

Dear Crossview Family,

In the week after the horrific assassination and martyrdom of Charlie Kirk, a lot more information has been forthcoming about the alleged assassin, the ideologies, and the hate that motivated his evil actions. We also have seen and heard disturbing images of people celebrating his murder, ranging from direct overt jubilation to the cowardice of indifference... lies about his character, his Christian faith, and his positions as fomenting hate and saying that “he deserved it,” or “he had it coming.” There is a big difference in how the nation has responded when other high-profile deaths occurred, which were contextually different. Make no mistake, the untimely death of any human being, created in the image of God, is tragic. When the loss of life is the consequence of a bad choice, either willfully or due to lies and deception, it is still sad. When the life of an instigator of evil, death, abuse, pain, and suffering occurs, **Proverbs 11:10** says, “...when the wicked perish, there are shouts of gladness.” It is implied that the shouts of gladness are over the relief from the evil actions inflicted by the perpetrator of wickedness. Also, **Proverbs 17:15** states, He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.” Major media outlets and high-profile politicians are saying, “there is no place for political violence on any side, BUT....” Other are suddenly complaining that people have lost their jobs for publicly celebrating Kirk’s assassination and claiming suppression of “free speech” and becoming victims of “cancel culture.” People are free to say whatever they want (with the exception of inciting violence, which, according to 18 U.S. code 373, is a crime that can be either a felony or a misdemeanor), but that does not mean there are no consequences. “Cancel culture” does not apply either, because that phrase refers to negative social consequences for stating simple facts (like there are only two sexes, male and female), holding a culturally unpopular view (like marriage is between one man and one woman), or using words in actions from a different time and context and then condemning a person based on current cultural mores. There was a big difference in how Christians responded to the despicable action against a person whose “crime” was promoting biblical truth and values... There were no riots, no burning of buildings, and no looting of stores... There were prayer vigils.

The question remains for us... what now? The words that come to mind are **resilience** and **boldness**. While facing the reality that violence might be the response of those who disagree with the truth claims of the Bible, we should not succumb to fear. Rather than accept the attempt to silence us, to be shouted down, or to withdraw passively as not to “offend,” we should increase our initiatives to overwhelm others with the kindness of our expression and the strength of our evidence. The current cultural climate provides a unique potential Turning Point for the Church and the nation. Recent tragic acts of high-profile violence (not to mention the daily tragic incidents of violence in inner city communities) are an open door for discussions about both the root cause of problems (sin) and both possible and the ultimate solution. We must seize the moment and not slip back into the rut of indifference. Following 9/11/2001, there was a great hope for a nationwide revival, but unfortunately, the spiritually teachable moment after the fall of the Twin Towers was short-lived. It is my hope that the teachability and spiritual openness of many, following the death of Charlie Kirk, will produce a mobilization and revitalization of Christians to take their faith seriously and live their lives accordingly. As non-believers take stock of their lives, we, as Christ-followers, must be ready to usher them into the Kingdom by introducing them to Christ.

I pray that the Lord will multiply opportunities for you to shine for Jesus, even as the

transforming power of the Holy Spirit working in you causes others to want what you have.

Blessings!

Jeff