




**EXCLUSIVE**  
**COL. PETERS: FOX NEWS HAS BECOME A "PROPAGANDA MACHINE"**  
Lt. Col. Ralph Peters (Ret.) | U.S. Army

TONIGHT ON CUOMO  
**SARAH SANDERS**  
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AC360



# THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

EPHESIANS 1:18-20

- You don't have to look far to find a reason to be cranky today. It's easy to blame outside forces for your bitterness and cynicism, or your lost dreams. Whether it's something that has a tangible impact on you (a boss, malpractice, traffic) or is more abstract (culture, politics, the future), you will always be able to find somebody or something else to blame.
- Do you want to be mad at the world? Anger, vengeance, and self-pity are incredibly alluring and self-gratifying feelings. It is our natural response – in the same way that scratching a mosquito bite feels so good.
- Remember, your first instinct is not necessarily your best (Ecc. 7:9, Prov. 15:18, 29:11, James 4:1-2). It might feel “right” in the moment to run someone off the road, but...

# REASONS TO BE MAD



# WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

ECCLESIASTES 11:8

1 PETER 4:12ff

JOHN 16:33, 14:27

- As long as there is money, there will be people who do anything to get it (Ecc. 4:4). There will also be people who lose it or are born into unfortunate circumstances (Matthew 26:11).
- As long as there are positions of power to be had, people will abuse them. Government is corrupt. Don't be shocked (Ecc. 5:8).
- Racism will always exist.
- Sickness will always exist.
- Businesses fail. Investments are lost. Banks crash. Markets tank.
- Wicked people are a forgone conclusion (Matt. 5:10-12).
- Be careful what you say, because it could always get worse. Remember, the world has been bad enough to warrant near-total devastation (Gen. 6:5-8).

# EXPECTATIONS



# **WHAT CAN I CONTROL?**

The path to joy is found in learning to control what you can – yourself. If you're waiting around for other people to change or for conditions to be perfect, get ready for a long wait!

- The Ephesian letter applies this concept to a number of different situations that are still relevant.
- 4:1-3 – Walk in a worthy manner with humility and patience. This calm approach to our challenges will differentiate us from the world.
- 4:29-32 – No unwholesome speech, but only edification. Do you speak with such discipline and circumspection with the people who annoy you? Politicians? Bad neighbors? A boss? A spouse?
- 5:22ff – Speaking of spouses, your responsibility is yours! If Christ loved us the way we sometimes “love” each other...
- 6:1-9 – Parents, children, workers, employers.
- 3:14-21 – Optimism pervades the life of one who has the hope of God’s calling.

# ANSWERS IN EPHESIANS