

Challenge for America: 2022 Is the Year to Take Back Ground

I write these words as a declaration rather than a prediction, as a proclamation rather than a prophecy. Put another way, I'm issuing a challenge and encouraging a faith-filled mindset: Let 2022 be a year of taking back ground!

It's clear, of course, that every year is mixed, with progress in some areas and regress in others.

And it's clear that, until Jesus returns, this world will be messed up, marked by pain and suffering and sin.

But that doesn't mean that we simply accept defeat as inevitable. Or that we embrace a mentality of hopelessness. Or that we develop a theology of pessimism (as in, "It's only going to get worse before Jesus returns, so why even bother to try?")

Absolutely not. To the contrary, as I've emphasized countless times before, the Bible encourages us to have the mentality of overcomers and victors. And our perspective is, no matter how dark the surrounding world might be, God's light shines in that darkness—and the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5).

And so, as we start this new year, I want to encourage you to look for ways to "take back ground," by which I mean to look for ways to turn things right side up. To make a positive difference. To undo something Satan has done. To recover something that has been stolen (I'm speaking metaphorically here). To turn a negative into a positive. To win a victory where there has been defeat.

If not now, then when? How much more dire do things need to be

before we see a concerted pushback?

In the coming weeks and months, I plan to document as many of these victories as I can during my daily radio show, keeping a running tab of encouragements and positive reports. And even though there will surely be many setbacks, the more we can focus on the victories, the better our attitude will be. The stronger our faith will be. And the greater our vision will be.

And these victories will come in both secular and spiritual settings.

Last year, country music star Morgan Wallen was canceled after a neighbor filmed his drunken rant in which he used [a racial slur] while talking with a friend.

As reported by Christian Toto on the *Daily Wire*:

- His record label suspended him.
- iHeartMedia yanked his songs from the massive platform.
- Cumulus Media did the same, as did Pandora and SiriusXM.
- CMT canceled his music.
- The Country Music Awards disinvited him from its annual showcase

All this happened despite no accusations of racism in his past and despite a very humble, heartfelt apology. He also “donated \$500,000 to various Black causes.” And, “He admitted himself into a rehab facility and shuttered his upcoming concert tour.”

Yet this was not enough for the cancel censors, and the door slammed shut on this young talent.

Except that it didn't. As Toto notes, “He crushed 2021 by having the number one selling album of the year, ‘Dangerous:

The Double Album.'” From canceled to No. 1!

What’s more, teaming up with the Black hip-hop artist Lil Durk, Wallen is now on the top of hip-hop charts with their song, “Broadway Girls.” What do you know? (For the record, I’m not celebrating this song as if it were gospel pure; I’m celebrating the pushback against cancel culture.)

I expect to see this happen more and more in the days ahead, just as we have been seeing for several years now, as more and more people say, “Enough is enough.”

This is what happened in the elections in Virginia, as large numbers of concerned parents pushed back against the growing cultural madness.

And this is what is starting to happen in the NCAA, as student athletes, parents of those student athletes and even officials have decided that they cannot *not* push back.

As reported on Fox News, “Cynthia Millen stepped down last week after officiating USA Swimming meets for over three decades. Her decision came days before the U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Championships in Greensboro, N.C.”

This was due to the outrage of biological male swimmer Will “Lia” Thomas competing unfairly against females, based on Thomas’s alleged female identity.

As Millen said on *Tucker Carlson*, “The fact is that swimming is a sport in which bodies compete against bodies. Identities do not compete against identities. Men are different from women, men swimmers are different from women, and they will always be faster than women.”

Will others soon follow suit? Will the NCAA have an awakening (and repent of its absurd wokeness)? Will the tide turn from the embrace of cultural insanity to compassion for those struggling with gender confusion coupled with fairness for

female sports? Will reality prevail over perception?

And speaking of reality, Rasmussen Reports notes that, “The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone and online survey finds that 75% of American Adults agree that there are only two genders, male and female. That total includes 63% who Strongly Agree. Eighteen percent (18%) disagree.”

Additionally, “By more than a 3-to-1 margin, Americans oppose a key educational policy of the transgender movement. Sixty-eight percent (68%) believe schools and teachers should not be allowed to counsel students on their sexual and gender identities without parental knowledge or consent. Only 19% believe schools should be allowed to engage in such counseling without parental consent.”

Let the pushback continue!

As you will see in my newest book, *The Silencing of the Lambs: The Ominous Rise of Cancel Culture and How We Can Overcome It* (due out March 1), I am not just filled with optimism. I am also overflowing with gospel strategies, visions and ideas.

But these gospel strategies came about as a direct result of spending time in the presence of the Lord—meaning that God is not short of visions and plans and dreams.

And if you belong to Him, those plans include you too. You can make a positive difference in 2022! {eoa}

✖ For more information on how you can fight back against cancel culture, make sure to get a copy of what Charisma founder and CEO Stephen Strang says is his most important book yet. *God and Cancel Culture*, released Sept. 7, is now available wherever fine books are sold. Order it at .

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