

## Parables (Part 2) – Wheat and Tares (Pt B) (6/1/2024)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/gtw4gqx/part-2-wheat-ares-pt-2>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

*[Video]*

And He taught them many things by parables. He said unto them it is doctrine hearken behold there went out a sower to sow it came to pass as he sowed, some fell by the wayside and the fowls the air came and devoured it up and some fell on stony ground where it had not much earth. He said unto them he that hath ears to hear let him hear.

*[Video two]*

How do we give a biblical answer to friends and family who who may have fallen into this error and who are, I would say trapped in this belief that Christians have to be quote, Torah observant?

Law and grace are mutually exclusive. You cannot benefit from both. It has to be one or the other. As Christians, we need to stop eating bacon. Baloney. We do not. And that we're required by God's law to go back and observe the Passover, the Feast of Booths, the Feast of Trumpets, and all this other stuff. Hogwash.

Heal every one of them, Lord. I rebuke sickness in this room. I rebuked disease.

As a Christian, I follow Jesus, who was a Palestinian. He was a Palestinian refugee. Please do not talk to me about making room for Jesus in your heart if you cannot make room for the Palestinian who needs our help and our safety.

The implication is, if you were under law, sin would have dominion over you. The only way to escape from the dominion of sin is to stop trying to keep a law and avail yourself of God's grace. Not only are Christians not, according to the Apostolic First Church Council, not only are they not required to be circumcised, they're not required to keep the law of Moses.

We feel that people who are LGBTQ, I, are folks that God has created. It is incumbent upon us all to be present with those who are marginalized and oppressed. The Bible is very clear on the issue of homosexuality is a sin. There's not really much of a way to debate what Scripture says on that. Cranford disagrees and says there are multiple theological views on the subject within Christianity. Loving Creator Holy One and Diva of the world.

It is not a settled issue. We do not agree on how the scriptures are interpreted. You have different definitions throughout scripture of relationships and that's where some of the discrepancies lie, but as well as our understanding of biological makeup and how people are created.

You've got the choice; you can live like a son of God, be led by the Holy Spirit, or you can turn your back on the Holy Spirit and try to keep the law, but you cannot combine the two. The ceremonial laws regarding the worship practices of the Mosaic Covenant are pointing to Christ, who then is the one who will fulfill them. The Passover, notably among them, is fulfilled in Christ. Same with the Day of Atonement and other things like this. So, the idea then is that we're not required to keep those.

I want you to shout. I need a Lord. One more time, one more time. Good morning. The holy and queer one be with you. The commentary of the queer, the Queer Bible commentary, transposes the story of Christ. Really, every story in the Bible, but specifically this one was about the crucifixion. It forces the reader to wonder whether the story of Christ can be seen through a lens of queerness, through a lens of drag even. She read the line to me as we sat and chatted. The secret is what makes people tremble. Grace and inclusion and the marginalized and we're actually committed to the roots of Methodism.

Most healthcare professionals say that there is nothing inherently wrong with LGBTQ plus people.

Strange one, fabulous one, fluid and ever becoming one. Shout unto God with the voice of triumph. I need it, Lord. You are mother, father and parent. You are sister, brother and sibling. You are drag queen and trans man and gender fluid. And I apologize for the harm that I have seen firsthand. Jesus would be upset.

And because of my tradition as a Christian pastor, this is why I'm doing the work in Planned Parenthood. I believe so strongly, personally, that every person has dignity and worth, and should have access to the choices that they deem are necessary for them. You can't look at, read, the Bible and find anything that's against abortion. Satan is the one who brings this kind of turmoil and strife and false doctrine into the church.

*[Daniel Joseph]*

Shabbat Shalom. I hope you're ready for today. We have work to do, and so I'm going to get right to it. Going to our parable, this is what we read. Matthew 13:24-26—<sup>24</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. We will break new ground today. <sup>26</sup> But when the grain i.e., the wheat had sprouted and produced a crop, we are talking about the gospel taking root, that believers are being added to the church daily. We're talking about the Church of Messiah Yeshua actually bearing fruit. There's a radical move of God, and when that happens, what is the next thing we read? **then the tares also appeared.**

See, here's the deal. Satan, the enemy who plants these seeds, these tares, doesn't need to plant these things in a field he already owns. That's already his. Where is he going? He's going to the move of God. He's going to where people are being delivered out of the kingdom of darkness; they're receiving the Gospel of Jesus. That's where he wants to be. That's where he is going to sow his kingdom.

I love Luther's words, he says Martin Luther— “For where God built a church, there the Devil would also

build a chapel.” Take it to the bank. He's literally articulating what we're reading in our parable right now.

The apostle Paul says this in Acts 20:29—<sup>29</sup> **For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves** just another metaphor for what, the tares. Savage Wolves **will**, not might. This is what we're going to emphasize today. They will **come in among you**, and they won't spare the flock. **not sparing the flock**. They're going to come from the outside, and they're going to breach the walls of the church with absolute certainty. This is coming. It gets worse.

Then he says this in Acts 20:30—<sup>30</sup> **Also from among yourselves men will rise up**, we are talking about within the community, brothers and sisters, arm lengths transactions, people you know, the people you touch, the people you communicate to, and the people you do ministry side by side with. Paul is speaking to the Elders of Ephesus. This is to the Church of Ephesus, and he's saying from within your church, a church that Christ died for, these tares are going to sprout up. What do they do? He says this **speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves**.

They speak perverse things. All the focus, so you understand, the danger and the power of these tares, lies in their tongues. Just as it did with the serpent in the garden when he beguiled Eve. It was with the tongue.

Now I want to take you to the Greek on this. This is *diestramména* and *diestramména* means this— **διστραμμένα = to cause to be distorted, to cause to depart from an accepted standard of oral or spiritual values, [to] make crooked, [to] pervert**, BDAG GREEK LEXICON.

Look at this. I'm going to highlight this special, to cause you to depart from an accepted standard. This is what he's talking about. The Bible is the standard. What is the function of the tares? What are they going to do? What do we need to be concerned about? Them leading us astray from the instructions of God from his commandments and from his Torah. And the scariest part of when they do this is they are going to make you feel good about it. Do you understand? They will sow perversity and immorality in the church, and they'll call it love. They will sow murder in the Church of the Lord, and they will call it dignity and human rights. They're going to sow lawlessness, and they will call it grace. This is the function of these tares. They are deadly. The implications cannot be underestimated. It's absolutely demonic.

To build upon this, I want to take you to the Torah. We find Paul's words, and when you see this, it's going to become clear in a very real way. Paul grabbed from the Torah as he was speaking to the elders of Ephesus. This is what he says, it is embedded in the Torah, what Satan doesn't want us to have. Deuteronomy 13:1—<sup>1</sup> **“If there arises among you** what did Paul just say in Acts 20:30? He warned the Church of Ephesus that they're going to be among you. They are going to rise from within you **a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,**

The key component I want you to see here is it doesn't say false prophet. For you to understand the magnitude of the deception that is being articulated here, deception where if it were possible that even the elect would be deceived, you need to recognize this. It doesn't say false prophet, it simply says if there's a prophet among you.

One of the scariest things that I've ever come across in the Old Testament is the book of Jeremiah and for many reasons. One of which we see is men who were legitimate prophets of God, they were known

to be prophets in Israel, but came to a point where they derailed, and yet they still went out and said, thus says the Lord. How scary is that scenario? Well, this guy has spoken before; therefore, we know he is a prophet. When he says something, it comes to pass. Then they come out again and say, thus says the Lord. However, thus the Lord has not spoken.

So, in this situation, we have a prophet, and they have prophesied XYZ is going to happen, let's just say a month from now. They warn the church and say, listen, this is coming next month. Next month comes and guess what, XYZ took place. You're going to get the attention of every person in that community for certain.

As we continue, we read this in Deuteronomy 13:2—<sup>2</sup> **and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you**, it happens, and then they say saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—**which you have not known— 'and let us serve them,'**

Listen to me carefully. Deuteronomy eighteen gives one of the prescriptions for vetting a true prophet from a false prophet, and do you know what that is? The question is raised in Deuteronomy eighteen. They say, how do we know whether this person's a true prophet or false prophet? The answer given is this, if that prophet says something's going to come to pass and it comes to pass, he's a true prophet. Think about that. This is one of the criteria for identifying a true prophet from a false prophet.

Well, this is what happened in Deuteronomy thirteen. The prophet spoke, and it came to pass. But there is a second criteria by which we are to vet all the teachers, the pastors and the prophets, these dreamers of dreams that come on the scene and say thus says the Lord. There's a second criterion. Listen to me, all things are established on the testimony of two. It's not just the work or miracle or prophecy. What is their message?

This is criteria number two. What is it that these prophets are trying to get you to believe? What do they want you to do or not to do? What you must do is go back to the word of the Lord and test it. We're called to test the spirits. The apostle Paul said the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. I don't care how godly a man may appear to you, how he could speak an awesome word and it comes to pass, if he does not speak according to the word of the Lord, run for your life. This is what we're missing today. It is a huge part of the whole equation. By definition, the message of this prophet is taking them away. For me to do this, I must breach this. By definition, that is sedition. It's treason from within.

So how does the Lord respond to this? What are the instructions in this case? Deuteronomy 13:3<sup>A</sup>—<sup>3</sup> **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.** He has commanded you not to do it. That person is attempting to draw you away from My word. You hold the line; you don't go. I don't care how awesome the works and all these miracles that he may perform are. I don't care what your eyes are seeing when he speaks against Me and draws you away from My word. Hold the line. Stop.

I read what Paul is talking about in Acts twenty. Wouldn't it be easier and make more sense if the Lord would just say no, I'm not going to allow tares to come up among the wheat? I'm not going to allow these false prophets to rise among you. No, this isn't going to happen. Lord, keep out the enemy. Doesn't that make sense? Why should darkness be in the body of Christ? This is why as found in Deuteronomy 13:3<sup>B</sup>—**for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Now, how many times do we pray to the Lord to keep out those savage wolves? We don't want anything unpure part of your body, and I'm not saying that's a bad prayer. I'm with you. We pray this way; we don't want these things, and yet the Lord has given permission for the devil to sow his kingdom in His own church. Why? Only then does the Lord know whether you love Him or not. Do you understand it's the testing; that's why we see this.

In fact, let's go back to our parable and continue in Matthew 13:27-30—<sup>27</sup> **So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'** They're baffled. <sup>28</sup> **He said to them, this is Yeshua, 'An enemy has done this.** Yeshua lets them know an enemy has done this. Listen to the response of these servants, these angels, **'The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'** The Angels are looking down at all the perversion and the corruption that is attempting to be sown within the body of Christ. And they're like, let us go. Let us in there. We'll clean house. We'll take them out. What is the Lord's response? This is amazing. <sup>29</sup> **But he said, 'No,** He said no, **lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.** And then He goes on <sup>30</sup> **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"** (Empasis added).

What is the harvest? The harvest is when the seventh trump blasts, and we have a resurrection of the dead. We're talking about the end of the harvest. Yeshua is telling us that the insanity of the tares and them being among the wheat will exist till the very end, period. Why? He wants to test us. His church will be tested till the end of the age.

I want to bring this to the table. Judges 3:1—<sup>1</sup> **Now these are the nations which the Lord left,** Man, let that catch your attention. So, God brings Israel into the promised land, and one of the things He says is, hey, you're to destroy these nations. Remove them. I'm bringing judgment on them. Get them out of the land, but not all the tares were uprooted. Was this on Israel's failure? This is what's interesting. The Lord left them. Why would the Lord do that? **that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan.**

Moving to Judges 3:4—<sup>4</sup> **And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.**

We keep seeing this pattern repeatedly. The Lord is allowing the tares to exist. He wants to know whether you will bend the knee, whether you will compromise, and whether you will give in to the deceptive and beguiling tongue they have. Whether you will forsake Him for the sake of a lie and forsake the truth.

The apostle Paul says this in Acts 20:30—<sup>30</sup> **Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.** <sup>31</sup> **Therefore watch,** you know, the fact that we know the tares are going to be coming, they're going to be growing, Satan is going to sow his kingdom among us. There is a Commission. There is a responsibility. We are to become Watchmen on the wall. We are to prepare for war. We're to look for them. We're to be mindful that this is going to come, and he doesn't just say watch, there's the second part here. He says watch **and remember zakar,** remember. Remember what? We are to remember—**that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**

Now, this is the Church of Ephesus, and this is an amazing thing. You are being given insight into the Apostle Paul's ministry regarding one of the primary things he accomplished in his ministry. What was at the forefront day and night repeatedly? To warn you what is coming. To warn you against heresy, against lies, against perversion, against corruption, against those that are going to try to seduce you and take you away from the Lord and His word.

Could you imagine being involved in the Church of Ephesus in the first century? You go out on Sunday, and you're like, oh, Paul's preaching again, and he is in your face in spirit, in truth, with tears, warning you hell is coming. These savages are coming, and they're not going to spare you if you allow them. Then he comes back on Tuesday and Wednesday with the same message. Let's be honest; by the time you're on Friday, just one week, you're like Paul, seriously, I've heard this one before. Remember the day before and the day before that and the day before that. I wonder what was going through the minds of Ephesus as Paul is coming off the rails and railing against dangers of the threat of the tares of the wolves. What was going through their mind? Did his message even make it? Did Ephesus receive this?

This is the most amazing thing. We have scriptural testimony that declares Ephesus heard it. Paul's words hit the mark. They receive them. And how do I know this? Go to the Book of Revelation. Yeshua addresses the church at Ephesus, and we read the following in Revelation 2:1-2—<sup>1</sup> **“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup> ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. Oh, **And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.**”**

All that work, the weeping, the preaching, the teaching took root. They tested these people. How did they test these people proclaiming they serve Jesus, they are here as a messenger of Jesus, and we needed to listen to them? They put them up against the word of God, and they didn't stand. That is awesome.

1 John 2:18—<sup>18</sup> **Little children, it is the last hour....** It's the last hour. I love what David Wilkerson says. He said, “Man, if it was the last hour two thousand years ago, what time is it today?” I'll submit to you we're in the last seconds of the last minute of the last hour, and I don't just say that because two thousand years have passed. I say that explicitly because I am seeing Bible prophecy unfold right before me. I know we're in the last seconds of the last minute. Little children, it is the last hour; **and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming**, this is the one the apostle Paul calls the lawless one. This is the one where you go to the book of Daniel and read he casts the Torah to the ground. He casts truth to the ground. All your commandments are truth. Your law is truth. It's the spirit of Antichrist. This is what it does.

It gets crazier. He goes on and says this—**even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.** By which we know it is the last hour. Eschatologically this is important. In other words, because what John is saying is, I know I'm at the end. John being inclined to say that is one of the signs that you're at the end of the age. It is when false prophets, the spirit of Antichrist, roams the land. You have false teachers coming out in mass; the tares are everywhere. It's one of the signs you are at the end. Even now many antichrists have come.

It gets even more insane as you continue— 1 John 2:19<sub>A</sub>—<sup>19</sup> **They went out from us, but they were not of us.** Now put this into historical context. The greatest ministry that has ever existed as it pertains to the Gospel of the Messiah Yeshua was the Apostolic Ministry. These are the ones that literally did

ministry when the word became flesh, and Yeshua personally taught these men. Then it grew in *Yerushalaim* with another concentric ring around it. This is the ministry of all ministries where we're told that the New Jerusalem is built on the foundations of the names of the apostles. I'm talking about the fact that Peter walks down the street, and people are getting healed in his shadow. I'm talking about the fact that garment cloths are being taken from the apostle Paul, and demons are flying out of people. That ministry! And he's telling me the Antichrist went out from them. We find in the inner sanctum of the church that Antichrist is pouring forth. How much more the churches today?

He goes on in 1 John 2:19<sub>B</sub>—**for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.**

When the tares spring up, the tares want to take over; they theologically want to take over. Satan wants to control the narrative of your life. Here's the deal. When you become like the Church of Ephesus, and when you have a powerful ministry like the Apostolic Ministry that tests the spirits, they test the prophets, and they're not budging from the gospel or from the commandments of the Lord, they hold the line, Satan can't penetrate that wall. Therefore, they move on.

I want to take this discussion to a whole other level that will really give you this profound perspective of the wheat and the tares. I want to take you back to the 1930s. In the 1930s, one of the most evil empires ever known in the history of humanity would rise to power, The Third Reich. On a side note, why is it called the Third Reich? Hitler believed they were the successors to the first Reich, which was the Holy Roman Empire. That is a fascinating bit of history.

If you know anything about the Holy Roman Empire, it wasn't exactly holy. They believe they were the successors to this, and when Hitler came to power, understand this, he didn't just want power over the various branches of government. He didn't just want power over all the media institutions that existed in Germany. He didn't just want power over all academia, from kindergarten to universities. This is totalitarianism. He wanted power even over the churches, and he moved to get it. He moved through coercion, through intimidation, and through force. All throughout Germany, churches everywhere, one after another, pastor after pastor, priest after priest bent the knee to the Third Reich. They gave in to this malevolent ideology. And of course, Hitler would conveniently utilize the term Lord, God, and higher power. These Christian pastors were called to be the line.

It's interesting that prior to the rise of Nazism, which really nazified the Christian churches across Germany, you would have looked, and you'd have seen all these Christian churches. Isn't this amazing that what you would have seen is fields of wheat? It wasn't until the time of testing that you would be able to make the distinction between the wheat and the tares.

I want to give you some insight into some of the language and positions these pastors, these supposed pastors, took. We read this—Radical resistance, Dr. Richard V. Pierard, professor of history at Indiana State University—[The dean of the Magdeburg Cathedral exulted in the Nazi flags prominently displayed in his church. “Whoever reviles this symbol of ours is reviling our Germany,” he declared. “The swastika flags around the altar radiate hope—hope that the day is at last about to dawn.”](#)

This is insanity. At one time, Germany churches were adorned with Bible verses and symbols from the Bible. With the rise of the Third Reich, now they're dressed in a new look. They have new apparel; it is the Nazi symbol. It is a symbol that represents pure demonic evil, and it is covering the churches where

we have pastors walking up with the Bible and Mein Kampf in hand to pulpits. This is insane! And yet, in one church after another after another, these Christians went for it. They bent their knees.



There's the symbol of this national socialistic church. Isn't that pleasant? Slapping a swastika over the symbol that represents the sacrifice, oh, the *melech Yehudim*, the king of the Jews, and you're going to put the swastika over that. You're going to parade this in a house that is supposed to be proclaiming the king of the Jews, and you still call yourself Christians.

In *Radical resistance* by Dr. Richard V. Pierard, professor of history at Indiana State University, we find this statement—Some churchmen even referred to the “turning point in history” where “through God’s providence our beloved fatherland has experienced a mighty exaltation.” Pastor Siegfried Leffler declared that “in the pitch-black night of church history, Hitler became, as it were, the wonderful transparency for our time, the window of our age, through which light fell on the history of Christianity. Through him (Hitler) we were able to see the Savior in the history of the Germans.” Pastor Julius Leutheuser added that “Christ has come to us through Adolf Hitler.”

Again, I'm going to tell you that these are the savage wolves that Paul warned you about. These are the ones that were the impostor wheat prior to the rise of Nazism; they looked like wheat. They looked like Christians, but only when pressure came in intimidation, when fear, when the seduction of comfort and convenience came to the Christian churches in Germany, they fell. Then God got to see who loved Him and who did not.

They took the name “the German Christians.” These German Christians were the now new arm, the religious arm of the Nazis. You study this stuff and you're like this is too hard to believe. It's too hard to comprehend, it's so insane.

Well, the good news is not everyone bent their knee. There was authentic wheat. This wheat that held and wouldn't bend the knee to Hitler and to this malevolent ideology. This ideology of twisted and perverse thinking that was sowing seeds of darkness throughout Germany. There were people who feared God, one of which is Pastor and Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not bend the knee. He was a guy that went to the front lines and sounded the alarm. I want to give you just a little perspective. I'm going to have you watch a very short clip. And then we're going to discuss a couple of things. Please pay close attention to what you're about to see because there's a lot of information packed into this two-minute clip. —

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer Video]

And just two days after Hitler's election as chancellor in January 1933, while Germany was still celebrating its new leader, Bonhoeffer spoke on radio to a national audience, criticizing the new charismatic chancellor and



warning of the Nazi agenda that was sweeping Germany. Before he finished his talk, his broadcast was cut off, abruptly ended by government censure. Due to Hitler's direct influence, the leaders of the state church elected a new and fully Nazi aligned leadership. Then a national church Senate passed a resolution in September 1933 to remove all pastors and church officials of Jewish descent. In November, a rally of twenty thousand Christians was organized, demanding that the Old Testament be removed from the Bible because it was Jewish. Bonhoeffer opposed this move and was the first voice within the church to call for Christian resistance to Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Bonhoeffer opposed the persecution of the Jews and actively sought to protect them. This put him at odds with the unification of all Protestant churches into one single pro-Nazi Protestant Reich Church. Famous theologians like Karl Bart, Martin Niemöller and the young Bonhoeffer and others publicly announced their resistance to the Nazis in the Barmen Declaration when the rest of the church believed Adolf Hitler had been sent by God. This declaration insisted that Jesus Christ, not the Führer, was the head of the church.

[Daniel Joseph]

All right, we're going to go through a couple of points that I want to highlight, four specific points. Number one, just days after Hitler was elected, what did Bonhoeffer do? He could have remained silent. He could have kept quiet. He came from an aristocratic, very wealthy family. He could have just moved into the background and said, not my problem, not my fight. But he went to the front lines, and they censored him.

#1—Just days after Hitler was elected, Bonhoeffer sounded the alarm, warning Germany on public radio against the dangers of the Nazi agenda.

We can't have anyone speaking the truth because Yeshua tells us regarding the power of truth over darkness, the truth will set you free. They shut him down. They didn't want him speaking at all, and as things progressed, they shut down every avenue for him to speak. They didn't want this. This was a direct opposition to the Nazi agenda.

#2— September 1933 Leaders of the state Church removed all Pastors and Church officials of Jewish descent.

Yes, there were Jewish Christians; there were Jewish pastors who were serving the Lord. There were Jews that served as clergy. They were serving in the church in various capacities. This existed.

You know that you're up against the spirit of Antichrist when there are total radical absurdities, absolutely absurdities, taking place in your society. The last time I checked, somebody should have told this national socialistic church that Jesus was Jewish, and that the first-century church explicitly and exclusively began only Jewish beginning with the Apostles. The Apostolic Ministry was all Jewish. Can you imagine?

Now put this in context. If the apostles were alive doing the awesome work of the Lord they would have removed them. The Bible is written by Jews about the *melech Yehudim*, the king of the Jews. The whole thing is Jewish. My point is that you know you're up against the spirit of Antichrist when these absurdities come forward. You can't wrap your head around it; it's illogical. Welcome to the mind of the devil. Illogical.

Then we had this little tidbit.

#3—In Nov, a rally of 20,000 “German Christians” **demanded that the Old Testament be removed from the Bible.**

It troubles me, but I want to point this out. All throughout history, we find examples. Go back to Marcian. Marcian got rid of the Old Testament. What was the driving vehicle pushing the removal of the commandments, of the Torah, of the word of God. What was the driving vehicle? It was anti-Semitism. Why do I keep seeing that driving force behind the removal of the Torah, of the law? This is exactly what they did. This was the church. The German Christians were the religious arm of the Nazis, and they wanted to get rid of the Torah. This is of the devil.

All these messages that we hear as you say, well, we're not going to keep Easter, but we're going to keep Passover. They ask you: What are you Jewish? We don't do that. If you tell them you keep the 7th day Sabbath, they ask, are you Jewish? We don't do that. We're not Jewish. Constantine said we're not going to have anything to do with these detestable Jews. We're not keeping Passover. Why is that the driving vehicle to destroy and remove the law of God? The reason we have the perspective traditionally in Christianity that we do of the Torah is because of anti-Semitism. This is how the devil moves. It's amazing. It's the same play but a different generation is trying to take the law away from us.

Then you had a bit of good news at the end.

#4—THE BARMEN DECLARATION - 139 delegates gathered at Gemark Church in Barmen, Germany from May 29–31, 1934

These Christians, 139 delegates got together in Barman, Germany, and it was a composition of lay people, of professors, and of pastors getting together and saying no to the Third Reich. Saying no to evil, to perversity, to corrupting the text of the Bible, and to taking the Bible from us. There was a remnant of wheat, and they stood up. They did not mess around.

I want to give you a taste of this Barmen Declaration. We don't have time, it's more comprehensive than we have time for, but I want to give you a taste of this. It says in the Barmen Declaration—**In opposition to attempts to establish the unity of the German Evangelical Church by means of false doctrine**, I want you to understand this part. This German Christianity, this religious arm of the Nazis, went out and said we need unity in Germany. We all need to be unified for the strengths of our land, and it's right that we do this, but the Barmen Declaration said you're doing this by false doctrine. In fact, this terminology false doctrine is the declaration is inundated, false doctrine, false doctrine, false doctrine. That's what the tares do. That's what the tares among the wheat do, they sow lies. They sow false doctrine.

Then it goes on and says **by the use of force and insincere practices**, which is what the Nazis did, **the Confessional Synod insists that the unity of the Evangelical Churches in Germany can come only from the Word of God in faith through the Holy Spirit.** And I agree with that. It can only come from the word of God. That's where our unity comes from. When someone comes and tries to take the commandments, the law, the word of God from us, that's not unity, and we're not going to have any part of it. Amen.

It goes on—**In view of the errors of the “German Christians” of the present Reich Church government which are devastating the Church** these true wheat, these Christians, recognize the Nazis, the spirit of Antichrist, decimating the churches across the land, kind of like what I see happening in America right now and are also thereby breaking up the unity of the German Evangelical Church, we confess the

following evangelical truths: We don't have time to go through all of these, but this is how they started. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). It's not through the Führer, it's through Yeshua. This is the problem these Christians had. They bent the knee and served Yeshua, and they weren't going to bend the knee to Hitler, and they didn't.

I want to read to you a letter that Bonhoeffer wrote to Niebuhr. Listen to this; this is amazing. He says—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, LETTER TO REINHOLD NIEBUHR—"Christians in Germany will face the terrible alternative of either willing the defeat of their nation in order that Christian civilization may survive, Bonhoeffer is saying that we're faced with this alternative, that number one, you can pray that your own nation be destroyed for the survival of the Christian Church **or willing the victory of their nation and thereby destroying our civilization.** Absolutely brilliant assessment. He goes on and says I know which of these alternatives I must choose; but I cannot make that choice in security."

Bonhoeffer knew, If I'm going to take this stand Jesus is Lord, and I'm going to come against this Antichrist, this spirit of filth, it's going to come at a cost.

It's amazing what you find when you read Isaiah 59:14—<sup>14</sup> **Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.** This is describing a society given over to lawlessness. A society that rejects the truth of the gospel. That rejects the truth of the commandments of the Lord, and there is no justice. Now suddenly you have a situation where political prisoners are being stuffed away. That's what Hitler did. Anyone that was in opposition to him ended up going into prison.

Then it goes on and says this is Isaiah 59:15<sup>A</sup>—<sup>15</sup> **So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.** Bonhoeffer knew this. He knew he couldn't make it in security. Here's a little background. I mean, we don't have time to do Bonhoeffer justice today, but a little bit of background is Bonhoeffer was a double agent. He not only was literally one of the most prolific theologians and pastors who navigated the word with absolute brilliance, but now he's serving as a double agent. Do you want to see just the humor in this? Hitler's top intelligence outfit was the *Abwehr*, and the *Abwehr* was going to be Hitler's claim to fame for conquering the world. It was German intelligence, and Bonhoeffer got a job despite not being in line with Nazis. His brother-in-law got him a job in the *Abwehr*, and so here he is in intelligence. And what Hitler didn't know is there was a resistance group within his intelligence office. This resistance group is something that Bonhoeffer joined. He was a part of this resistance group.

This is a much more amazing story than we'll get into. But listen to what he says—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, LETTER TO REINHOLD NIEBUHR—"I pray for the defeat of my country, for I think that is the only possibility of paying for all the suffering that my country has caused in the world." Bonhoeffer took this stand and said I hope my country falls because of the evil that it's committing. I cannot support it. Can we go there? Are we going to see any Bonhoeffer's in this country? Do we have the clarity of the Kingdom of God versus the kingdoms of the world? "If we claim to be Christians, there is no room for expediency. This means convenience for comfort. There's no room for complacency and compromise. When you come to a turning point when evil grows strong among us, you are going to either hold the line, or we're going to find out you're a tare. We'll find out who you really are.

Then he says this **Hitler is Antichrist.** That determination didn't come because he didn't just simply respect this man. That assessment came from the knowledge that he gathered from the word of God. And let me tell you, he had perfect clarity. Hitler absolutely, in every way, was an Antichrist. He was an

Antichrist. In fact, Hitler's his infamous statement—'**The Ten Commandments have lost their validity... Conscience is a Jewish invention. It is a blemish like circumcision.'** *Adolf Hitler*

See, the spirit of Antichrist hates the law. It hates the commandments of God. It hates morality. Hitler hated morality. He wanted to see the destruction of it, and anyone that believes, hey, we should keep the ten commandments, what are you Jewish? The fact that you are showing the conscience of the Holy Spirit and that you want to bend the knee to the Most High God brings the response, it's a Jewish invention. That's a blemish. That's your weakness. Oh, my goodness, you can't make this stuff up.

Continuing with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, LETTER TO REINHOLD NIEBUHR—“**Therefore we must go on with our work and eliminate him whether he is successful or not.**” That's an interesting statement. You talk about a Christian dilemma. What do you do with this?

I think most of you have heard of Operation Valkyrie. Operation Valkyrie was conducted by the very group that Bonhoeffer was a part of. He was a part of that resistance group. Now he wasn't the one that directly carried it out. He was a part of that group that bound together and said this must stop because Hitler is absolutely persecuting and destroying God's people, the Jewish people, and was just committing atrocities and blasphemy. They said that this is enough.

Well, I want to take you through some quick points that happened in his life. This is an oversimplification, but 1941, that's when he was prohibited to print, to publish and like I said before, every platform that he would be able to vocalize the truth of God's Holy Word shut down. It was not allowed. 1943 he was arrested. Do you know why he was arrested? He was arrested because he was helping Jews escape from Nazi Germany into Switzerland. The Gestapo came and arrested him and took him into custody. He went to Buchenwald Concentration camp. This was the payment for stepping out. Bonhoeffer knew, I can't do this in security. He knew the cost that it would be if he stepped out and stood for the truth of God's word. He was put in a concentration camp. Then he was moved from Buchenwald over to Flossenbürg. Now here's what's amazing and it's crazy. As he's in these concentration camps, an investigation is going on by the Nazis into the intelligence group, the *Abwehr*, finding out that it's been compromised by this resistance group. Bonhoeffer is one of the names tied to this resistance group, and when Hitler heard of it, well, he had him hanged. This is the craziest part of this. He was hanged on April 9th. If it had been just a couple of weeks later, America would have come in and liberated the camp. Just in two weeks, a couple of weeks, and he would have made it.

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**IN 1941** PROHIBITED TO PRINT OR PUBLISH

**IN 1943** ARRESTED (April 5<sup>th</sup>)

**IN 1945** MOVED TO BUCHENWALD

**IN 1945** MOVED TO FLOSSENBURG (Feb)

**IN 1945** HITLER GAVE THE ORDER TO HANG BONHOEFFER

You know, I think of that, and I'm reminded of what we read in Hebrews 11:35—<sup>35</sup> **Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**

Bonhoeffer's last words were this—“**This is the end – for me the beginning of life.**”

To show you the struggle that Bonhoeffer had earlier as Nazi power is growing, he fled to America, and while there he was convicted. He had the thought, can I really look on afar as the nation is destroyed and then return after all the persecution happened, return after and basically call myself a Christian. This was mind blowing. The only reason Bonhoeffer went back is because he was willing to be persecuted with other faithful Christians in the land. That is a heart on another level. He was not thinking about himself but thinking about the need to represent Yeshua and to strengthen and encourage my own brethren at any cost. At any cost.

Well, I want to bring this full circle. This is where things get interesting. At the height of the power of Nazi Germany, Bonhoeffer wrote what I would call his magnum opus, his greatest work. In this work, this is astounding to me, he identifies how this happen? What happened to the churches of Germany that they folded? They crumbled with the rise of the Third Reich. All you saw was tares. Why did this happen? This is going to astound you. I want to take you to his work; it's called *The Cost of Discipleship*, and the opening statement should grab your attention. There are authors that sometimes go to such great lengths to make sure that the introduction is perfect. It sometimes takes them longer to write just a paragraph than ten pages in a book. The first words that open this book are the following:

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.**

“Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of our church. Our struggle today is for costly grace. Bonhoeffer recognized the problem that was ailing the church with the rise of the Third Reich. It was what I would call the devil's grace. Cheap grace says, hey, I'll go to the cross. No problem. I'll confess Jesus, but they won't pick up the cross and follow Him. They won't do it. They're convenient, complacent, comfortable Christians. That's all they are.

He goes on and says this: *Is the price that we are paying today with the collapse of the organized churches [which is] anything else but an inevitable consequence of grace acquired too cheaply?* There's your answer. What happened to Germany? Why didn't the German churches hold the line? The one thing you're supposed to do as believers in Yeshua is when you come into a time of darkness, and darkness covers the land, you're supposed to be the light, and Bonhoeffer saw that. They were darkness, and that darkness was evident. The reason it was so dark is because of cheap grace.

He goes on and says this: *Like ravens we have gathered around the carcass of cheap grace. From it we have imbibed the poison which has killed the following of Jesus among us. Cheap grace means justification of sin but not of the sinner.* That's what the devil's grace is. The devil's Grace will justify all the sin in your life. They will get you to believe you can live like hell and inherit heaven. Absolutely demonic.

*Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance.* Do you know the problem I have today? If history is any indication whatsoever and cheap grace was at the helm of the total collapse of the nation, where are we going? What is in our future because right now the churches are filled with preaching forgiveness, right, without repentance. There's no cost; there's no sacrifice involved. The Lord loves you as you are, don't change. This is the message today. It is an eerie reality that the very thing that Bonhoeffer figured out with the rise of the Third Reich has literally blanketed our entire country.

He goes on. *So the Christian need not follow Christ, since the Christian is comforted by grace! Cheap grace surely has also been unmerciful with most of us personally. It did not open the way to Christ for*

us, but rather closed it. It did not call us into discipleship, but hardened us in disobedience. The word of cheap grace has ruined more Christians than any commandment about works.

This guy had the Holy Spirit, this guy had authentically the Holy Spirit. He saw clearly the evil and why the evil took place. Total complacency, seeker sensitive, cheap grace costs nothing.



LEONARD RAVENHILL

All you have to do is get a closer walk with God and you'll find your enemies are in your own church.

I think Ravenhill figured it out too. See, because when you get sold out and radical for the gospel and the word of the Lord, you have the clarity that Bonhoeffer had, that guess what, the majority of German Christians didn't have. Where did he get that from? The Holy Spirit. You know, **if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.** You get that intimacy with God. When you understand, you count the cost. Unless a man forsakes all that he has, he cannot be My disciple.

Yeshua said that in Luke 14:33. Are you prepared? Are you willing to pay the price? Are you willing to go to death? Are you willing to go to the camps for your allegiance to Yeshua?

[Closing prayer]

Abba Father. We give you praise and glory this day. We thank you for men like Bonhoeffer that loved your people. He was willing to put his own life on the line to help these Jewish people escape certain death. We thank you for him standing on the truth, for being willing to speak boldly. All throughout history, in all these generations you have reserved a remnant. A remnant that will not bow the knee to Antichrist, a remnant that will not be persuaded, a remnant that cannot be bought by materialism, by the things of the world because they are sold out, they're in love. They're in love with Yeshua. They love the gospel. They love Jesus, and they want nothing but Him. Lord, may we count the cost.

As we look at the field of America, the tares are making themselves known. They've sprung up everywhere, rejecting the truth of God's word and celebrating sin. Just as Christian pastors celebrated these Nazi emblems of evil and adorned the churches with them, it's absolutely demonic. Your word says if anyone wants to follow you, we must pick up our cross. Lord, I don't know if we really understand what that entails.

Lord, I pray for your clarity, your wisdom, and your conviction to sweep over this community like never before. To transform the hearts and the minds of people so they can get their value system in check regarding what really matters and to understand we are confronted with the kind of evil that had risen in Nazi Germany. Will we be Bonhoeffer's? Will we stand for truth to the death?

Lord, I pray that you strengthen the weak. Those who are weak in faith increase their faith. Lord, may there be such faith among us that it leaves a legacy for generations to come. A legacy for them to look upon, to draw, to be encouraged and strengthened because we were faithful in the time of evil. Not to draw attention to us, Lord, but to draw attention to you and to show how real the Kingdom of God is, and that we're willing to die for it.

So, we just pray for your mercy and your grace to be upon us. Yeshua you are the way, the truth and the life. I love the Barmen Declaration where the first point said was, I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father, but by Me. Yeshua, you are exalted on high. You are the one we need; we must confess you. We must believe that the Father raised you from the dead on the third day, and if we embrace that beautiful gospel, may we bear fruit worthy of repentance. We pray this in the mighty name Yeshua. Amen.