

## **FREEDOM IN THE CROSSHAIRS #8**

### **“Live Not By Lies”**

#### **Introduction**

I want to begin a new cycle of sermons in our Freedom series designed to deal with the challenges the Church will face living under the political system presently in power. I'm entitling the series “Live Not By Lies”...

But before we dive in here is some background...

In Matthew 16, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day who demanded He give them a sign from heaven...

#### **Matthew 16:3 NLT**

**You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times!**

History is repeating itself. Multitudes in the American Church are looking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming or some sign from heaven...but they don't discern the perilous storm cloud signs of the times we are already living in.

The same people who can look at the sky and predict the weather can't interpret what's happening right now.

The signs of the times are not good!

And it's not like we haven't been warned! Even by the secular prophets. In his poem “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming”, Irish poet W.B. Yeats wrote this exactly 100 years ago...

#### **William Butler Yeats, The Second Coming**

**Things fall apart. The center cannot hold: Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. The blood-dimmed tide is loosed and everywhere. The ceremony of innocence is drowned. The best lack all conviction while the worst are full of passionate intensity.**

Things are falling apart. Anarchy is everywhere. Innocence is drowned. Meanwhile the best, (God's people), lack conviction while the worst, the Marxist socialists politicians and the mainstream media, are full of 'passionate intensity'.

We are in what amounts to the religious war Pat Buchanan warned us about 30 years ago speaking to the Republican National Convention....

**Pat Buchanan**

**There is a religious war going on in our country for the soul of America. It is a cultural war, as critical to the kind of nation we will one day be as was the Civil War itself.**

The war is on! Just a few days ago, author Trevor Loudon wrote an article for the Epoch Times entitled, “Socialist Revolution Underway in the United States”

**Trevor Loudon, Epoch Times 5/11/21**

**The United States is now in the midst of a communist revolution that seeks to centralize power through bringing every element of the U.S. government, from the lowest levels to the top, under the control of the executive branch.**

It’s working. We now have a President who disdains the Congress, the Supreme Court and the will of the people as he shuts down oil pipelines, refuses to enforce our border security laws, and wimps out on our commitment to Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East.

The foundations of Christian culture are under attack: Traditional marriage, the Constitution, the rule of law. And, as the Psalmist said...

**Psalm 11:3**

**If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

The bad news is all seems lost. The Good News is that in the midst of all this God will raise up an army of committed Christians who will turn the tide. It will be an army of people who will make a life-or-death decision to...

**I. Live Not By Lies**

**A. The Power of a Timely Book**

1. A few months ago a friend gave me a copy of Rod Dreher’s book, **“Live Not By Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents”**.

2. I read a lot of books; but I believe this one is truly is a textbook for God’s people and the times we live in.

3. The title is taken from the last words Alexander Solzhenitsyn spoke to the

Russian people living under communism after his release from prison and his exile to the United States. 4 words.

**Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

**"Live not by lies."**

4. Solzhenitsyn is one of the great Christian heroes of the last century. He wrote from the perspective of a Christian forced to live under the totalitarianism of Soviet Russian Communism; a man who lived to see its fall because a relatively small number of committed Christians chose to 'live not by lies'.

a. Author Michael Egnor applies these words to our own day:

**Michael Egnor**

**Recently, on reading Alexander Solzhenitsyn's short essay "Live Not by Lies", I was struck by the analogy between the totalitarian system Solzhenitsyn faced and the "woke" assault on freedom of speech and freedom of thought spreading like fire through our nation.**

5. Solzhenitsyn's essay was the inspiration for the title of Rod Dreher's book. Here's an endorsement on the book's back cover from...

**Professor Patrick Deneen, University of Notre Dame**

**Rod Dreher has written an invaluable compendium of how to live fearlessly under totalitarianisms, old and new. Better still, the book is a counsel of hope and joy for even the bleakest days—and an encouragement we need, especially today in this time of cascading crises.**

6. The truth is that this is not the first time God's people have lived in a nation going through 'cascading crises'; we see these conditions in the days of the prophet Isaiah that sound like America today.

**Isaiah 59:14-15**

**Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.**

**Isaiah 59:14-15 NLT**

**Our courts oppose the righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed. Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked.**

7. Sometimes it helps to know that other believers gone before us have lived in times like ours, or worse than ours, and still prevailed.

8. The book “Live Not By Lies” does that for us. It tells the inspiring story of how the Christian churches of Eastern Europe operated under, and eventually overthrew, the oppression their Communist governments.

9. These courageous Christians took a stand against antichrist government systems by becoming *dissidents*, a term found in the subtitle of the book.

## **B. A Profound Subtitle**

1. The subtitle of the book “Live Not by Lies’ is profound: “A Manual for Christian Dissidents”. The book is written to be a training tool for Christian dissidents.

2. So, what does it mean?

### **Dissident**

**A person who opposes official policy, especially that of an authoritarian state.**

a. A Christian dissident is: a protester, revolutionary, independent thinker, disputant, objector.

3. God is using the current conditions to stir up a people who can discern the times and seek the Lord asking...

## **II. What Must We Do?**

### **Rod Dreher**

**It is up to us today to take up this challenge: To live not by lies and speak the truth that defeats evil.**

### **Rod Dreher**

**How do we do that in a society built on lies? By accepting a life outside the mainstream, courageously defending the truth, and being willing to endure the consequences. These challenges are daunting, but we are blessed with the example of saints who have gone before.**

Notice 3 things we must do in a a society built on lies..

### **3 Things We Must Do**

- 1. Accept life outside the mainstream**
- 2. Courageously defend the truth**
- 3. Be willing to endure the consequences**

#### **A. First: We Must Accept A Life Outside the Mainstream**

1. The first thing we must do, and this will not be easy for us, is to ‘discern the signs of the times’ and accept the fact that the principles of the Christian faith are no longer honored by those who control our civil government and the mainstream media.

2. I remember a time when America could accurately called a “Christian nation”.

- The 10 commandments were posted in government buildings
- We had prayer in our public schools
- Abortion on-demand was illegal
- There was nothing dangerous about being a Christian or speaking the truth

3. All that has changed!

4. Christianity is no longer ‘mainstream’. The political party in power is accelerating a satanic agenda that is increasingly hostile to freedom, hostile to truth, and hostile to those who believe the Bible.

5. Many so-called Christians will *accommodate* the new government; they will flow right along with majority thinking.

#### **Counterfeit Christians will be willing to live with the lies...**

- That America is a systemically racist nation
- That Black Lives Matter really means black lives matter
- That equity and equality mean the same thing
- That gender is a matter of choice

6. The true church will not conform with mainstream thinking! And the sooner we recognize that these official public policies of the new regime put all of us outside the mainstream the better! Which leads to the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing...

### **3 Things We Must Do**

**1. Accept life outside the mainstream**

**2. Courageously defend the truth**

#### **B. Courageously Defend the Truth**

1. We are now living in a culture of lies; big lies that are bringing our nation into bondage. The only cure for a lie is telling the truth.

#### **John 8:32**

**You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.**

2. Knowing the truth will make us free; believing a lie will bring us into bondage.

3. The enemies of truth hide behind a false banner of lies:

- Black Lives Matter has nothing to do with black lives mattering; it is a self-admitted Marxist organization dedicated to overthrow America as founded
- The Social Justice movement has nothing to do with social justice; it is a Marxist strategy designed to divide the nation on the basis of race. And the indoctrination is underway.

#### **Rod Dreher**

**To put it bluntly, we are being conditioned to accept a Westernized version of China's Social Credit System, which will enforce the tenets of the political cult of social justice. If this ever takes root here, there will be no place to hide. Christians and others who refuse to conform will be forced to pioneer a new way to live in truth, despite it all.**

a. African American Bible scholar Voddie Baucham considers the issue of social justice to be the greatest threat against the American church:

#### **Voddie Baucham**

**The current concept of social justice is incompatible with biblical Christianity and one that threatens to split evangelicalism (the church) right down the middle.**

4. Lies can only thrive when ordinary people are willing to live within the lie rather than risk the discomfort of speaking the truth.

### **Rod Dreher**

**A person who lives only for his own comfort and survival is one who is willing to live within a lie to protect their comfort and survival is what Vaclav Havel called ‘a demoralized person.’**

### **Rod Dreher**

**The system depends upon this demoralization, deepens it, and is in fact a projection of it into society. Living with the truth as humanity’s revolt against an enforced position, is, on the contrary, an attempt to regain control over one’s own sense of responsibility.**

5. The truth is that a culture of lies can only stand as long as God’s people refuse to ‘revolt against an enforced position’ and ‘regain control’ over their own sense of responsibility.

6. We will be pushed to a point of decision; will we live by lies or by truth. We are no longer in the mainstream. But we can take a stand in 2 ways...

### **Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

**The simple step of a courageous individual is not to partake in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world.**

a. We will no longer partake in the lie. We will speak the word of truth that outweighs the world. This brings us back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> thing we must do to live in a society built on lies...

### **3 Things We Must Do**

- 1. Accept life outside the mainstream**
- 2. Courageously defend the truth**
- 3. Be willing to endure the consequences**

### **C. Be Willing to Endure the Consequences**

1. One of the great defects of cultural Christianity in America has been how we have avoided the biblical message of how suffering and persecution are inseparable from the Christian life.

### **Matthew 5:10-12**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,**

**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

2. Jesus pulled no punches about what it would mean to be His follower.

**John 15:20**

**Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master'. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.**

3. Jesus told the truth and paid the price. So, what can we expect?

- To be defriended on Facebook is not persecution
- To be blocked on Instagram is not persecution

4. The cancel culture threatens us for a bigger purpose.

**Dr. Michael Egnor**

**The censors depend on active personal destruction not to silence us, but to get us (out of fear) to lie and thus silence ourselves. Their power is not in their violence but in our complicity.**

5. God is raising up an army of Christian dissidents who can recognize that **all the power of the enemy depends on our silence and our complicity based on fear of consequences.**

6. We live in a culture of lies because Satan is the liar who 'deceives the whole world'. But the Bible tells us there is a company of people who overcome him.

**Revelation 12:11**

**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

**Revelation 12:11 NLT**

**And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.**

7. The days of risk-free Christianity in America are over; we can only overcome by a willingness to endure the consequences, even if it costs us our lives.



### III. Conclusion

#### A. What We Need To Know

1. We need to discern the signs of the times-the days are evil.
2. We need to know that God's people have been here before and give us a model of how to prevail.
3. That model is to "Live Not By Lies"; we can overcome the system when each of us, in our own little sphere, refuses to live in the lie.
  - a. Let me close with the words of Vaclav Havel, a courageous Christian who suffered under Communism, spoke the truth, went to prison for several years, and finally emerged to become the President of the nation of Czechoslovakia. His advice works for us today...

#### **Vaclav Havel**

**Living within the lie can constitute the system only if it is universal. The principle of the lie must embrace and permeate everything. There are no terms whatsoever on which it can co-exist with living within the truth, and therefore everyone who steps out of line denies it in principle and threatens it in its entirety.**

4. In the coming weeks we will look at the lies in the system and step out of line with them. When we do, we not only deny them in principle, we threaten them in their entirety!

#### **Alexander Solzhenitsyn**

**Live not by lies!  
Closing Prayer**