a video that went viral, showing a police officer kneeling on his neck, FOX 32 reported.

Louisville, MO:
Hundreds of protesters filled the streets in Louisville, where they demonstrated for a second night not only against Floyd’s death but against the death of Breonna Taylor, an emergency room technician who was killed by a police officer in her home on March 13.

- **CITIZENS CONFLICTED:**
  - Tucker Carlson: Our leaders have sided with the agents of chaos – we're told crimes of the mob are our fault

- **BELIEVERS CONFRONTED:**
  - What are we supposed to do? How are we to respond to this chaos, destruction, and abuse of power?

**Turn with me to 2 Timothy 3:1-9**

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

**Navigating Troubled Times:**
- Accept the facts. (2 Tim. 3:1)

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• Practice discernment. (2 Tim. 3:2-5)
• Submit to God-ordained authority. (2 Tim. 3:6-8)
• Protest peacefully… by taking appropriate action within the boundaries of God-ordained authority. (2 Tim. 3:9)

I. Accept the facts. (1)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

A. We live in a sin-cursed world.

The whole world of mankind has fallen:

• from friendship with God into proud estrangement from Him and enmity with Him; this leaves us diseased and dying in every part of our personalities and bodies (Genesis 2:16; 3:2-19; Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

• from our full reflection of His likeness into shattered, distorted images, suffering the results of our brokenness (Genesis 6:5; Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:14–2:16; Romans 3:9-20)

• from joyful obedience to God’s rules so as to fulfill His superlative design for our lives into lawless rebellion and constant frustration and warfare at every level of society (Genesis 3:14-16; James 4:1-10)

• from the beauty, tranquility, and vitality of godly family life into a cesspool of sexual-identify confusion, domestic strife, and aimlessness (Genesis 3:16; Romans 1:14–2:16; Galatians 5:19–21)

• from dominion as trustees of God’s world into a selfish exploitation of the land and the resulting ecological disaster (Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 5:8-17; Haggai 1:6)

• from knowledge of God’s enlightening truth into the darkness of ignorance and the confusion of depraved minds (Genesis 2:17; Proverbs 1–31; Judges 1–21; Romans 1:28)

To live in a fallen world means we struggle with sin on a daily basis. We experience heartache and pain. We witness natural disasters and staggering loss. Injustice, inhumanity, and falsehood seem to hold sway. Discord and trouble are commonplace. None of this was God’s original plan for humanity. We fell from our original position in the Garden of Eden. We now live in a fallen world, and all creation “groans” under the consequences of our sin (Romans 8:22).

B. Things are going to get worse before they get better. (2 Tim. 3:13)

• I John 2:18 - AntiChrists will be revealed

3 https://www.gotquestions.org/fallen-world.html
4 https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gabrielsanchez/bizarre-pictures-of-the-people-who-believe-that-theyre
Is Earthquake Activity Increasing?\(^7\)
Recent devastating earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China, as well as magnitude 7 plus earthquakes in Indonesia and California, might give the impression that earthquake activity is increasing. In fact, a quick look at earthquake statistics over the last twenty years shows that this is not the case. On average there are about fifteen earthquakes every year with a magnitude of 7 or greater. As with any quasi-random phenomena, the number of earthquakes each year varies slightly from this average, but in general, there are no dramatic variations. So far this year, there have been six magnitude 7+ earthquakes, in keeping with the annual rate.

A Limited Energy Budget
Earthquake activity is controlled by the motion of the Earth's tectonic plates, driven by heat generation from the decay of radioactive elements deep inside our planet. Thermodynamics requires that for more energy to come out of a system, more energy has to go in. A long term increase in earthquake activity would require an increase in the Earth's internal energy supply, which would be difficult to account for.

Detecting Earthquakes
It is true that our ability to detect and measure earthquakes has improved over the last few decades due to huge increases in the number of seismograph stations that record earthquakes. However, this mainly affects our ability to detect smaller earthquakes. Larger earthquakes occur less frequently than smaller ones. This relationship is exponential, i.e. there are ten times as many magnitude 6 or larger earthquakes in a given time period than magnitude 7 or larger earthquakes.

Why it might seem there are more.
There are a number of reasons why it might seem as if we are experiencing more earthquakes.

1. Earthquakes in populated places are far more noticed than the many that occur in remote regions, so when, by chance, a run of earthquakes hit population centres, it appears that the number of events has increased. Also, there are more people at risk. Population increases mean there are more people than ever in earthquake prone regions. So although the number of earthquakes remains the same the impact increases.

2. Earthquake clustering. Although long term averages are fairly constant, in any quasi-random process, you get clustering in time. Increases and decreases in seismicity rates are a natural part of this. People notice the clusters; they don't notice the gaps in between. They also forget the previous cluster!

3. Global communication. Vast improvements in global communications mean we have near instant pictures of devastating earthquakes from all around the world. This means more people are aware of earthquakes and their impact.

- The exception to the rule (things going from bad to worse) is found during times of repentance and revival. (2 Chron 7:14; Book of Judges as an example)

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\(^5\) [https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace](https://ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace)
\(^7\) [http://www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/news/EQ_increase.html](http://www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/news/EQ_increase.html)
Five Key Revivals
BY E. MICHAEL AND SHARON RUSTEN | MAY 5, 2005 | EDITORIAL

The Church’s first great revival occurred when 3,000 Jews came to Christ on the day of Pentecost, likely on May 24, A.D. 33. That awesome beginning was a foretaste of what would happen time after time throughout history. By the year 300 approximately 14 million called themselves Christian, and by 500 the number neared 40 million. Since the early 1700s, God has brought about a number of notable revivals. Here are some of them:

The (First) Great Awakening
In the New World a series of revivals, known as the Great Awakening, spread through the American colonies between 1725 and 1760. Under preachers like Gilbert Tennent, Jonathan Edwards and English evangelist George Whitefield, the revivals reached their peak from 1740 to 1742. At the same time as the Great Awakening in America was the Wesleyan revival in England. At the time of John Wesley’s death in 1791, Methodists numbered 79,000 in England and 40,000 in America.

The Second Great Awakening
America’s next revival began in 1801 at the Cane Ridge camp meeting in Kentucky, where as many as 3,000 were converted. The banner year for camp meetings was 1811, when approximately one-third of all Americans attended one of them. By 1806 the Awakening had reached Williams College in Massachusetts. There, five students prayed during a thunderstorm in the shelter of a haystack, four of the five committing themselves to becoming missionaries. The Haystack Prayer Meeting, as it came to be called, was the beginning of the American foreign mission movement.

The Prayer Meeting Revival
Beginning as a prayer meeting of six people on Fulton Street in New York City in 1857, the Prayer Meeting Revival spread quickly throughout the world. Over the next two years, a million converts were added to American churches and a million to churches in England and Ireland.

The Welsh Revival
The Welsh Revival began in 1904 under the preaching of Evan Roberts. Within two years, 100,000 converts were added to the Welsh Church. More than 5 million came to Christ as the revival spread throughout the world. As part of this same outpouring of the Spirit, revival came in 1906 to a mission led by William Seymour in a dilapidated building on Azusa Street in Los Angeles. The Azusa Street Revival was the formative event of early Pentecostalism.

Modern-Day Revival
Perhaps the most remarkable revival has taken place in China since the last missionaries left in 1953. In 1980 there were 2 million Christian believers in China—and by 2000 there were approximately 75 million. God chose to have the missionaries removed before the explosive growth occurred, that He might receive the glory.

I. Accept the facts. (1)

II. Use discernment. (2-5)

²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous,

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8 https://decisionmagazine.com/five-key-revivals/
reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, \(^5\) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

A. **Use discernment regarding people (plural) you listen to.** (1:15; 2:17; 4:14 [Hymenaeus in I Tim. 1:20]; 3:8 [Jannes and Jambres: Exodus 7:11; 8:7, 18; 9:11])

The immediate context relates to the protection of the church. Paul wanted Timothy to know how the last days would impact the believers in Ephesus. The only command comes in verse 5 – AVOID SUCH PEOPLE. This is clearly a reference to the false teachers. Don’t miss the fact that Paul desired to see these teachers repent (End of chapter 2). But apparently, they had reached the point of no return (see verse 8 – these men oppose the truth, are corrupt in mind and disqualified regarding the faith).

**Romans 1:18-32**

32 Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

B. **Use discernment regarding the ideas you embrace.**
   - Primarily about how to achieve personal success... “Look out for your self and get yours.”

Paul provides 10 ideas to reject by describing them in groupings of two words:

1. Love yourself and get as much money as possible. The key to happiness is found in the abundance of your possessions. (Lovers of self / Lovers of Money)
2. Look out for yourself and don’t allow anyone to get in your way. (Proud / Arrogant)
3. Do whatever it takes to establish your dominance...even if it means disregarding those closest to you. (Abusive / Disobedient to parents)
4. Never settle for what is right in front of you... even if it means you need to get your hands dirty to get it. (Ungrateful / Unholy)
5. Don’t cloud your judgement with compassion. You can never have enough. (Heartless / Unappeasable)
6. Say whatever you must and do whatever you must to get an advantage over your opponent. (Slanderous / Without self-control)
7. Take off the gloves and hit below the belt. (Brutal / Not loving good)
8. Betray those closest to you and seize the moment... no need to concern yourself with long range consequences [Carpe Diem]. (Treacherous / Reckless)
9. Be insanely confident and do whatever makes you happy. (Swollen with conceit / Lovers of Pleasure)
10. Remain socially acceptable and politically correct. (Appearance of godliness but lacking the power thereof)

**I. Accept the facts. (1)**

**II. Use discernment. (2-5)**

**III. Submit to God-ordained authority. (6-8)**
For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

A. Submit to the authority of the family. (6-7)
   - Ephesians 5:25; 6:1-2

B. Submit to the authority of the government. (8a)
   - Romans 13:1-7

2 Timothy 3:8–9 (BKC): 3:8–9. The reference to Jannes and Jambres and their opposition to Moses draws not on the Old Testament but on a widespread Jewish legend about two of Pharaoh’s magicians who competed against Moses and lost (cf. Ex. 7:11; 9:11). The comparison between the false teachers and the Egyptians, and implicitly therefore Timothy and Moses, must have encouraged the young minister. The opponents were men of depraved (lit., “corrupt”; cf. 1 Tim. 6:5) minds who oppose the truth and were therefore rejected (adokimoi, “disapproved”) by God in regard to any claim to be teaching the faith (cf. 1 Tim. 3:9). Consequently, while their influence was temporarily a serious matter in the church, in the long run they would not get very far. Like Jannes and Jambres, eventually their folly would be clear to everyone (cf. 1 Tim. 4:15; 5:24–25).

2 Timothy 3:8 (IVPBBCNT): Because Paul’s opponents appeal to Jewish myths (1 Tim 1:4; 2 Tim 4:4; Tit 1:14), Paul cites such stories to fill in the names for these characters.

1. Jannes and Jambres were deceivers; so are the purveyors of strange doctrine against whom Paul warns Timothy.

2. If Jewish tradition can be credited in this respect, Jannes and Jambres became proselytes, faking “conversion” to the Jewish religion. When they saw that they could not prevent Israel’s exodus from Egypt, they are said to have joined the departing multitude. Later (according to Jewish tradition!) they were the ones who induced the people to make a golden calf and to worship it. They were pretenders, therefore; hypocrites, and as such very dangerous.—Similarly, the false leaders whom Paul describes are all the more dangerous because they pretend to be genuine converts to the Christian religion.

C. Submit to the authority of the church. (8b)
   - Hebrews 13:7, 17

Paul calls the men whom he is describing “corrupt in mind” (perfect passive participle; cf. 1 Tim. 6:5). In their case the very organ that was given to men in order that he might be able to receive and reflect on spiritual realities has become thoroughly and permanently defiled. As a result, with respect to “the faith” (objective sense), these men have been found to be worthy of emphatic disapproval; hence, reprobate, condemned as worthless, unfit, disqualified, utterly rejected.
I. *Accept the facts.* (1)

II. *Use discernment.* (2-5)

III. *Submit to God-ordained authority.* (6-8)

IV. Protest Peacefully… by taking appropriate action within the boundaries of God-ordained authority. (9)

Martin Luther King, Jr.⁹

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr., delivered a speech to a massive group of civil rights marchers gathered around the Lincoln memorial in Washington DC. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom brought together the nations most prominent civil rights leaders, along with tens of thousands of marchers, to press the United States government for equality. The culmination of this event was the influential and most memorable speech of Dr. King's career. Popularly known as the "I have a Dream" speech, the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. influenced the Federal government to take more direct actions to more fully realize racial equality.

A. Appropriate action for the church is church discipline. (9 – made plain to all)
   - Matthew 18:15-17
   - Purpose: Restoration and Purity
   - Process: 1+1; 2-3+1; church + 1

B. Appropriate action in the home is family intervention. (Eph. 6:1-3)
   - Led by the father
   - Supported by the mother
   - Respected by the children

Illustration: “Candle of Truth” or discussions following the family meal.

C. Appropriate action regarding government is active involvement in peacefully seeking justice. (Romans 12:17-21)
   - We need to write, vote, sign, and stand for justice… *as defined by God’s Word* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
   
   1. Through supplication (I Timothy 2:1-2; Jeremiah 29:7)
   2. Through legislation
      a. We need more Christians who are willing to serve in public office.
         i. We need more Daniel’s, Nehemiah’s, and Esther’s; all of which prayed before stating their opinion or making their appeal to the authorities.
   3. Through proclamation

⁹ [https://www.archives.gov/nyc/exhibit/mlk](https://www.archives.gov/nyc/exhibit/mlk)
a. We need to increase the number of powerful pulpits declaring the truth of God’s Word, condemning sin, and presenting the way of reconciliation through the Gospel. (2 Tim. 4:1-4) [REVIVAL AND REVITALIZATION]

b. We need to increase the number of believers who are willing to take their responsibility seriously and reengage in evangelizing the lost around them with the liberating truth of the Gospel! (2 Tim. 4:5 from 2 Tim. 2:1-7)

Application:

- Accept the facts.
- Practice discernment.
- Submit to God-ordained authority.
- Protest peacefully.