



Joy in Loving the Antagonist

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We swim through all cultural currents

Surrender, sink, or swim?

Philippians 1:27-30

May 19, 2024

Philippians 1 shows how to swim

Know who you are

Know the times

The gospel can speak a word of hope to the metamodernist mood. You are flawed, yes; you are a sinner, incapable of simply fixing yourself and becoming the person you want to be. But God's mercies are "new every morning" (Lam. 3:23), and there is deep and abiding hope found in Jesus, into whose image we are daily "being transformed" (2 Cor. 3:18), and one day, "we will all be changed" (1 Cor. 15:51). – Benjamin Vincent, *"Goodbye Postmodernism, Hello Metamodernism"*

Philippians 1 shows how to swim

Walk worthy of Jesus

Nursing grievances is tacky and pathetic. What's more, it's bad for your soul. As Peter says, the passions of the flesh wage war against your soul. Gripping and complaining about [antagonists] is like drinking curdled milk. Don't do it. Instead, we must be clear-eyed and hopeful, building our families, churches, and institutions, and then fighting the good fight and waging the good warfare as though Christ is reigning from heaven—because He is. – Joe Rigney, *"Beware the Fellowship of Grievance"*

Stand firm in grace

Do life together

Contend for gospel truth

Reject fear

Remember the promise of suffering

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FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

The screenshot displays the Logos Bible Software interface. The main window shows the Lexham English Bible with Greek text and English interlinear text. Various discourse features are highlighted with colored boxes and labels, such as 'VPAP-PNM', 'RF1APM', 'CAM B', 'NNPM', 'NGSM', 'JDSN', 'NDSF', 'NDPM', 'NDPF', 'NDSM', 'NGSF', 'DGNP', 'NGPN', 'DGSF', 'NGSF', 'DGNP', 'NGPN', 'DGSF', 'NGSF', 'DGNP', 'NGPN', 'DGSF', 'NGSF'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'RESOURCE' menu with options like 'Addresssee labels', 'Ask the Author', 'Bible text only', 'Community tags', 'Corresponding search results', 'Corresponding selection', 'Corresponding words', 'Emphasize active lemmas', 'Propositional outlines', 'Speaker labels', 'COMMUNITY NOTES', 'CORRESPONDING NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS', and 'NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS'. The right window shows the 'Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament: Dataset Documentation' page with a 'Usage' section and a 'Discourse Features Visual Filter' section.

Usage

With the Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament dataset, you can apply visual filters to easily identify discourse features in New Testament interlinear texts. You can also search for instances of a particular discourse device in a single interlinear Bible or across all of your interlinear Bibles.

Discourse Features Visual Filter

The easiest way to use the Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament dataset is with the Discourse features (Greek) visual filter set. This visual filter set applies discourse markers and outline structure to your interlinear Bible. To use the Discourse features visual filter:

1. In Logos, open an interlinear Bible to the New Testament.
2. Click the visual filters dropdown menu.
3. Check **Discourse features (Greek)** to display all Greek discourse markers. Alternately, you can customize this display by checking individual discourse features.

Example: Lexham English Bible displaying Greek discourse features:

This screenshot shows the Lexham English Bible with Greek text and English interlinear text. Various discourse features are highlighted with colored boxes and labels, such as 'VPAP-PNM', 'RF1APM', 'CAM B', 'NNPM', 'NGSM', 'JDSN', 'NDSF', 'NDPM', 'NDPF', 'NDSM', 'NGSF', 'DGNP', 'NGPN', 'DGSF', 'NGSF', 'DGNP', 'NGPN', 'DGSF', 'NGSF'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Discourse features (Greek)' menu with options like 'Propositions', 'Point (Clause Level)', 'Counter Point (Clause Level)', 'Point (Paragraph Level)', 'Counter Point (Paragraph Level)', 'Forward-Pointing Reference', 'Forward-Pointing Target', 'Meta-comment', 'Attention-Getter', 'Redundant Quotative Frame', 'Historical Present', and 'Tail-Head Linkage'. The main window shows the text of Revelation 2:26-29.

I can convince
you that God
doesn't exist...

Ugh! A
Christian.



One of the hardest to love is the antagonist.

FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

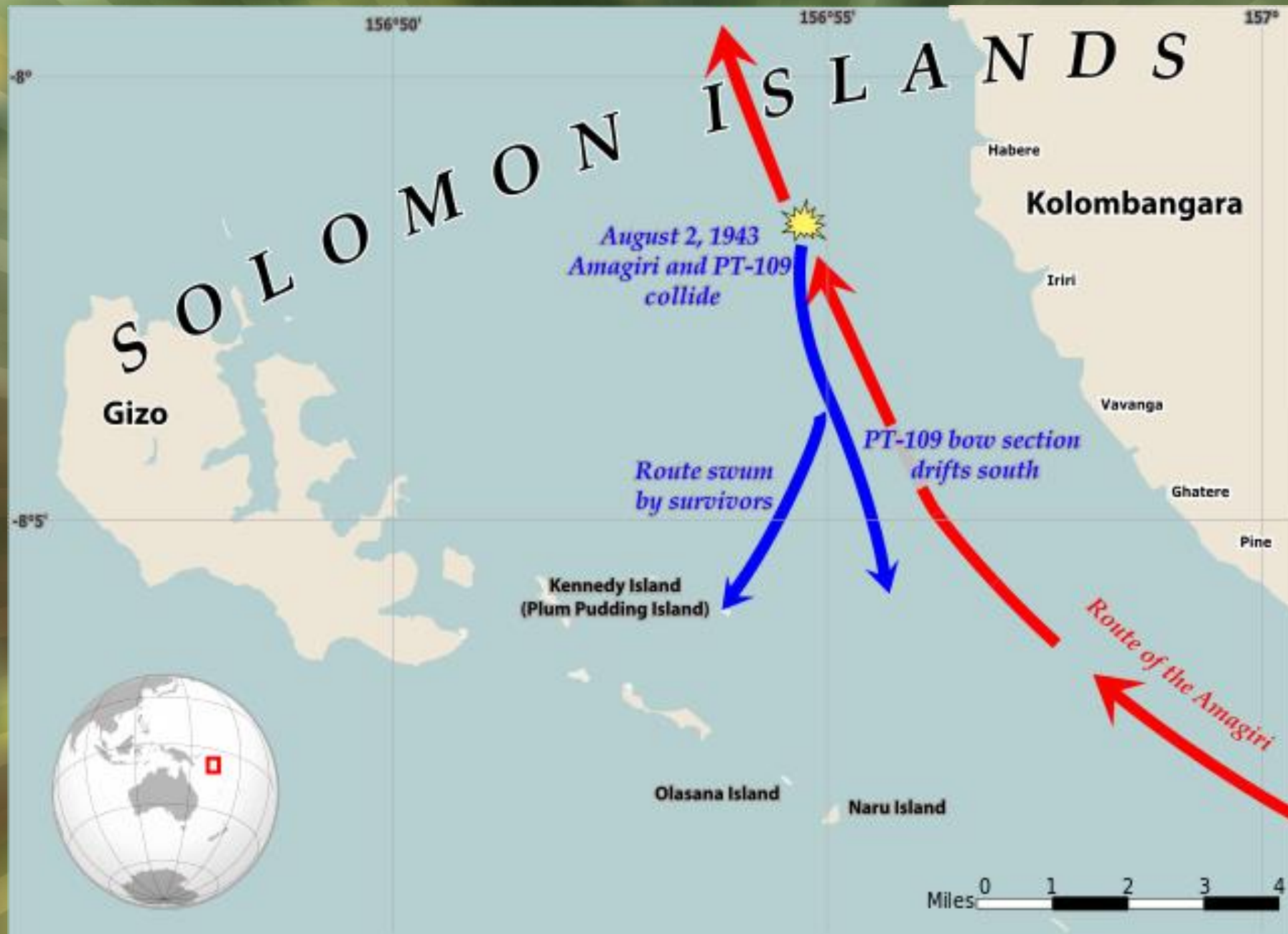


Collective demonization is the punishment of all who dare to disagree with those in power; it is the erasure of individualism by stigmatizing and punishing dissenters. And you don't even have to be a dissenter – you can be punished if you're friends with one! [As a result], if you apply for a job in the secular world, or expect to move up the corporate ladder, or have influence in politics or education, you have to ask yourself, *Am I woke enough to be seen as virtuous? Am I clapping hard enough and loud enough?* – Erwin Lutzer, *No Reason to Hide: Standing for Christ in a Collapsing Culture*





courtesy US Navy



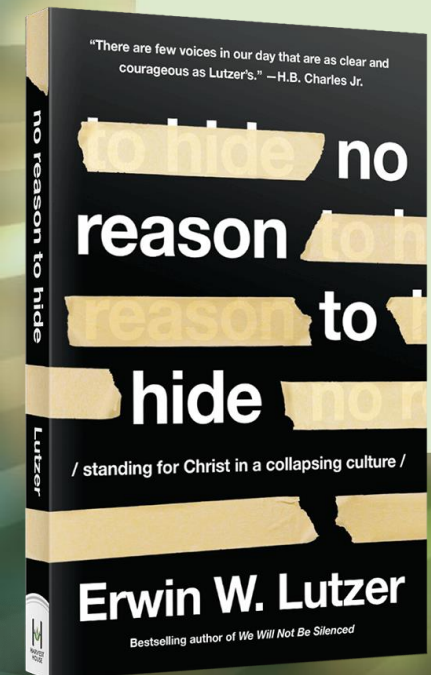
courtesy JFK50



courtesy JFK Library

When your boat is blown out of the water, you have a choice: allow yourself to be captured by the enemy, sink, or swim. If you refuse to surrender, you can disappear silently beneath the waves or muster the courage to swim to shore and become a hero. Perhaps a reluctant hero, to be sure, but a hero nonetheless. And through this courage, you can remain a faithful witness to Christ. This moment in history calls for heroes, reluctant or otherwise.

– Erwin Lutzer, *No Reason to Hide*



only 3 options

Erwin Lutzer:

Surrender

Gary Hambrick:

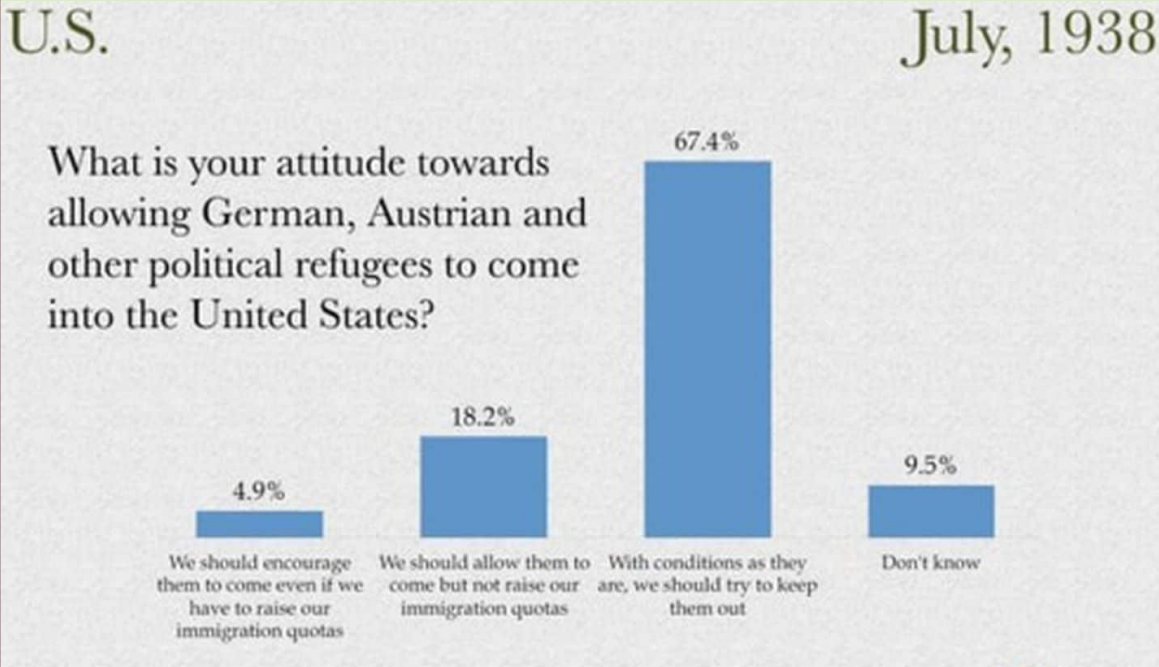
Complicit

Sink

Swim

Complacent

Courageous



Sir Winston Churchill
We shall defend our island, whatever the cost

27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, 28 not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. 29 For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

Philippians 1 CSB

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPH



PHILIPPIANS

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM

²⁷ Just  As citizens of heaven,  life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

Philippians 1 CSB

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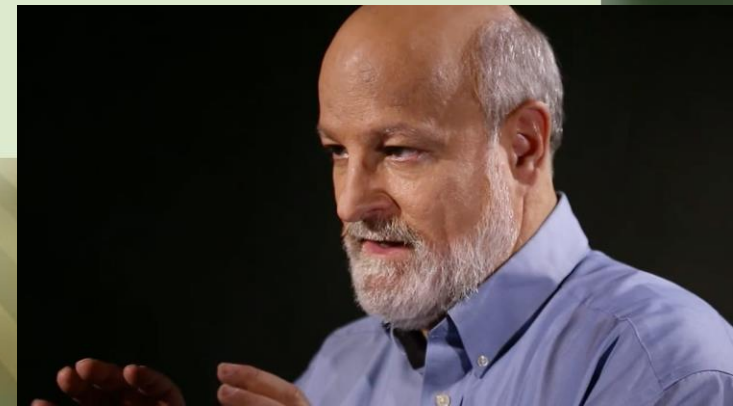
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1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM



Our hope is rooted in eternal fellowship with God in an environment where justice and righteousness reign without end. The world's fallen state will be dealt with once and for all...Our faith is not only about fixing what was wrong; it also looks *forward* to the full restoration of all that creation lost when Adam and Eve rebelled against God...This hope in Christ should be the central focus of our message. We can be critical of the world around us; however, if we do not share the fullness of our hope and with the correct tone, then we may not have given the defense of our faith we ought to give. – Darrell Bock, “A Good Word”



I don't think I've found a Christian who was so at ease about this. You seem very reasonable. – man from Pennsylvania



courtesy leftseat

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Philippians 1 CSB

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⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, *Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5 CSB

27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

Philippians 1 CSB

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Philippians 1 CSB

Metamodernism

**Apocalyptic expectation followed by hope.
Upside-down worldview creation.
Fixation on self-identity.**

Metamodernism

Apocalyptic expectation followed by hope.

Upside-down worldview creation.

Fixation on self-identity.



Modern: history moves toward a (non-biblical) point.



Postmodern: history has no point or absolutes.



Metamodern: moving toward bad; then all good.

Why should this matter to the church? It matters because one of the most essential elements of a worldview is its expectations for the future. Today's young people expect things to get worse before they get better and feel a real burden to act quickly to create [the ideal] world. – Benjamin Vincent, “Goodbye Postmodernism, Hello Metamodernism”



Metamodernism

Apocalyptic expectation followed by hope.

Upside-down worldview creation.

Fixation on self-identity.

metamodern



logic





courtesy crystalalmana; nickelodeon

Metamodernism

Apocalyptic expectation followed by hope.

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metamodern



logic



In her book *The Secular Creed*, Rebecca McLaughlin shows that antagonists, especially those who term themselves “post-Christian,” still hold to ethical principles like the weak holding the strong accountable. They think such principles are basic moral common sense but asking them questions exposes that these ethics have come to us from Christian truth.



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Philippians 1 CSB

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On the positive side, young people are far more willing to speak openly about the mental and emotional challenges they face and the burdens they bear. The dark side of this shift, however, is the sense of paralysis that often accompanies it. Perhaps this sense of fatalistic determinism helps explain why the rate of suicide has tripled for adolescents and risen nearly 80 percent for high schoolers in the last decade...Buried beneath wry, self-deprecating humor, many of my students feel it is impossible to escape the flaws that their past has built into them.

Metamodernism


Apocalyptic expectation followed by hope.

Upside-down worldview creation.

Fixation on self-identity.

Once again, the gospel can speak a word of hope to the metamodernist mood. You are flawed, yes; you are a sinner, incapable of simply fixing yourself and becoming the person you want to be. But God's mercies are "new every morning" (Lam. 3:23), and there is deep and abiding hope found in Jesus, into whose image we are daily "being transformed" (2 Cor. 3:18), and one day, "we will all be changed" (1 Cor. 15:51). – Benjamin Vincent, "Goodbye Postmodernism, Hello Metamodernism"





**²⁷ Just one thing:
As citizens of heaven,
live your life worthy
of the gospel of Christ.**

Philippians 1 CSB

¹ Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4 CSB

Which best characterizes Christians who care about truth?



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Ephesians 4 CSB

¹⁰ Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father.

Colossians 1 CSB

Colossians 1 CSB

¹⁰ Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father.



We must refuse to play the Grievance Olympics. For starters, the devil has already stacked that particular deck. Christians will never outcompete the professional members of the Fellowship of the Grievance. And even if we could, the judges of those particular competitions have...buried justice and righteousness beneath a steaming pile of toxic empathy, sexual insanity, and weaponized pity. Unless you've completely abandoned yourself to your sexual appetites, you have no hope of medaling.



Not only that, but nursing grievances is tacky and pathetic. What's more, it's bad for your soul. As Peter says, the passions of the flesh wage war against your soul. Gripping and complaining about [antagonists] is like drinking curdled milk. Don't do it. Instead, we must be clear-eyed and hopeful, building our families, churches, and institutions, and then fighting the good fight and waging the good warfare as though Christ is reigning from heaven—because He is. – Joe Rigney, “Beware the Fellowship of Grievance”



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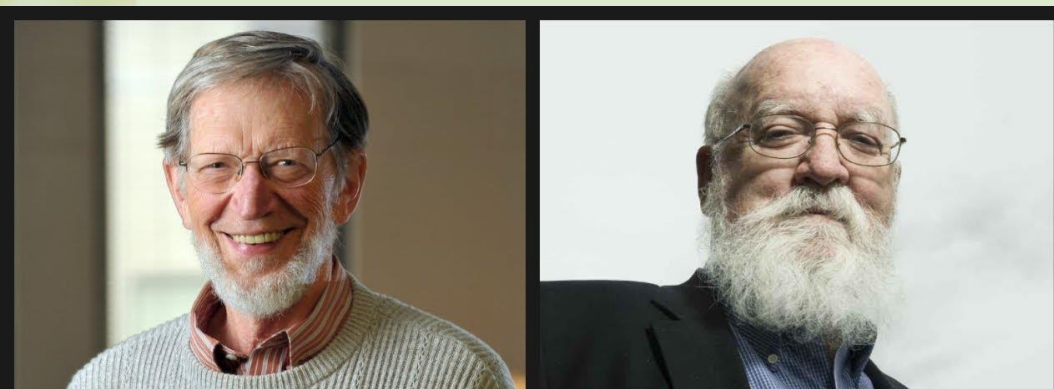
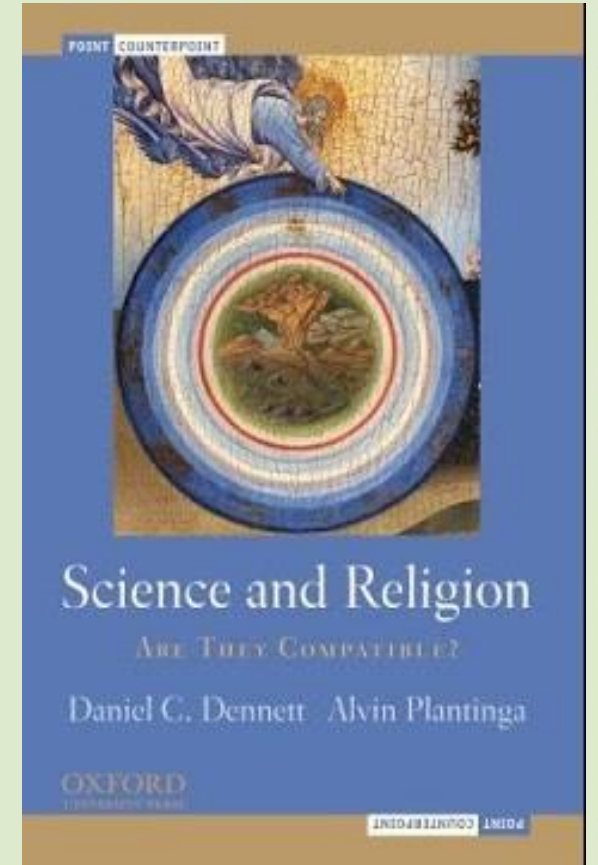
Philippians 1 CSB



It's Story
TIME



For those of you who do not know, on February 21st, the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association – the main professional body of American philosophers – hosted a kind of debate. I say “kind of debate” because one philosopher gave a paper, the other commented, the first philosopher replied, and the floor opened for questions.



ALVIN PLANTINGA VS DANIEL DENNETT

courtesy APS; Oxford Press

The debate was between Alvin Plantinga and Daniel Dennett. Plantinga is one of the founders of the Society of Christian Philosophers and one of the fathers of the current desecularization of philosophy. He is widely regarded – even by his critics – as one of the finest epistemologists of the last fifty years and one of the finest philosophers of religion since the Medieval period. Daniel Dennett is one of the New Atheists and is a well-known proponent of atheistic Darwinism and critic of religion. He is widely regarded – even by his critics – as one of the most important early philosophers of mind that opened the field to cognitive science and evolutionary biology. He has contributed enormously to the serious study of the mind and its relationship to the brain.

3:08 pm – Now Plantinga approaches his thesis...that naturalism is a quasi-religion and science contradicts it. One cannot rationally accept both naturalism and evolution.

3:10 pm – The key claim: naturalistic evolution has no possible tendency to select for true beliefs. I am radically simplifying the argument; please forgive me.

3:15 pm – Plantinga argues, following Pat Churchland, that in evolution “Truth, whatever that is, gets the hindmost.” Plantinga holds that if our faculties aren’t truth-tracking then our belief in evolution has a defeater. As a result, we should reject the conjunction of naturalism and evolution. Dennett is shaking his head and continues to appear amused. Imagine Santa with a sense for the absurd and ironic and a strong snarky streak.

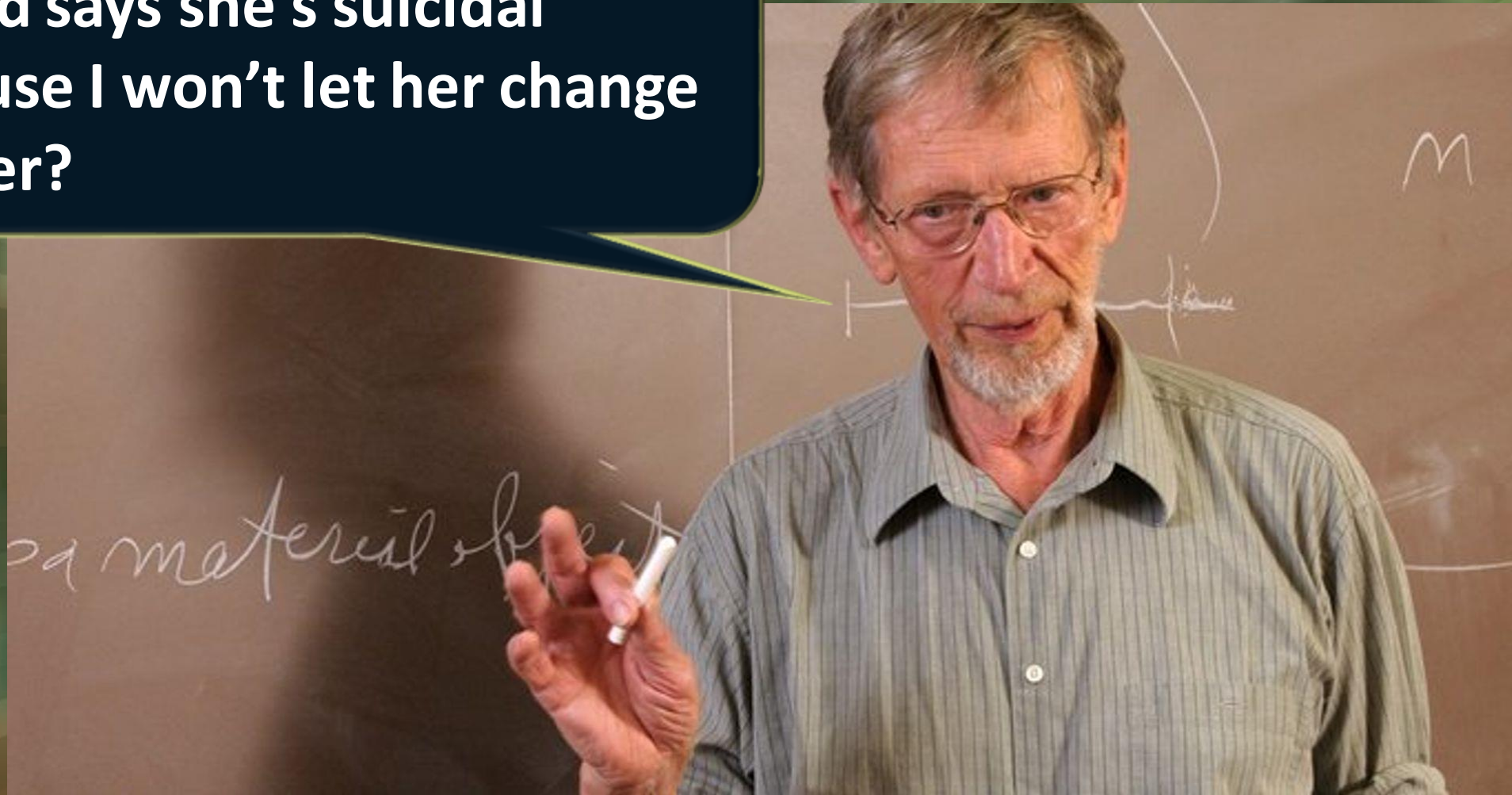
3:17 pm – I have heard the Plantinga argument from sites on the internet. I’m at a loss to predict how Dennett will reply. I saw him discussing what appeared to be his comments with Stephanie Lewis (the wife of the late, great metaphysician, David Lewis). Perhaps he has something interesting up his sleeve. I will be disappointed if he doesn’t.

3:29 pm – Dennet replies, calling theistic belief a fairy tale. He thinks theistic belief can corrupt our common epistemological fabric. He shows a slide mocking the eschatological views of Christians. He calls theism an unrespectable position and compares it to astrology. He says it is irrational and doesn't deserve respect. Now he's getting explicitly insulting. As he gets nasty, a cold pall covers the room. He compares theism to holocaust deniers. Things have gone off the rails. All Plantinga must do to beat Dennett now is to reply with grace. For Plantingian dry wit, this should be easy.

3:52 pm – I have just realized that Dennett is talking far too long. The session is supposed to end in 8 minutes. Dennett is ending with a joke, an alternative to traditional Christian Ichthus fish. He notes that it is an acronym and so he tries to come up with a Latin acronym for Darwin. It translates as follows: “Destroy the author of worlds to discover the nature of the universe.” This was his last response. Basically, he is talking about murdering God. Dennett has revealed a deep wickedness in his character. I will never take him seriously as a philosopher again.

3:55 pm – Plantinga begins. He claims that he isn't clear as to how what Dennett said bore on Plantinga's claim. He is unphased and was clearly prepared for this. He is exposing the point that Dennett only told stories and really didn't make an argument against Plantinga's claim. This is a wonderful way to reply. Ignore the profound insults that culminated in a suggestion that we kill God to understand the universe. Appear un-phased and focus on the philosophy. Dennett was classless and built a house of cards. Plantinga is only focusing on the argument. A Goliath ad hominem attack is felled by the simple stone of careful analysis.

Should I stand firm on truth if my kid says she's suicidal because I won't let her change gender?





**My right arm is evil.
It keeps me from enjoying
mental health.
It's always in the way when I
sleep on my side.**

27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

Philippians 1 CSB

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Philippians 1 CSB

Greek: εἷς πνεῦμα μιᾷ ψυχῇ heis pneuma mia psyche

Mia rarely = “one;” it’s unity where separate things are brought together.

Psyche usually = “soul;” probably means “life” here.

Philippians 1 CSB

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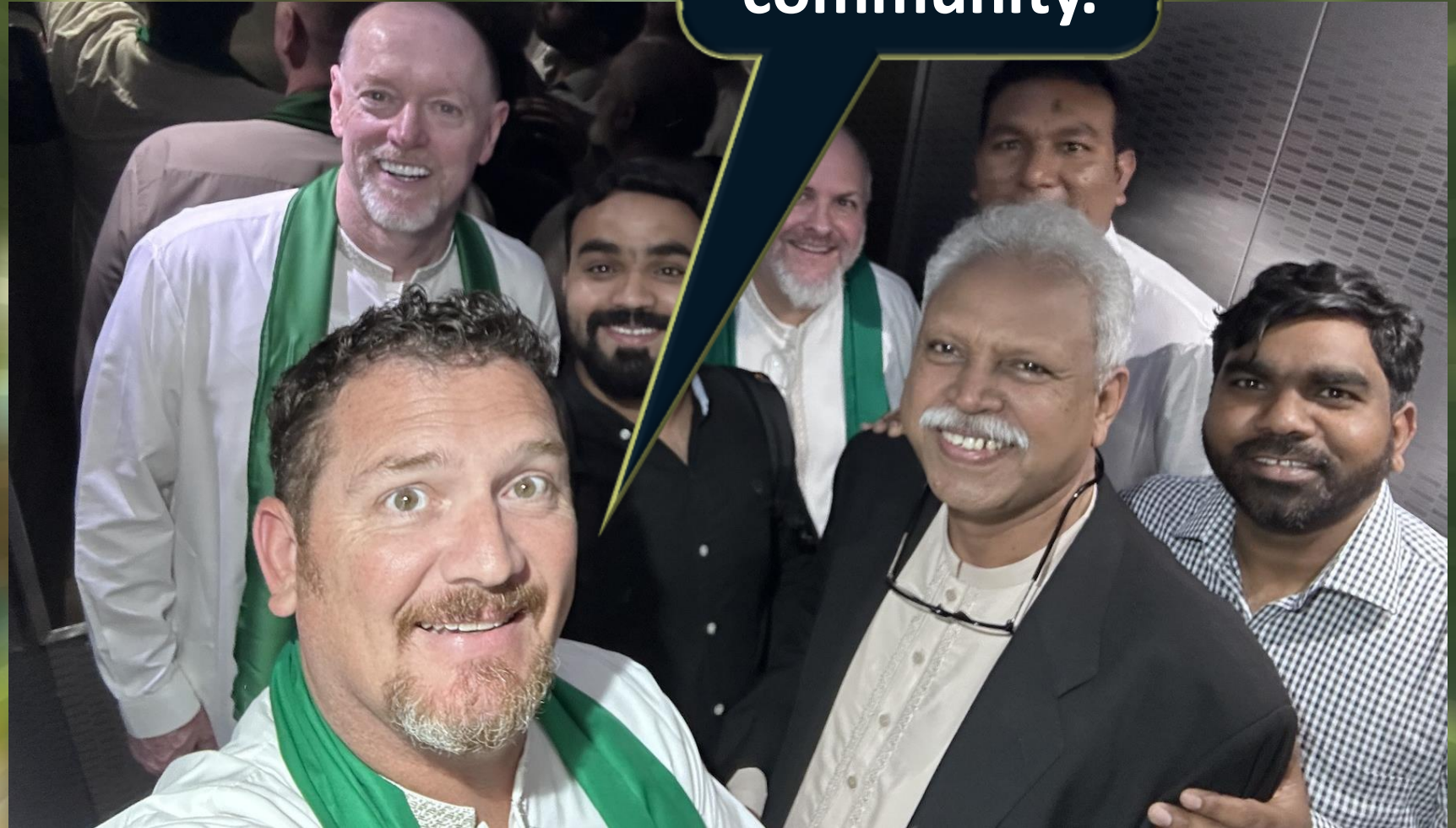


Greek: εἷς πνεῦμα μιᾷ ψυχῇ heis pneuma mia psyche = fight together with one spirit, sharing a unified life



What might be
the greatest
current
weakness in
our church?

They don't
understand
community.





Many of our Christians think fellowship is an optional thing. They don't understand that the sacrifices of doing life together are not optional. We are spoiled with so many blessings that we don't realize we must bond together or else we will fall apart. – Jeremy Mikeska

How well do I do life together?

If I disagree with an emphasis (not doctrine) in church, I:

- **Complain.**
- **Withdraw.**
- **Lobby for others to agree with me.**
- **Pray for unity in my heart.**

How well do I do life together?

If I am wounded by a brother or sister, I:

- **Complain.**
- **Withdraw.**
- **Lobby for others to agree with me.**
- **Pray for forgiveness in my heart.**

How well do I do life together?

If I need help, I:

- **Complain.**
- **Withdraw.**
- **Demand others fix my problem.**
- **Share my need for prayer and appropriate assistance.**

How well do I do life together?

When a fellow church member is wrong, I:

- **Complain.**
- **Withdraw.**
- **Demand others chastise the heretic.**
- **Share privately with him the way scripture instructs.**

How well do I do life together?

When a church member is in need, I:

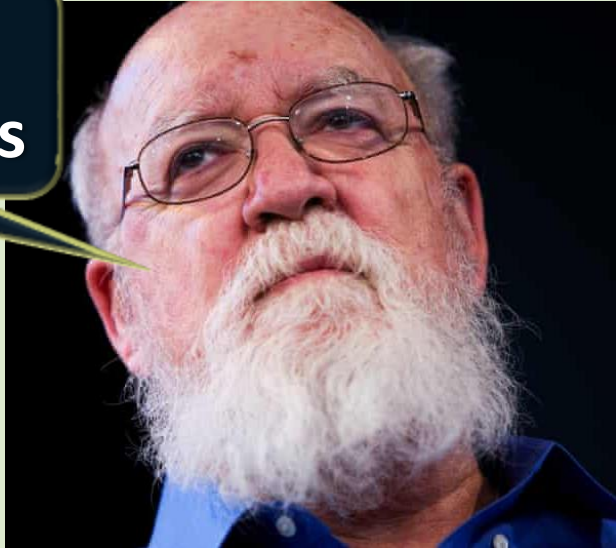
- **Complain.**
- **Withdraw.**
- **Demand the pastors fix things.**
- **Step in with prayer and appropriate assistance.**

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Philippians 1 CSB

**Antagonistic toward
idea of God**

**Destroy the
author of worlds**



**Antagonistic toward
gospel truth**

**All roads lead
to heaven.**



[The devil] comes as an angel of light, to mislead, yet pretending to lead; to blind, yet professing to open the eye; to obscure and bewilder yet professing to illuminate and guide. He approaches us with fair words upon his lips: liberality, progress, culture, freedom, expansion, elevation, science, literature, benevolence – nay, and religion too...He can deny the gospel; or he can dilute the gospel; or he can obscure the gospel; or he can neutralize the gospel – just as suits his purpose...Progress, progress, progress, is his watchword now, by means of which he hopes to lure men away from the old anchorages, under the pretext of giving them wider, fuller, more genial teachings.

– Horatius Bonar, *Earth's Morning: Thoughts on Genesis*



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Philippians 1 CSB

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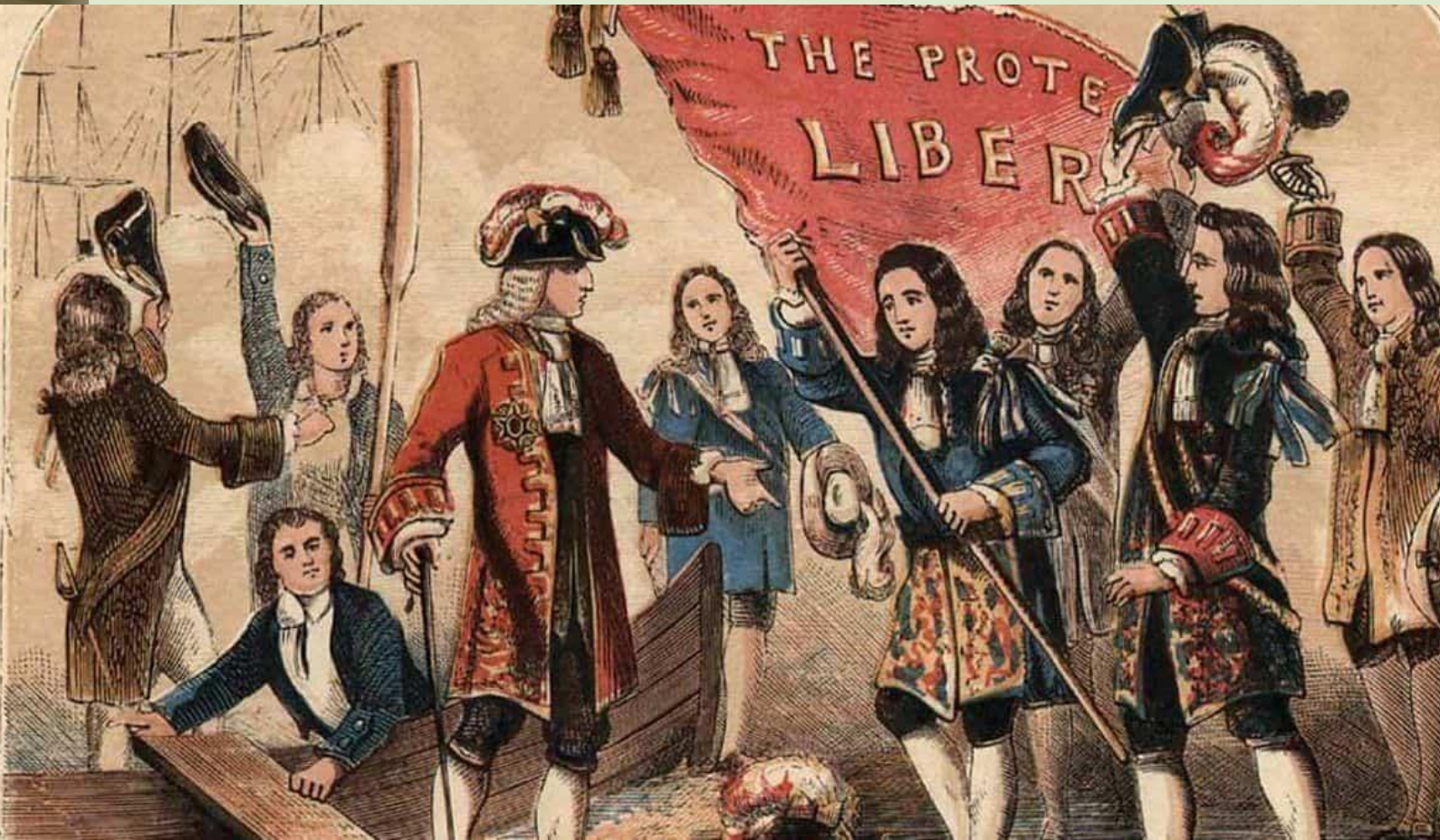
Philippians 1 CSB

We must contend even if anti-evangelical sentiment is powerful; if the government uses shadow control of the media and combines with some big businesses to actively oppress biblical Christians; if some Christian leaders are recanting their faith, while others downplay the truths of the gospel. Such has been and will be until Jesus returns.



**Give me the liberty to know, to
utter, and to argue freely
according to conscience.
– John Milton, *Areopagitica***

Even though their aims weren't political, those Christians provoked a healthy change in government and directly influenced the first amendment in the later US Constitution.

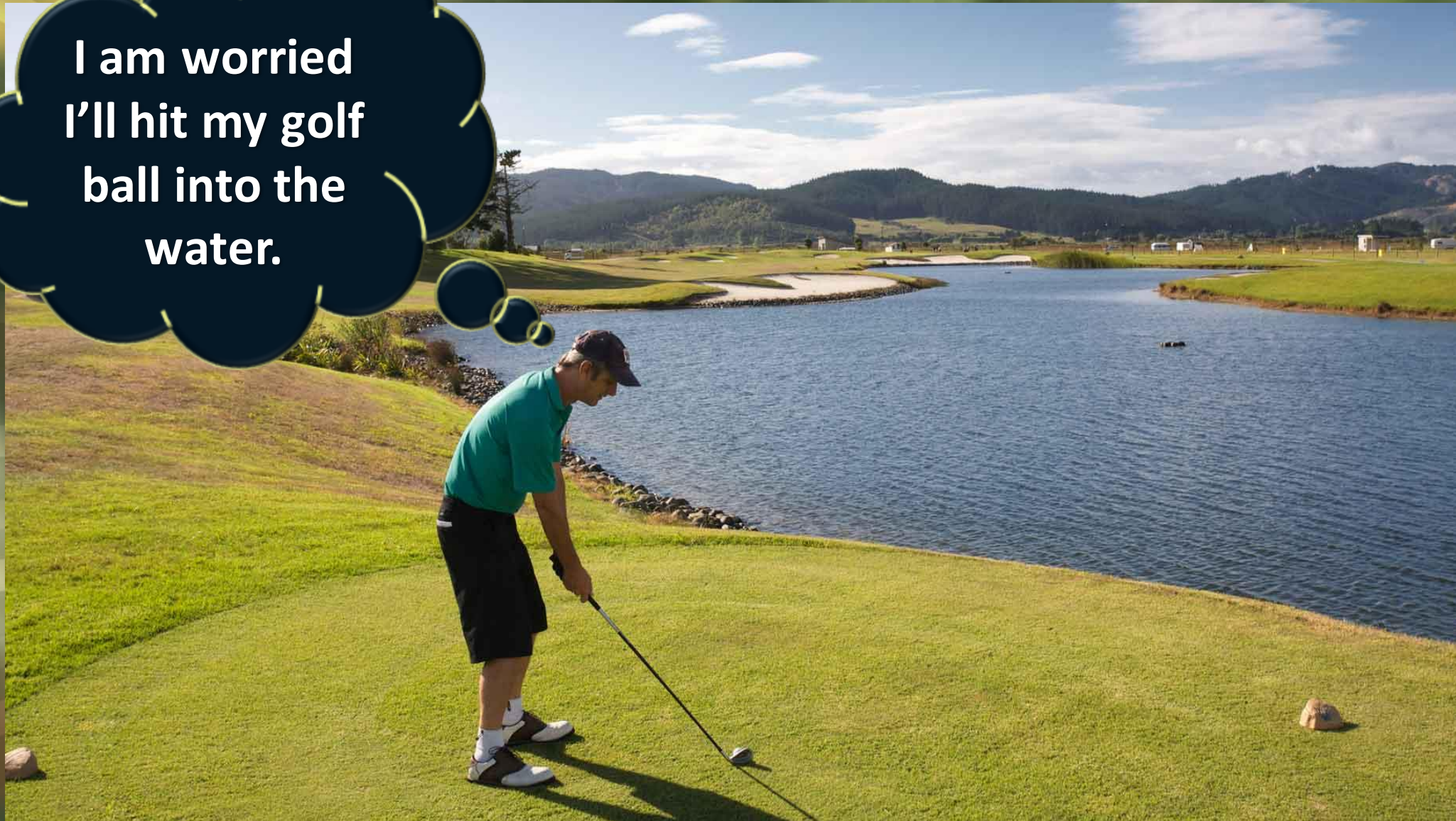


William III receiving the Declaration of Rights 1688

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Philippians 1 CSB

**I am worried
I'll hit my golf
ball into the
water.**





**I am scared
that I will find
enemies
everywhere on
this campus.**

**I am shaking
with fear that
this presentation
will bomb**



**¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom should I fear?**

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
whom should I dread?**

**³ Though an army deploys against me,
my heart will not be afraid;
though a war breaks out against me,
I will still be confident.**

Psalm 27 CSB

Philippians 1 CSB

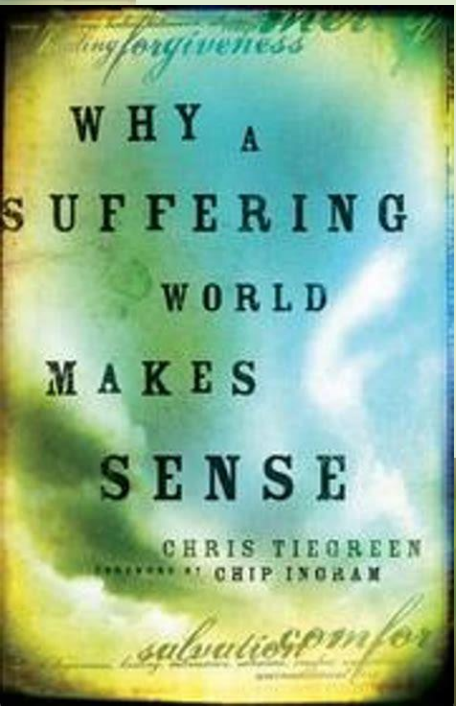
²⁸ not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

³⁰ since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.

- **Know yourself.**
- **Know the times.**
- **Walk worthy of Jesus.**
- **Stand firm in grace.**
- **Do life together.**
- **Contend for gospel truth.**
- **Reject fear.**

When you're suffering, do your best to consciously adapt your interpretation of circumstances to fit the biblical picture of God rather than change your interpretation of God to fit the picture of your circumstances. Rehearse his mercies often, naming them in your mind – out loud, if that helps. Be diligent and even aggressive to remind yourself that because God is loving and powerful, evil has a worthwhile purpose in your life. And remember that one day you'll see it. – Chris Tiegreen, *Why a Suffering World Makes Sense*





courtesy Die Welt

**She holds to
orthodox
biblical values!**

**Burn her!
Burn her!**





The reaction was rapid and ruthless, but Forbes refused to back down. One interviewer asked what she thought of trans “women” competing in sport, and Forbes said: “a trans woman is a biological male.” She told another that she believes sexuality is meant for a covenant marriage between a man and a woman.



CANDID:
Kate Forbes says she is made of 'stern stuff' and will stand up for herself

As leadership battle gets nastier...

I've taken a bruising from my own party. I'm shocked at the scale of the backlash

IF this leadership race had been a game of shinty, Team Forbes would have admittedly taken a pretty significant bruising in the first half. I was condemned for my personal views, despite them never having affected my work in the Scottish parliament and despite many of my colleagues never raising them as an issue before.

I was blasted for being anti-equality, something so at odds with my character that I couldn't recognise the woman my detractors claimed I had become.

And then, when I raised ideas for improving our governance of Scotland – when I dared to voice ways that we needed to innovate our public services and improve the lives of Scots – I was told I was trashing my party's record, of which I am immensely proud.

There were moments, I have to admit, during the late nights as I sat with my seven-month-old Naomi, just me and her; that I was incredulous at the scale of the backlash.

But I found strange comfort, courage and resolve when I reflected on why I had stood in the first place. I drew on the experiences of my early years in India, where I saw the most extreme poverty and stories of personal resilience.

I remembered the women who, despite facing unimaginable challenges, kept their families together, who made huge sacrifices for their children.

These women displayed the resilience that united communities and kept their children nurtured.

AND I know I want to be the woman that Scotland entrusts to keep this country together, and to fulfil the longer-term goal of alleviating poverty.

It does not matter how people in this short-term leadership battle want to paint me.

I am on the pitch, stick in hand, ready for that final whistle.

I am not here because it's been easy. I am here because Scotland's future matters.

Scotland's new First Minister can anticipate constant times of immense challenge. This comes with the territory, and especially for women – but I am made of sterner stuff. And just as I will stand up to those who

By **KATE FORBES**

FINANCE SECRETARY
AND SNP LEADERSHIP
CANDIDATE

seek to paint me in an unfavourable light now, I will stand up for Scots who feel left behind by Westminster. So we need to debate and determine our next steps as a party.

To keep winning elections, we need to once again refocus on the issues that matter – the cost of living crisis, the NHS and eradicating poverty. And to win independence we need to go even further. Good governance matters.

We know from branch meetings that our members are full of ideas, suggestions and advice about how to take the party forward – and we need space for those discussions, while at the same time celebrating

the incredible service and progress of our leaders over the past 20 years. And we need the space to do that during this election contest.

But if we cannot debate issues like the future of the NHS in a leadership contest, when can we?

The SNP will always be a family – united around the common cause of independence. But unity doesn't mean uniformity.

And, beginning tomorrow, Scotland faces a choice.

SNP members will decide who will be the leader of our party and next First Minister of Scotland.

We need to make the right choice; the stakes are high.

The question facing SNP members – and indeed the wider public – is this: what kind of First Minister do we need to lead Scotland into the next decade?

I believe I've got what it takes to be the next First Minister of Scotland, the First Minister who will lead Scotland to independence, through good governance, listening to all voters and focusing on economic prosperity.



courtesy Herald

**What does all
this mean for
me?**



courtesy Journal





courtesy Pad Swift

Philippians 1 CSB

- Know yourself.
- Know the times.
- Walk worthy of Jesus.
- Stand firm in grace.
- Do life together.
- Contend for gospel truth.
- Reject fear.
- Remember the promise of suffering.





**FINDING JOY
IN LOVING
PEOPLE**