Dear Crossview Family,

I do not have a *Tik-Tok* account, popular among the Gen-Z crowd, but I am aware of the influence asserted, directly or indirectly, upon all generations through that social media platform. My Boomer media tastes are more discriminating through selected consumption of long-form podcasts covering spiritual, cultural, and political themes. Because I cannot know the details of every current event, listening to a variety of sources serves as a filter. If a topic is particularly significant, I then will go to and review the source material, in context, to protect myself against confirmation bias or manipulation by the framing of information.

Recently, I have come to appreciate insights presented by Christian entrepreneur and commentator, **Jeremy Boreing**. As the former pastor of a house church and the co-founder of a multi-million-dollar emerging media company, Boreing is not shy about challenging pastors to grow a spine and combat wolves that are seeking to prey on individual Christians, local congregations, and the Church, in general, as an institution for truth, morality, cultural, and political stability. He recognizes that those threats come from the militant left, the militant right, and the passively indifferent center. I reference him because he addresses similar issues that I have discussed over the past several weeks. In a

recent podcast targeting pastors, he highlighted swings and shifts in Christian strategies, both positive and negative, observed over multiple decades in the areas of ministry and political engagement. Here are a few observations.

In the 60s, the church eventually got on board to rectify Civil Rights injustice and abolish Jim Crow laws. In the 70s, the church did not get involved in social/political issues and focused only on winning lost soul to Jesus, resulting in the legalization of abortion and the practical removal of God from public education. The 80s responded with the rise of the *Moral Majority* in an attempt to restore the voice of Christian values to influence laws in an increasingly secularized society. In the 90s, the church tried to compensate for the perception of over-zealousness with the "seeker driven" church model (popularized by Bill Hybels at *Willow Creek Church*). "Compassionate conservative" because the watchword. Compassion is good, but biblical "kindness" was eventually replaced by secular "niceness" and the supreme value of "tolerance" began to infiltrate the church. In the 2000s, it became clear to the church, through multiple survey results, that **church activity does not correlate with spiritual maturity**. This discipleship crisis has carryover to today. For too long, the church at large, and pastors in general, trying not to conflate the gospel with politics, have been silent

on biblical value issues like abortion, while being very vocal on culturally popular issues like BLM. Boreing was not wrong in his assessment saying that a young layman named Charlie Kirk, was a better watchman on the wall, warning about social/political dangers to the spiritual well-being of Christians and the church, than pastors, who were too afraid from the possible backlash of stating the obvious. In the 2010s and 2020s, the church faced social normalization of LGBTQ issues, acceptance of Islamic expansion under the guise of religious liberty, and the ubiquitous influence (information, media, and vices) in our pockets… the cell phone. An important communications tool has become a cancerous catalyst for an onslaught of interpersonal isolation.

I do not want to leave this congregation unprotected from the influence of wolves. The devil is a devouring lion and a deceptive angel of light. He uses workers of evil to kill, steal, and destroy. This is a call to **tune out** the unholy voices and **tune in** to the holy wisdom of the Word and the Spirit. I pause here, though much still remains to be said.

Blessings! Jeff