

A FEW CLIPS FROM THIS WEEKEND'S REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

- ▶ MANY DELEGATES, CANDIDATES,
CONFESSED THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST!
- ▶ I SAW AND I MET A NUMBER OF
PASTORS, PRAYER LEADERS, AND
OTHER CHRISTIANS FRIENDS.
- ▶ THE ADOPTED PLATFORM READS
LIKE A CHRISTIAN DOCUMENT!

CALLED TO COURAGE EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

PURSUIT STATEMENT:

TO GLORIFY GOD,

BY CONTINUING CHRIST'S WORK,

IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

11 SIGNS OF A VICTIM MENTALITY

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1. They're constantly blaming other people or situations for feeling miserable.
2. They possess a "life is against me" philosophy.
3. They think others are purposely trying to hurt them.
4. They're cynical or pessimistic.
5. They feel powerless to change their circumstances.
6. They enjoy sharing their tragic stories with other people.

11 SIGNS OF A VICTIM MENTALITY

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7. They have a habit of blaming, attacking, and accusing those they love for how they feel.
8. They're constantly putting themselves down.
9. They believe they're the only one being targeted for mistreatment.
10. They refuse to analyze their beliefs or improve their life.
11. Even when things go right, they find something to complain about.

CALLED TO COURAGE, NOT VICTIMHOOD

- ▶ TO BE VICTIMIZED CAN BE YOUR REALITY
- ▶ BEING A VICTIM IS NOT YOUR IDENTITY
 - ▶ PRONOUN POLICE
 - ▶ GENDER GESTAPO
 - ▶ ALHPABET MAFIA
 - ▶ RACE REGIMENT – BLAME WHITE PEOPLE

REJECT THE VICTIM RELIGION OF TODAY!

CALLED TO COURAGE, NOT VICTIMHOOD

Rom 8:31-33 NIV84 What, then, shall we say in response to this? *If God is for us, who can be against us?* He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? *It is God who justifies.*

**OTHER'S BEHAVIOR DOES NOT
DETERMINE MY IDENTITY**

COURAGE TO STAND

EPH 6:10-11 NIV84 FINALLY, BE
STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS
MIGHTY POWER. PUT ON THE FULL
ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT YOU CAN
TAKE YOUR STAND AGAINST THE
DEVIL'S SCHEMES.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

EPH 6:12 NIV84 FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.

STAND YOUR GROUND

EPH 6:13 NIV84 *THEREFORE PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT WHEN THE DAY OF EVIL COMES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND YOUR GROUND, AND AFTER YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING, **TO STAND.***

ARMOR OF GOD

Eph 6:10-18

- ▶ Belt of Truth – “not *your* truth – God’s!”
- ▶ Breastplate of Righteousness – Devoted/Justified
- ▶ Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: on the Path
- ▶ Shield of Faith: Put out the enemy’s flaming arrows
- ▶ Helmet of Salvation: Transform by Renewed Mind
- ▶ Sword of the Spirit: Word of God
- ▶ Pray in the Spirit on all occasions – All kinds

SPIRIT EMPOWERED COURAGE

HOLY SPIRIT OPENS THE WORD TO US;

- Luke 24:45 *“He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures”*
- Luk 24:49 NIV84 *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*
- Acts 1:4-8 *“...wait for the promise of the Father...will be baptized in the Holy Spirit... you will receive **power** & be My witnesses”*

COURAGE TO SPEAK UP

- ▶ Act 4:13 NIV84 When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that ***these men had been with Jesus.***

UNASHAMED TO LIVE BY FAITH IN PUBLIC

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (17) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." – Rom 1:16-17 NIV84

A COURAGEOUS AND CONFIDENT CHURCH

AMERICA IS IN GREAT NEED FOR THIS
KIND OF CHURCH TODAY

FROM THE PULPIT,

TO THE **PEW,**

TO THE **PARKING LOT,**

TO THE **PUBLIC**

“There is not a right asserted in the Declaration of Independence which had not been discussed by the New England clergy before 1763.”

The British Mockingly Named the Preachers in Colonial America **The Black Robe Regiment** – Due to Their Influence Upon Society.



Our own leaders agreed: For example, John Adams rejoiced that “the pulpits have thundered” and specifically identified several ministers as being among the “characters the most conspicuous, the most ardent, and influential” in the “awakening and a revival of American principles and feelings” that led to American independence.

[These quotes taken from the National Black Robe Regiment website]



- As a body of men, the **clergy** were pre-
eminent in their **attachment to liberty**. The
pulpits of the land rang with the **notes of**
freedom. *The American Quarterly Register*
[MAGAZINE], 1833

- If **Christian ministers** had not
preached and **prayed**, there might
have been no revolution as yet – or had it
broken out, it might have been crushed.

Bibliotheca Sacra [BRITISH PERIODICAL], 1856



The ministers of the Revolution were, like their Puritan predecessors, bold & fearless in the cause of their country. No class of men contributed more to carry forward the Revolution and to achieve our independence than did ***the ministers***. . . . [B]y their **prayers**, patriotic **sermons**, and **services** [they] rendered the highest assistance to the ***civil government***, the ***army***, and the ***country***. B. F. Morris, HISTORIAN, 1864 [Quotes taken from the National Black Robe Regiment website]



Had ministers been the only spokesman of the rebellion – had Jefferson, the Adamses, and [James] Otis never appeared in print – the political thought of the Revolution would have followed almost exactly the same line. . . . In the sermons of the **patriot ministers** . . . we find expressed every possibly refinement of the reigning **political faith**.

-- Clinton Rossiter, HISTORIAN, 1953

[Quotes taken from the National Black Robe Regiment website]



“The first movement toward democracy in America was inaugurated in the house of God and with the blessing of the minister of God.” -- Charles B. Galloway, 1898

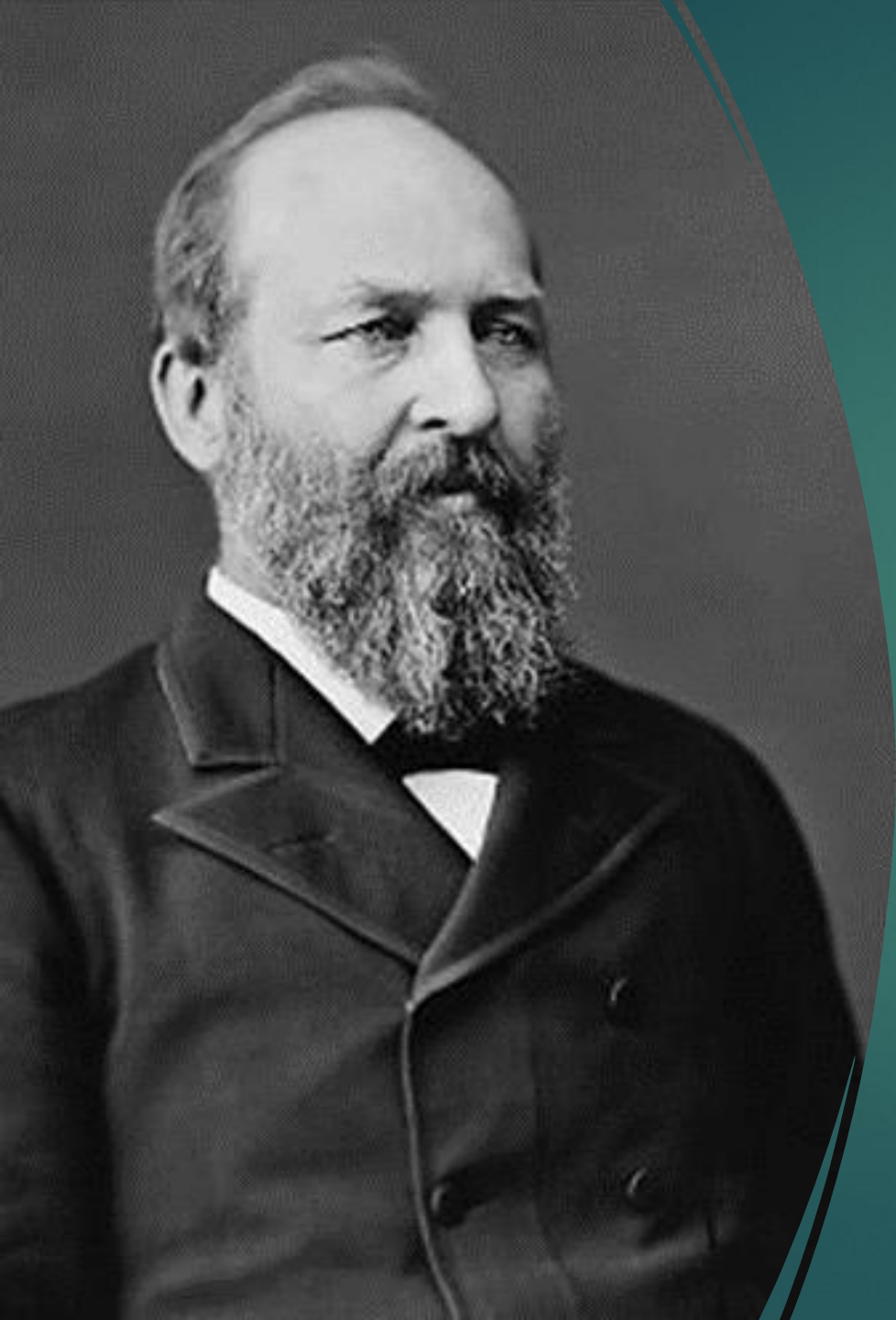


“The Constitutional Convention and the written Constitution were the children of the pulpit.” -- Alice Baldwin, HISTORIAN, 1918

[Quotes taken from the National Black Robe Regiment website]

A COURAGEOUS CHURCH – THE HOPE OF OUR NATION.

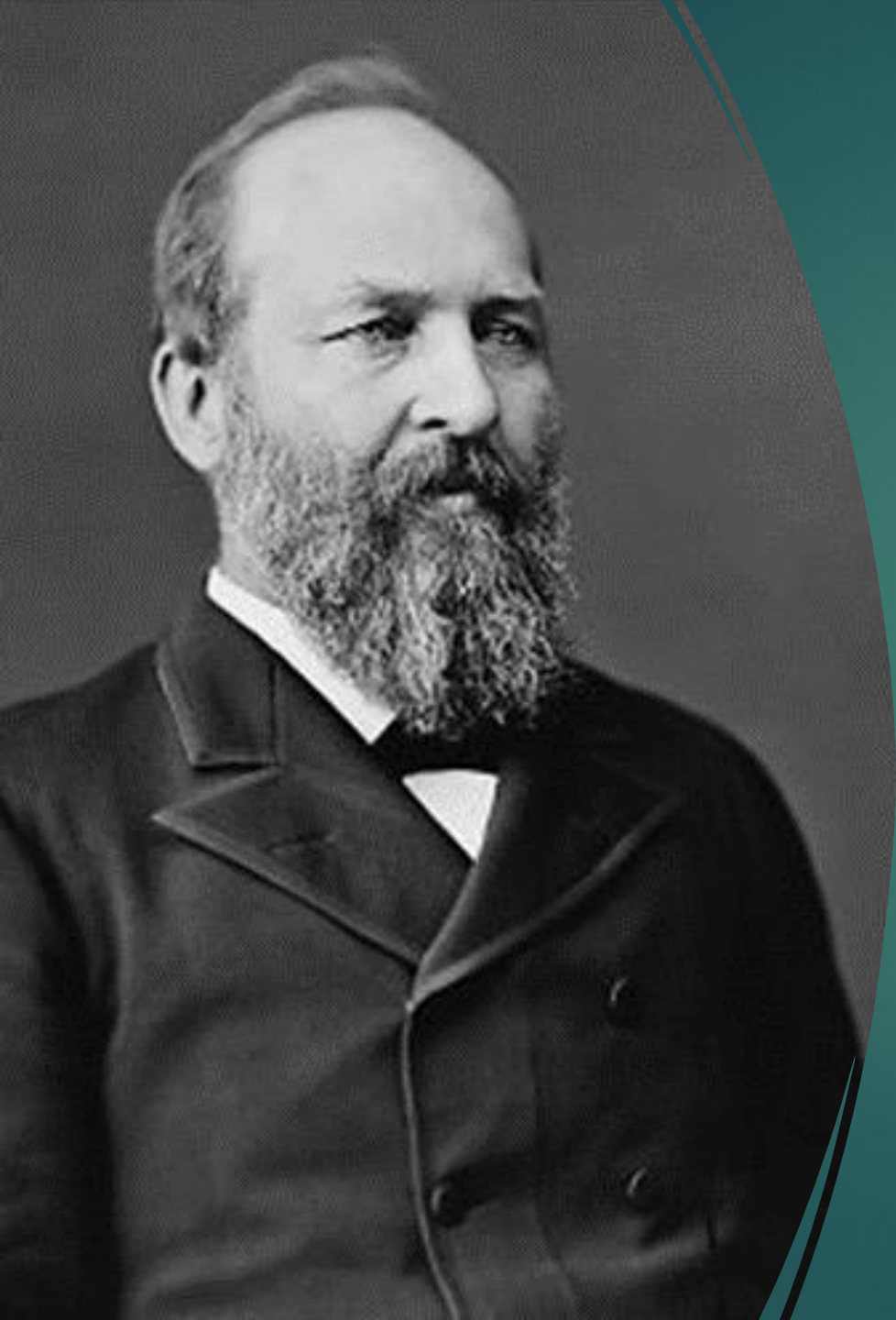
Act 8:5-8 NIV84 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. *So there was great joy in that city.*



James A. Garfield

Centennial Speech July 4,
1876

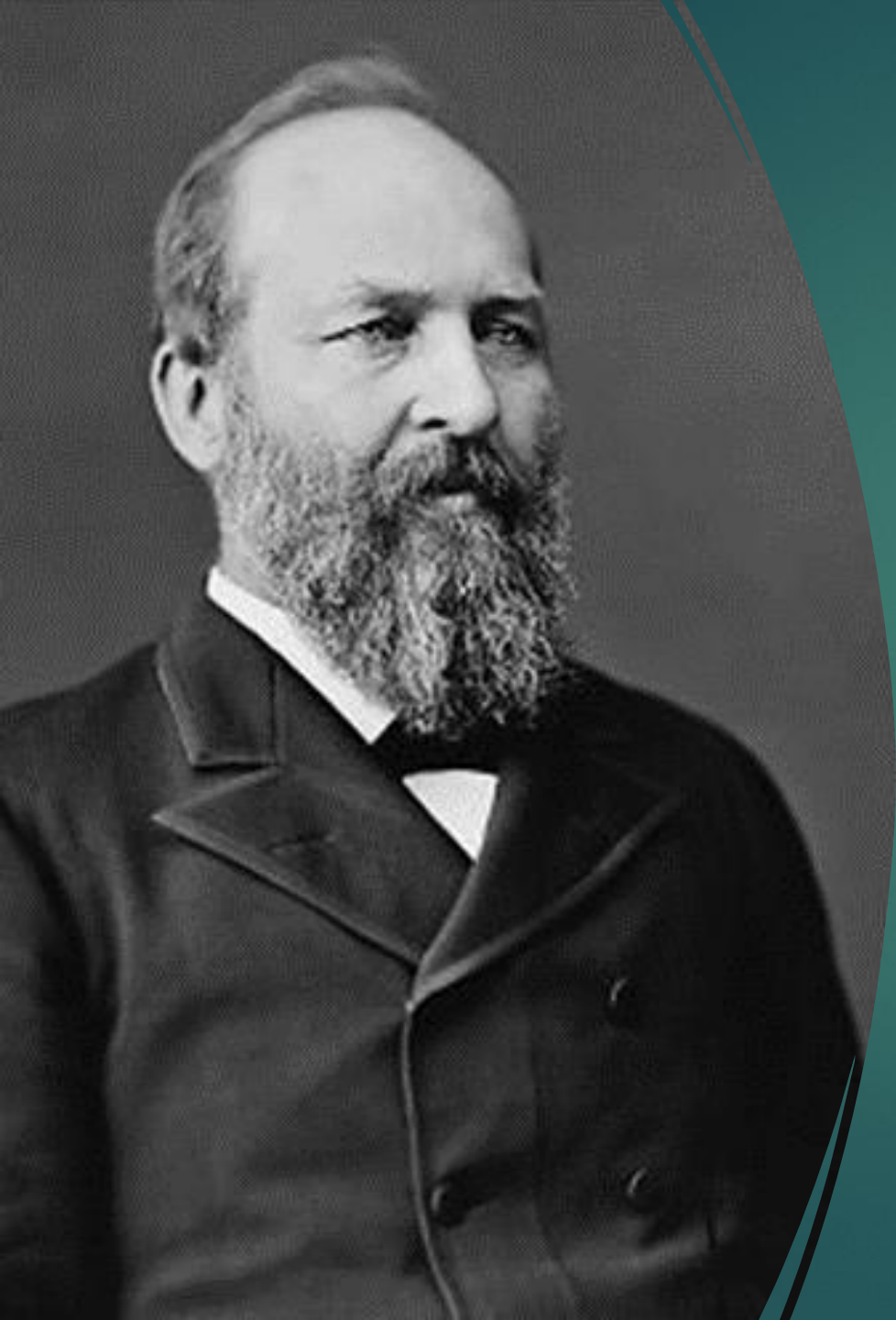
*“Now more than ever before, the **people** are responsible for the **character of their Congress**. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption...”*



James A. Garfield

Centennial Speech July 4,
1876

*...If it be intelligent, brave,
and pure, it is because the
people demand these high
qualities to represent them in
the national legislature...*



James A. Garfield

Centennial Speech July 4,
1876

...If the NEXT CENTENNIAL does not find us a great nation... it will be because ***those who represent*** the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation ***do not aid in controlling the political forces.***"



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide & the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”

▶ *“If I sit next to a madman as he drives a car into a group of innocent bystanders, I can’t, as a Christian, simply wait for the catastrophe, then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver.”*

▶ - Dietrich Bonhoeffer



- ▶ *“We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.”*
- ▶ *“The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.”* — Dietrich Bonhoeffer



2Kings 20:17-19 The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. (18) And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, that will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." (19) "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "***Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?***"



TWO OTHER QUOTES (AMONG MANY)

1. "I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE, THE WORDS OF MY ENEMIES, OR THE SILENCE OF MY FRIENDS."

- ▶ "TACIT" = BEING SILENT – SAYING NOTHING
- ▶ *The Silence of the German Church led to the rise of the Nazis - 12,000 PASTORS IN "THE MIDDLE"*
[Eric Metaxas, Author of "Bonhoeffer," "Letter to the American Church"]
- ▶ "The Silence of the American Church Has Led to the Rise of What We Are Seeing Today"

TWO OTHER QUOTES (AMONG MANY)

2. "THE CONDITION OF THE NATION IS THE REPORT CARD ON THE CHURCH."

- ▶ THE CHURCH/PASTORS ARE BEING BULLIED INTO SILENCE – OR ELSE! – *Some Members Don't Want to Know the True Condition of the Times.*
- ▶ E. Lutzer: "People Are Crying For Direction From The Pulpit."
- ▶ This Gen. ask: "Where were parents/pastors?"
- ▶ Church = 1-2 hours Sunday VS. School = 35 hours/wk
- ▶ Kids learning to love the wrong things!

- ▶ “When we took **prayers out** of schools, **guns came** into the schools,” said Mayor Eric Adams.
- ▶ “Don’t tell me about no separation of church and state. The State is the body. The Church is the heart. **You take the heart out of the body, the body dies,**” said Adams before adding, “I can’t separate my belief because I’m an elected official.”



HOW DO WE ENGAGE THIS BATTLE?

- Eph 6:10 NASB Finally, be *strong* in the Lord and in the *strength* of His *might*.
- “Strong” in the Lord = Renewed Relationship and Devotion to Him
- In the “Strength of His Might” = the Spirit driven, wisdom, gifting/enablement, strength, confidence, boldness

Conqueror or Coward?

Rev 21:6-8 ESV And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. (7) The **one who conquers** will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (8) But as for the **cowardly**, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Rom 1:16-17 NIV84

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (17) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

CALLED TO COURAGE WHERE WE LIVE DAY BY DAY

1Cor. 16:13 NASB *Be on the **alert**, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

“Father God, strengthen me and use me for Your work in reaching those around me for their salvation, encouragement, healing, new life.”