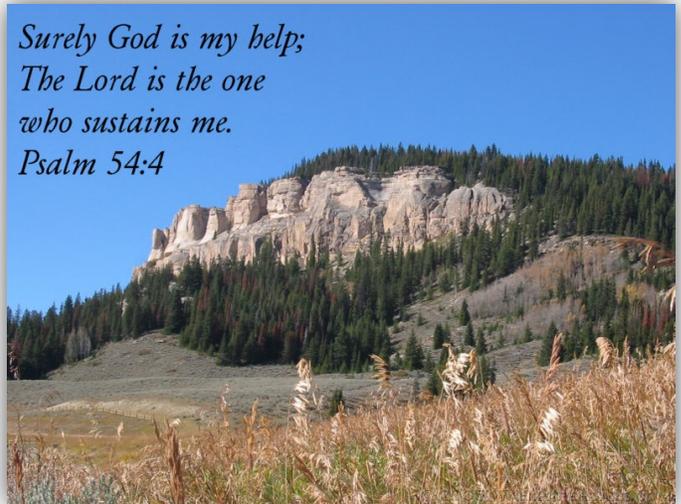


# FAMILYLIFE®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.



*Surely God is my help;  
The Lord is the one  
who sustains me.  
Psalm 54:4*

Dear Friends,

We are hearing from many people regarding the Supreme Court's ruling that effectively redefines marriage in America. There is much anger and fear in what we are hearing. We wanted to write to you quickly and encourage you to stand strong and be courageous!

It has been a tough few weeks to be in a ministry to marriage and families. Between the media's rhapsodic fawning over transgender issues and the Supreme Court's decision we have seen the Biblical view of gender and marriage trampled by our culture. But we urge you to not be fearful or discouraged.

God is not surprised or dismayed by any of this. He is not wringing His hands in despair. He is the one and only Holy God who sits on His throne. He alone created us and the institution of marriage. He alone defines both. God's word is clear in Hebrews 13:4, *"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."*

We are not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God to heal broken hearts and transform lives. We must also be slow to condemn because while we were sinners Christ died for us! We must be quick to extend that same love and grace in which we now live. It is for this reason that we need not live in fear or become bitter. This world is not our home and we must be faithful to press on in the mission to which we have been called.

We are not unaware that we face dark days ahead. It is entirely likely that a ministry such as ours will come under attack as prejudiced and hate filled though we are neither. We are reminded of Jesus'

words in John 9:62, *"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."* For this reason we covet your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we travel this new road. Only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit will we know how to proceed. We desire to treat all people as Jesus would - with love and grace.

Let us be honest and admit that we are not alone. You, too, will be called upon to declare your allegiance to the truth of God. We urge you to be loving and kind in your response. Let the words of 1 Peter 3:14-16 be your guide as well as our own, *"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."*

In order to help you and others to do this my team has put together a special page on FamilyLife.com. Check it out and recommend it to your friends and family. You can find it at <http://www.familylife.com/homosexuality-and-same-sex-marriage>.

We rejoice in Jesus, the hope of our salvation!