

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

THE APOSTLE PAUL  
ROMANS 12:15 (NLT)

**"...weep with those who weep."**

CHRISTIAN HIP HOP RECORDING ARTIST LECRAE, CITING THE PROPHET ISAIAH

"Learn to do good;  
seek justice,  
correct oppression;  
bring justice to the fatherless,  
and plead the widow's cause..."  
ISAIAH 1:17 (ESV)

DAVID THE PSALMIST & KING

PSALM 34:18 (NIV)

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN STATESMAN JOHN PERKINS, A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE BETHANY FAMILY

"John Perkins says things have gotten worse in recent years than they had been: 'I'm 90 years old and there's now more hate in this country than I've seen in 90 years.' "  
[https://www.somerset-kentucky.com/news/local-leaders-react-to-racial-tensions/article\\_402c1bf8-a20f-11ea-b5de-e318cab2778f.html](https://www.somerset-kentucky.com/news/local-leaders-react-to-racial-tensions/article_402c1bf8-a20f-11ea-b5de-e318cab2778f.html)

"Perkins says it perfectly: **'Only the power of Christ's crucifixion on the cross and the glory of His resurrection can heal the deep racial wounds in both black and white people in America.'** He was comforted by the biblical promise that God hears the cries of the innocent and loves the oppressed (Psalm 34:17-18; Luke 4:18-19).

Perkins realized that in the same way that his brother Clyde had been wrongly murdered, Christ had been as well. Perkins realized that Jesus too had faced a lynch mob and died on a tree, not unlike too many men in the state of Mississippi. Perkins realized that Jesus had not only forgiven his attackers, but prayed for them and loved them as well. This is the power of Christianity and the compelling nature of Perkins' story: in the face of hurt and persecution, like Jesus on the cross, we can say, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' "  
<http://harvardichthus.org/2015/04/love-is-the-final-fight-an-ode-to-john-m-perkins/>

"Injustice is an evil in society that must be fought."

"Love. No matter where I start, I always end up here."

"We work out the idea of redemption with redemptive living."

**"I am all for churches being a part of the nonviolent marches and protests that have happened in the wake of violent killings, but these protests happen only after a tragic event has taken place. I want the church to be what prevents these acts from ever happening. I want the church to be the community that is so dedicated to loving our neighbors, to caring for the poor and neglected, and to living out true reconciliation that these killings do not even take place."**

JOHN M. PERKINS, *Dream with Me: Race, Love, and the Struggle We Must Win*

A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

Almighty God,  
on this day you opened the way of eternal life  
to every race and nation  
by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit:  
Shed abroad this gift throughout the world  
by the preaching of the Gospel,  
that it may reach to the ends of the earth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/scot-mcknight/2020/two-prayers-for-pentecost-sunday.html>

EMAIL FROM PASTOR RICK WARREN

**THE CONTINUING SHAME OF RACISM & VIOLENCE IN OUR CULTURE**

Once again, an unarmed black American man has died needlessly in the streets as a police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd in Minneapolis. George was a strong Christian believer.

With each new incident, all of us are more outraged, and ashamed, and discouraged, and depressed that this kind of injustice is still happening to our own brothers and sisters in America in the 21st century.

I have made a video including an explanation of my feelings, what we need to do as a church family, and a prayer for all who are grieving, afraid, angry, discouraged, and depressed by this appalling trend.

Here's a link to the video here so you can post it on your social media and forward it to people you care about: [A Prayer for Justice & Peace](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrpCRImp2Y) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrpCRImp2Y>. Also, encourage people to watch my full message from two weeks ago: [A Faith That Treats Everyone With Respect](https://saddleback.com/watch/a-faith-that-works-when-life-doesn-t/a-faith-that-shows-respect-to-everyone). <saddleback.com/watch/a-faith-that-works-when-life-doesn-t/a-faith-that-shows-respect-to-everyone>

In Proverbs 31:8, God *commands* us to **“Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves; ensure justice for those who are dying.”** As an *All-Nations Congregation*, Saddleback must lead the way in speaking up, so please help me get these two messages out to everyone.

- PASTOR RICK

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

“But it falls on all of us, regardless of our race or station — including the majority of men and women in law enforcement who take pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day — to work together to create a ‘new normal’ in which the legacy of bigotry and unequal treatment no longer infects our institutions or our hearts.”

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/scot-mcknight/2020/june/how-then-shall-we-respond.html>

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*Abba, we pray for peace. We pray for justice. We pray for mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

Pastor Doug