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Dear Friends,

Pure religion that is undefiled before God is to watch over orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

You all must keep my statutes and laws, you and all the strangers that may dwell among you...

Leviticus 18:26

God is not the author of confusion but of peace. I Corinthians 14:33

Turn away from evil and spend your time in doing good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalms 34:14



I knew a guy in college days who ignored the clearly posted sign in front of the pier that simply said *Capacity: 1 ton*. His truck was 2 tons. When he reached the end of the pier and it began to crack from beneath him, it was too late to calculate simple math and impossible to reverse. There was no turning left or right or backing up. No going forward. Just... down. He swam to land and helplessly watched as the broken remains of the pier sank beneath his submerging truck. He survived. And maybe, who knows, he learned

something from it. This expensive and avoidable lesson is now a (sort of) funny story. What is happening on our southern border is beyond expensive, and is not simple and will never be funny. The only similarity is that they are both tragic and were avoidable.

We have been studying justice and righteousness. How do we do justice in the face of this present crisis? If you are not aware of the level of human tragedy now at our southern door, I do not fault you for not knowing. It is part of the evil of all this that such politically engineered chaos has not been properly communicated to the general public by the media. We all have work to do and families to care for. We simply don't know a lot about what is on the news. But what happens when the point of unavoidable clarity arrives and the exponential human suffering comes home to us? And

what are our responsibilities as the people of God?

When Katrina hit New Orleans, there was no surprise among knowledgeable people that the levies would not hold, and no mystery why. It was known that the money set aside to save the city from flooding had been regularly misused for over two decades. The media reported that it was all George Bush's fault. Few reported on the Democratic city government's malfeasance or the Louisiana Republican failure to stand for right action. For years now we all have known of the planned organized illegal drive to bring this influx of aliens into our borders. We have known for over three years about this plan, all done in the name of caring for the needy. It was set in motion by the left with the passive cooperation of many on the right for political rather than humanitarian goals. One eye-witness reporter I spoke with said, "There are far more children than adults to care for them. What are being reported as children held in cages are necessary containment areas in order to be able to keep these children safe and be sure they are being given minimal care. But no one can comfort them on the level they need. And the politicians who have done nothing to prevent this mess and who have done everything to make it occur now want to blame the American people for being heartless. It is now far beyond the level which common sense adult people could address even if they were here to try. It is total insanity."

Like the overweight truck driven heedlessly onto the weak pier, we have driven a much too weighty burden onto our borders with no safe practical or humane answer. There is no turning Left or Right. There is no going back. The Democratic agenda is always easily discerned so we know what they want. But the Republicans are so interested in making the Trump administration fail that they will do ultimately nothing to alleviate the issue. The levies don't get fixed, and the flood comes. The wall doesn't get built, and another bigger far more tragic flood comes. In both cases foolish politicians posture and squawk but do nothing. Children suffer. Chaos increases. And most of us whether out of ignorance or sad indifference carry on as usual. What is the way forward? What can we do?

We cannot correct the feckless politicians. They will have to ultimately answer to God. Vote them out, some say. And vote in who? The Republicans were voted in to balance the budget and stop abortion. We see what they are really all about. They increased spending and refunded Planned Parenthood. Abortion is directly related to this current crisis. The missing workers who would have been present to carry the system forward to pay into social security, keeping it solvent and to fill the labor force needs, are not present to do any of it. They were all aborted. We have sown the wind and are now about to reap the whirlwind.

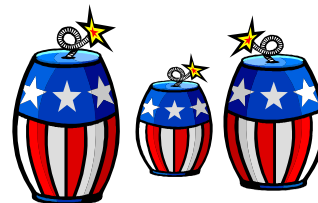
So what must we do to act righteously? Pray. If you feel put off by that simple statement then you need to pray all the more. For the first place to begin in such evil times is to turn to the God whom we have ignored, dishonored, and blasphemed, and to ask His mercy and beg His super-

natural intervention. Second, find a charity you can trust. *Samaritan's Purse*, *Compassion International*, *Feed the Children*, to name a few. Give as you can. But don't stop there. Add to your giving some form of doing good. Maybe contact local churches in the McAllen, Texas area and see how you might help them to serve the needs there, even if it is limited to prayer and loving support for them from a distance.

And finally, for some who may be free to go to the site of the suffering, go. We must trust the Holy Spirit to turn straw into gold through our seemingly meager efforts. But He will do just that as we act in faith. It is our responsibility to love in action. It is His to make five loaves and two fishes feed the multitudes. God is moving the nations into position for the great coming harvest. Let us seize our opportunities for good in the face of evil and act in fresh creative ways to reach the nations. Politicians are driving our national truck onto a collapsing pier in hopes of using the chaos and suffering for political reasons. God sits above it all and uses the evil of men to fulfill His designs which include the saving of the nations and the healing of the people. Daniel was an innocent boy forced out of Judah into Babylon for wicked men's purposes. But God had greater better reasons. God will turn the evil for great good as we stand in the gap and obey Him.



Closing Thoughts...



You and I are given the glorious opportunity to stand in the gap in prayer. We are entrusted with the privilege of listening to God and praying into the earth what is the Father's heart in every situation we are called to give attention to, releasing His power and wisdom into battle against the enemy's manipulation and chaos. We are to be lights in the world as conduits of the Holy Spirit's Presence through us. We serve as kings and priests. Take this letter into your prayer closet. Listen. Then do what you hear the Lord say.

In His Joy, Clay & Mary



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