

To the Brothers and Sisters of the Solid Rock Association. After much worrying, prayer, and meditation, I will attempt to fulfill the request of writing the circular letter with the help of the Lord.

It has been more difficult than I ever could have imagined. I hope that my message and meaning are clear and understood by all.

There is no doubt that our world is changing rapidly. I hear the voice of the wicked screaming loudly from every platform they can. Trying to teach our neighbors and children that right is wrong and wrong is right. That sin is no longer sin if you convince yourself you have good intentions. We witnessed our government demand that we close our church doors while they found it necessary to keep open the liquor stores. I've been watching churches argue with other churches over how to handle Covid 19. Church members are arguing within their own churches, because they don't agree with each other on how to handle church services.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The devil's job is to cause confusion and to deceive you. He tells the old, it's too late don't bother, you've waited too long. He tells the young to just wait, it's too early, have fun. He tells you that you can be just as good of a Christian at home and that you don't need to go to church. But I want you to know that, although that can be true, you won't be. I wouldn't be. We are all weak and need strength from the church, and our Brothers and Sisters. Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

I hear the voice of the wicked getting louder by the day and I wonder, is the voice of the Christians getting louder? Is the Church shouting as loud as we can? Though we can't change the perception of Christians to all men and women, it's even more important to walk upright and to live righteously for all to see.

Matthew 5:12-14 12: Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt had lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

I believe that this applies to the Christian, as well as the lost. Are we all still hungry and on fire for the Lord? Is the joy of being a Christian showing in our lives? Do I have to tell people that I'm a Christian, or can they see it in my everyday walk? I remember when Jesus Christ saved me, I was going to college with a friend of mine that wasn't a Christian. I was reading the Bible as much as I could and was in awe of the things I read. I remember every car ride to school telling him of the great things that the Lord had done, wanting to shake him and tell him what he was missing out on. I had found that Pearl of great price in Matthew 13:45.

Church be not deceived. The approach today may be new, but the devil's message is the same. To keep the church separated. He wants the church fighting among themselves, arguing over minor doctrinal differences instead of the many things we agree with each other on. Today, he uses a virus to cause division and tomorrow, if time lasts, he will use something else.

Christians are quieter if we are separated. The wicked are only getting louder, trying to deceive our children. We must find a way to be humble, yet bold for the Lord. To use all the tools that we can to get the message of Jesus Christ our Savior out to a lost and dying world. I'm reminded of when God told Gideon to go and whisper in the ears of his army. Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him depart. I believe the times ahead will need the church to be willing to stand strong, be bold for the Lord, as he was for each and every one of us. And be ready always to give an answer to everyman that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. I Peter 3:15. I love you and keep you in my prayers.

Your Brother in Christ

Elder Michael Newsom