

THY KINGDOM COME #20
Developing A Biblical Worldview

Introduction

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus to be a pandemic. Nothing has been the same ever since.

But now President Biden has declared the pandemic is over. So what now?

The world has viewed the events of the virus fallout in a worldly way. But now, those of us with a biblical worldview will see the Sovereign hand of God exposing 2 problems we need to address:

“Post Pandemic Pastors and the Sin of Silence”

Most of us have heard many sermons on the sins of the tongue:

- Lying/Bearing false witness
- Cursing
- Taking God’s name in vain

But very few of us have considered a sermon on the ‘sin of silence’.

This is sad because the sin of silence led to the original fall of the human race!

Steve Deace

The sin of silence is not new for our species. This goes back to the Garden of Eden to the Fall. The serpent is there having a discourse with the woman. Rarely discussed though is, “Where is Adam?”

Steve Deace

Adam had been given dominion. ‘I have created all this for you to rule in My name’. He could have done so much; but he was complacent, lackadaisical, and silent; he gave in and then refused to accept his responsibility to God, blaming it all on the woman.

Adam’s silence was his sin. But we sin the same sin of silence today. When?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. God will not hold us guiltless.

We are at war today with the very face of evil: we see it attacking our marriages, families, schools, and our government. But the biggest battlefield is the church.

1 Peter 4:17-18

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

When God enters into judgment with a nation, he begins in His own house. More specifically, with His own Leaders. In the first 3 chapters of Revelation, the risen Christ speaks to 7 churches in letters addressed to the 7 Pastors!
So let me begin with...

I. The Problem of Post-Pandemic Pastors

A. Never Underestimate the Power of the Pulpit

Dr. Michael Youssef

As goes the pulpit, so goes the pew. As goes the pew, so goes the nation.

1. This is profound! The problems in a nation go back to a problem with the people and the problem with the people goes back to the problem in the pulpits.

2. Spiritually speaking, people rarely rise above the level of the preaching they hear or the teachings they are taught.

3. But the problem today is not just poor preaching; it's not just what is said; it is what is being left *unsaid*. It's the sin of silence from many post-pandemic pastors.

4. I'm taking a text from what God said through the prophet Isaiah during some dark days in Israel when evil was consuming the land...all because God's shepherds were silent.

Isiah 56:9-10

**All you beasts of the field, come to devour, all you beasts in the forest. (Why?)
His (God's) watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant; they are all dumb dogs,
they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.**

Pastor Shane Idleman

**The Bible calls pastors 'watchmen' who cry out and sound the alarm to awaken a
sleeping church, not sing her lullabies.**

5. The problem here is that the 'beasts of the field' have 'come to devour'
but God's watchmen, His pastors, are compared to watchdogs that don't bark!

Albert Barnes

**Dogs are appointed to guard a house or flock, and to give notice of the approach
of a robber by night. They are thus an emblem of a prophet-appointed to
announce danger. Generally in the Scriptures the dog is mentioned as the
symbol of uncleanness, of vileness, of apostasy, of that which deserved the
utmost contempt.**

Albert Barnes

**But here the dog is an emblem of vigilance. The phrase 'dumb dogs,' is
applicable to prophets or pastors who failed to warn the nation of their guilt and
danger. "They cannot bark". They cannot give warning of the danger which
threatens. The prophet tells why they could not do this: They loved to slumber.**

6. It wasn't a sudden plunge into perilous times; the enemy came gradually;
the watchmen, like watchdogs, saw it coming but said nothing. Like today...

Pastor Shane Idleman

**There is a disturbing trend taking place. Over the last few decades Americans
have witnessed the destruction of the institution of marriage between a man
and a woman, the removal of God's Word in most of the public arena, horrific
racism, and the blatant murdering of millions of babies.**

Pastor Shane Idleman

**This is an indictment against America, and the pulpit is partially responsible—
our silence speaks volumes. The pulpit regulates the spiritual condition of God's**

people, which affects the nation. A lukewarm, sex-saturated culture (and church) simply reflects the lack of conviction in the pulpit as well as the pew.

7. Let me be clear: There are many faithful pastors speaking up; but there are far too many committing the 'sin of silence' in 3 ways we will look at:

3 Sins of Silence

- **On Theology**
- **On the Kingdom of God (the Biblical worldview)**
- **On Government and Politics**

II. 3 Sins of Silence by Post-Pandemic Pastors

A. The Sin of Silence Regarding Theology

1. Many post-pandemic pastors care more about pleasing the people than they do about preaching sound doctrine. As a result, knowledge of the Bible in America is at an all-time low point. Proof?

2. Every 2 years, Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research combine to do a national survey on the "State of Theology" in the United States. They measure the response of average U.S. adults and *evangelical* Christians, basically comparing Christians with non-Christians. The alarming results are in. Compare the response of Christians and non-Christians to basic theological statements:

Ligonier Ministries/LifeWay Research Findings 2022

God learns and adapts to different circumstances.

U.S. adults: 51% agree

U.S. evangelicals: 48% agree

- a. The Bible tells us God is omniscient. (John 1:3 nothing he hasn't known)
- b. The Bible tells us God is immutable. (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8)
- c. ½ the heathens do not agree; and ½ the Christians! Why?

Ligonier Ministries/LifeWay Research Findings 2022

Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God

U.S. adults: 71% agree
U.S. evangelicals: 65%

a. The fact that almost 2/3 of evangelicals believe that humans are born in a state of innocence reveals that the biblical teaching of original sin is not embraced by most evangelicals! Even though Ephesians 2:3 states clearly that all of us are '*by nature* the children of wrath.'

b. This explains why there are so many counterfeit conversions and our churches are full of counterfeit Christians; no one can be saved who is not convinced they are a sinner.

Ligonier Ministries/LifeWay Research Findings 2022

God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

U.S. adults: 56% agree
U.S. evangelicals: 46%

a. Jesus made it very clear in John 14:6 when He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."

b. Over ½ the non-believers deny this; almost ½ of church-going Christians believe it? How can this be unless the pulpits are committing the sin of silence on the subject?

c. But it gets worse!

Ligonier Ministries/LifeWay Research Findings 2022

38% of evangelicals believe that religious belief is a matter of personal opinion, not objective truth

43% of evangelicals believe that Jesus was a great Teacher, but not God.

3. The surveys 'bottom line' is that the theological beliefs of church-going Christians is almost identical with non-believers! How can this be? It's the sin of silence on the subject of theology to blame.

B. The Sin of Silence in Preaching the Kingdom of God (Biblical Worldview)

1. Some churches don't even preach the Gospel; but even among those that do, there is silence on the subject of the Kingdom of God, the biblical worldview where we apply the Word of God to every area of life.

Jim Garlow

There are approximately 364,000 churches in America: 72 percent, or 264,000 of them, are liberal, meaning that they really don't care about the Bible. According to exhaustive surveys, only 6,000 and 15,000 actually have a bona fide biblical worldview, that is, they see life through the lens of Scripture.

Jim Garlow

Did you catch that? Nearly 72 percent of churches don't look to the Bible as their final source of authority and direction. No wonder America is crumbling from within; the foundation is deteriorating.

2. Testimony: I was saved in 1971. But in 1981, I 'saw' the Kingdom.

3. Some pastors are silent even on the Gospel of salvation; but most pastors are silent on the subject of the Gospel of the Kingdom; they have reduced the Gospel to a simple salvation message. It's a private, personalized gospel that's all about getting to heaven.

E. Stanley Jones

The hand of littleness has been at the throat of the Kingdom, so that it speaks as a squeak instead of a world-shaking call to acceptance and action. That choking hand must be taken away because necessity demands it. We are perishing for a clear-cut voice that will command us, free us, unite us, and save us.

E. Stanley Jones

We have reduced the Kingdom by putting it into narrower molds instead of the Kingdom as Jesus preached it: God's total answer for man's total need.

4. This echoes Jesus in Matthew 6:33; seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else we need will be added.

5. The Gospel of salvation saves the sinner; the Gospel of the Kingdom transforms the culture. One man who saw it was...

a. The famous **British novelist H.G. Wells, (1866-1946)** was the author of a number of literary science fiction classics like “The Invisible Man”, “War of the Worlds” and “The Time Machine”

b. Wells was a genius. And even though he was not a Christian, he did recognize the immense implications of the biblical concept of the Kingdom of God.

H.G. Wells

“The most radical proposal ever presented to the mind of man is the proposal to replace the present world order with God’s order, which is the Kingdom of God.”

c. This is the Kingdom worldview; the biblical worldview; the Christianization of the nations.

d. To be silent on this subject is a sin that produces a watered-down faith.

Jonathan Edwards

It is the mixture of counterfeit religion with true religion, not discerned and distinguished, that has given the devil his greatest advantage against the cause and kingdom of Christ.

C. The Sin of Silence Regarding Government and Politics

Rev. Charles G. Finney

“If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it. If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it.”

1. When Pastors practice the sin of silence on preaching the Kingdom, the Lordship of Christ over all things, it naturally follows that they will practice the sin of silence on the subject of government and politics.

2. The sin of silence by German pastors paved the way for the nation’s fall into Nazi Fascism and WWII.

Eric Metaxas, “Letter to the American Church”

If we do not speak now, we're no different than the German church of the 1930's. They had a false definition of faith, a false definition of grace. They did not understand these things but they thought they did, and they remained silent.

a. Bonhoeffer appealed to the German pastors to speak up, but like today, many chose silence; they didn't want to get into politics; they didn't want to offend; they didn't want to resist the authority of Hitler; but they did not realize that in their silence in the face of evil was speaking. (Finish Bonhoeffer quote)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

b. This meant that in the German pastors choice not to speak about politics they were actually speaking about politics; that it didn't matter. In choosing not to act politically, their actions spoke a message to their people; let the heathens have it.

c. A couple of American pastors who do speak out have a word for their brother pastors who don't...

Pastor Rob McCoy

To say you are not political is not accurate. You have chosen political silence and submission to tyrannical officials who have ruined our economy, closed our schools, and declared our churches as non-essential.

Pastor Shane Idleman

Saying, "I'm just not political," is really an excuse to hide cowardice. Silence about sin is rebelling against the call of God. If your sermons do not upset the world from time to time, I have to seriously question your calling.

3. Some of you may hear this message who have a pastor, family or friends who don't participate in the political process; ask them this:

Let's say 98% of America was Christian; 2% anti-Christian or Communist
If the Christians refuse to participate, they have a false view of separation of church and state, or they 'don't want to impose their values on others', they are actually

participating in allowing others to impose their values on them. Which is what happens when there's a lack of courage in the pulpit.

Jim Garlow

Bold pastors are nearly extinct. It would be much easier 'to play church' and make everyone feel good. So the church—as we now know it—will be functionally illegal very soon. With the recent Supreme Court decisions, the First Amendment died and churches will very soon be forced to hire those who practice homosexuality and will not be allowed to speak against the sinful practice.

a. 20th century American poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox pointed out that being silent about sin turns men into mice.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, American author and poet

To sin by silence, when they should protest, makes cowards of men.

III. Close

A. Review: What Have We Said?

1. Silence is sinful when we fail in the face of evil.

David M. Blount, "The Sin of Silence"

It's been said that silence is golden. No so for Christians. For Christians, silence is sin. We have an assignment, and that assignment is to preach the gospel to all the world. We've been commissioned to do it. We've been empowered to do it. And we'll be rewarded for doing it.

2. Judgment has come America and it begins with the house of God, both the people in the pews and the pastors in the pulpit.

Pastor Shane Idleman

The world is on fire. You may not accept that, but it is the truth. This may be God's last warning to America. Can America be saved? I am not sure. When the

pulpit is silent, all hell breaks loose because there is no confrontation or conviction of sin.

Pastor Shane Idleman

But we are called to fight with the spiritual weapons of prayer and worship, to stand strong, and to expose the unfruitful works of darkness. I will do that until God calls me home.

(May God grant us this same spirit)

3. David Blount wrote the book “The Sin of Silence”, pointed out the problem of for why we don’t speak out...

David M. Blount, “The Sin of Silence”

So why aren't we doing it? Fear. We've let ourselves be intimidated, dominated, and manipulated by the devil and we've retreated into silence. But those days are over. The Church is rising up in this hour to become the dynamic Body of Christ in the earth that we were created to be! The sin of silence must be broken off our lives!

4. I will leave you with the famous words of warning from British statesman...

Edmund Burke

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Closing Prayer

Title

“Post Pandemic Pastors and the Sin of Silence”