

### ***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

Our missionaries take the word of Jesus into places most Americans cannot imagine. Right now, you and I are seeing people in dire situations, people in fear, in flight, in fight. I could have been born in Ukraine, and so could you. We could have been the mother with small children taking refuge in a subway station, her husband gone to fight. We could be in a 20-mile line waiting to cross the border to safety. You or I could be the elderly in the bombed apartment, the care facility, alone and scared with support and food failing. We could be... but the Ukrainians are. Does Christian witness only say, "Jesus died for your sins?" That is true, fundamental, but the Gospel of forgiveness is full of much, much more for people who are in hopeless situations. From theologian N.T. Wright:

"The picture of Jesus as the coming judge is the central feature of another absolutely vital and nonnegotiable Christian belief: that there will indeed be a judgment in which the creator God will set the world right once and for all. The word judgment carries negative overtones for a good many people in our liberal and postliberal world. We need to remind ourselves that throughout the Bible, not least in the Psalms, God's coming judgment is a good thing, something to be celebrated, longed for, yearned over. It causes people to shout for joy and the trees of the field to clap their hands (Psalm 98:8). In a world of systematic injustice, bullying, violence, arrogance, and oppression, the thought that there might come a day when the wicked are firmly put in their place and the poor and weak are given their due is the best news there can be. Faced with a world in rebellion, a world full of exploitation and wickedness, a good God **must** be a God of judgment." (*Surprised by Hope*, 117).

The fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is centered on God's coming judgment upon unrepentant sinners and His promised rescue for all who trust in Him. Our missionaries are in places of suffering we comfy Americans cannot imagine. Dear God, hasten the Day of Jesus' coming in judgment and rescue. We pray You give urgency to our sense of mission, wisdom to our missionaries to speak the right words, and extend mercies to those suffering in Ukraine and throughout the world. For Jesus' sake. Amen.