

**New Life Community Church Bible Study
July 29, 2020**

John MacArthur - Who's to Blame For the Riots?

Icebreaker: What do you see?



Summary:

MacArthur talks about humanity being wicked in character (v. 10-12), conversation (v. 13-14), and conduct (v. 15-16)

Romans 3:10-20 No One Is Righteous

10 As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good, not even one.”^[a]

13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”^[b]

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”^[c]

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”^[d]

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know.”^[e]

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”^[f]

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. **20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 1:24-32 God’s Judgement

24 Therefore **God gave them over** in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. **25** For they exchanged the truth of God for ^[g]a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed ^[h]forever. Amen.

26 For this reason **God gave them over** to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, **27** and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over** to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are gossips*, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; **32** and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Mark 7: 20-23 Condition of the Human Heart

20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. **21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, **22** deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. **23** All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

MacArthur - "You are not wicked because of what happened to you on the outside, you're wicked because of who you are on the inside."

The greatest restraint against evil is the fear of God.

Proverbs 16:6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.

If humanity is so evil and destructive, how does God expect us to survive and get through life? He puts restraints into human life.

Four Restraints

1. Conscience - Romans 2:14-15

2. Family - Deut. 6:6-7, Ephesians 6:1-9

Discussion:

How does a person shut down their conscience?

How is the family considered a restraint for evil? How is this diminished?

3. Government - Romans 13:1-4

4. The Church - Matthew 5:13-16

Discussion:

Does this mean that we should never resist authority?

“The one time we have a right to disobey the authority and the government is when the government commands us not to do something God commanded us to do. Or when the government commands us to do something God commanded us not to do.”

John MacArthur - “The Christian’s Responsibility to Government Part 1”

Has the church lost its “saltiness?”

Who, according to MacArthur, is to blame for the riots?