

HOLY VIOLENCE #1

“The Mark of a True Believer”

I. Introduction

A. 2020: The Year from Hell?

1. Some have called 2020 ‘the year from hell’, with good reason.
2. We will remember this year of the **global shutdown** that threatened the economy of the entire world; where within a few weeks’ time our country became almost unrecognizable.
3. We have had front row seats for a Presidential race that was nothing less than an open battle between the forces of good and evil, of light and darkness.
4. We have watched the devil ‘come out of the closet’ and take over an entire political party. (Yes, the Democrat Party is evil).
 - a. What else but evil would you call those who openly support the cold-blooded murder of the unborn?
 - b. What else would you call but good those who are for life?

Donald Trump

“Let us work together to build a culture that cherishes innocent life. And let us reaffirm a fundamental truth: all children, born and unborn, are made in the holy image of God.”

5. I cannot explain why God allowed the virus; **but I do know that He has used it to expose who is of the light and who is of darkness.**
 - a. I found this from a sermon by a Roman Catholic Priest last week...

Remnant TV/Sunday Sermon from South Saint Paul

In His passive will God allows evil to manifest so that every person can have a clear choice between good and evil, between right and wrong; to expose those who

knowingly or unknowingly ally themselves with the Prince of darkness: those who run the mainstream media, the social media, and our government institutions at the highest level which is the deep state; and those who are over our educational system.

b. Then he closes with this...

Now the children of darkness have already declared their candidate the winner; something I do not accept.

c. May I say ‘Amen’! The election is not over!

- The President has not conceded
- The electoral college has not voted
- The courts have not yet ruled on the voter fraud that occurred in multiple states

6. Nor should we be surprised that the Socialist Democrats would try to steal the election.

a. This is what they have done in many countries throughout history.

b. This is what one of the fathers of Marxist Socialism said about elections.

Joseph Stalin

“I consider it completely unimportant who in the party will vote or how, but what is extraordinarily important is who will count the votes and how.”

7. No one knew how low they would go to steal this election; the mass media has coronated Biden the winner; the Socialists/Marxists are licking their chops; but here is what the Lord dropped into my heart...

As the fate of our nation hangs in the balance, the time has come for the true Church of God to rise up and recover what the enemy is trying to steal. We do not need physical force. But we do need "Holy Violence".

This is the subject of our next series of messages.

II. Holy Violence

A. What is “Holy Violence”?

1. Our text is taken from something Jesus said about the ministry of John the Baptist, the man God used to introduce the coming of Christ.

2. Jesus was commenting about the greatness of John and the spiritual attitude of those who were responding to the Gospel...

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

a. Here is how it reads over in the Gospel of Luke...

Luke 16:16

"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

b. The Greek word for ‘violence’ means to be ‘energetic’; to use ‘force’.

Luke 16:16-17 NASB

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

3. This is not a picture of a sinner trying to work his way to heaven; this is a prophetic picture of the kind of person who will make it to heaven! It speaks of the true believers, those who pursue God with ‘holy violence’!

Albert Barnes

Since "the kingdom of heaven," or "the gospel," has been preached, there has been a "rush" to it. People have been "earnest" about it; they have come "pressing" to obtain the blessing, as if they would take it by violence.

Albert Barnes

It is an allusion to the manner in which cities were taken. Besiegers "pressed" upon them with violence and demolished the walls. With such "earnestness" and "violence," he says, people had pressed around him and John since they began to preach.

4. Let us be clear. Jesus is NOT speaking about salvation by works or working our way into heaven. He is describing the ATTITUDE, the ZEAL and the EARNEST COMMITMENT that is the mark of those who ARE saved!

Matthew Henry

This violence denotes a strength, and vigor, and earnestness of desire and endeavor, in those who followed John's ministry, else they would not have come so far to attend upon it. It shows us also, what fervency and zeal are required of all those who design to make heaven of their religion.

a. Our spiritual forefathers spoke of the kind of Christianity rarely preached in our modern times; one marked by what we might call 'spiritual violence'.

Adam Clarke

He that will take, or get possession of the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and spiritual joy, must be in earnest: all hell will oppose him in every step he takes; and if a man be not absolutely determined to give up his sins and evil companions, and have his soul saved at all hazards, and at every expense, he will surely perish everlastingly. A violent earnestness is required.

b. Where is this spirit today in the modern American Church?

c. How is it that millions of people who call themselves Christians voted for evil? Is their faith false faith?

John Calvin

Let us also learn from these words, what is the true nature and operation of faith. It leads men not only to give cold and indifferent assent when God speaks, but to cherish warm affection towards Him, and to rush forward as it were with a violent struggle.

John Calvin

Christ reminds them, that the violence, of which he had spoken, existed only in men of a particular class...men rushing violently forward to seize the kingdom of God; those who receive, not only with eagerness, but with vehement impetuosity, the grace which is offered to them.

5. God has used the Corona virus and a fraud-filled election to expose true and false believers in the same way the Kingdom preaching of John and Jesus exposed who was real and who was not!

John Calvin

Very many are asleep, and no more affected than if John in the wilderness were acting a play which had no reference to them, yet many others flocked to him with ardent zeal. The tendency of our Lord's statement is to show, that those who pass by in a contemptuous manner, and as it were with closed eyes, the power of God, which manifestly appears both in the teacher and in the hearers, are inexcusable.

6. I tell you by the Word of the Lord that God will hold every Christian accountable for how they respond to the current crisis.

7. God is moving through the land looking for those who will say they have had enough of this emasculated, effeminate version of Christianity that is willing to allow the devil to overturn our country!

Pastor Jason Hooper

The church needs to get its balls back.

8. Do you think this is too strong? Jesus basically said the same thing better. And nicer. Go back and see...

B. What Jesus Said About John

Matthew 11:7-8

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

“Soft” in Strong’s Concordance

NT:3120

Figuratively it means effeminate or a person who allows himself to be sexually abused contrary to nature.

1. Jesus said John is no ‘reed shaken by the wind’; not a man of ‘soft clothing’.

2. The Apostle Paul picked up on the same idea...

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament

Paul, in 1 Cor 6:9, joins the idea with the effeminate, homosexuals and Sodomites

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, (soft or effeminate), nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

a. Woe to the modern church that bends over backwards to be politically correct toward these sins!

b. Woe to those who think they can continue in sins and still inherit the Kingdom of God.

c. Paul was not saying sinners are not welcome-he was saying that those who continue in sins thinking they will go to heaven are deceived! See next verse...

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

3. Any Gospel that doesn’t make a difference in the lives of those who hear it is not the real Gospel.

4. Jesus said we need to have a holy violence against sin in our lives!

Matthew 5:27-30

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

5. These are metaphors that illustrate how we need holy violence to deal with our sin as well as in how we press into God. And so said the great Prince of Preachers...

C. Charles Spurgeon

1. On Sunday morning, May 15, 1859, the great Charles Spurgeon preached on "Holy Violence" at the Music Hall of Royal Surrey Gardens.

2. He poured out his soul pleading with his congregation on the subject of 'holy violence'; a wakeup call to the church.

Charles Spurgeon

The man of holy violence is always successful. Do you think you are going to be carried to Heaven on a feather bed? Have you got a notion in your heads that the road to Paradise is all a lawn with the grass smoothly mown, still waters and green pastures and more to cheer you? You have got to clear your heads of that deceitful fancy!

a. He tells them why they need it.

Charles Spurgeon

You have enemies within you, enemies outside, enemies beneath, enemies on every side—the world, the flesh and the devil! And if the Spirit of God has quickened you, He has made a soldier of you and you can never sheathe your sword till you gain the victory! The man who would be saved must be violent because of the opposition he has to encounter!

3. Then he goes farther; why I call this message “The Mark of a True Believer”.

Charles Spurgeon

Know that this is the sign, the mark of distinction between the true child of God and the bastard-professor. The men who are not God’s children are a careless, stumbling, coldhearted race. But the men who are God’s in sincerity and truth, are burning as shining lights! They are as brilliant constellations in the firmament of Heaven, the burning stars of God!

4. God is exposing which is which; the hot, the cold and the lukewarm.

Revelation 3:14-16

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.'"

5. This is not an hour to be on the fence; judgment begins at the House of God!

Charles Spurgeon

Of all things in the world, God hates most the man that is neither hot nor cold. Better have no religion than have a little—better to be altogether without it than to have just enough to make you respectable, but not enough to make you earnest!

Charles Spurgeon

Lukewarmness, of all things, God abhors and yet of all things it is the predominant mark of the present day! The time of the Methodists, of Whitfield and Wesley, was a time, indeed, of fire and of Divine violence and vigor.

Charles Spurgeon

But we have gradually cooled down, now, into a delightful consistency and though here and there, there is a little breaking out of the old desperado spirit of the Christian religion, yet for the most part, the world has so mesmerized the Church

that she is as nearly asleep as she can be! And much of her teaching and much of the doings of her religious societies is sheer sleepwalking.

Charles Spurgeon

It is not the wide-awake earnestness of those who walk with their eyes open. They walk in their sleep—very nimbly they walk, too, and very nicely they “trim their way.” Very little is there of the life of God in anything they do and very little of Divine success attending their lives, because they are not violent with regard to the matters of the Kingdom of God.

III. Conclusion

A. This is No Time To Quit

1. Many of God’s people are losing heart and turning tail; but this election is not over!

2. While the mass media proceeds to coronate Biden-Harris the President’s team is still fighting to contest the election results.

3. **Something similar happened in the 2020 election**; it appeared that Al Gore had won; but George Bush refused to concede. Everything came down to several counties in Florida.

a. The courts assigned a young 28-year-old lawyer, only 3 years out of law school to the case. She was chosen because she was an expert on the litigation of mail-in ballots. Bush won.

b. The young lawyer’s name? Amy Coney Barrett; the same woman who now sits on the Supreme Court of the United States.

c. Take heart!

4. This is not a time to turn tail and run! It’s a time for holy violence! Holy violence in our prayers. Holy violence in our faith.

5. There is a scene from Mel Gibson’s movie, “The Patriot”, that is the perfect picture of what the Church needs to do today; it’s the battle scene; the

English troops seem to have won; the Americans seem to be losing and some are running away...but watch what happens when one brave man picks up the flag...

VIDEO CLIP FROM THE PATRIOT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCE8jHLJe3g>

Closing Prayer

O Lord, may this spirit rise again in your Church!

Intercession for America