



Sermon Series: The Church In An Upside Down World

Christ First Church
Pastor Wayne Chasteen
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Sermon 2: WHO KEEPS SHAKING THE SNOW GLOBE?

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12-13

INTRO: Welcome back to week 2 of our sermon series, “The Church in an Upside Down World”. Last week we looked at Isaiah chapter 5. I preached on the subject, THIS BAZARRO WORLD. We saw The PERVERSION: v 20 *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil”*., The PREJUDICE: vv 21, 24 *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight...for they have rejected the instruction of the LORD of Hosts and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.*, They hated the Word of God, thus, they hated God (prejudice). And lastly we talked about The PREDICAMENT: v 25 *“Therefore the anger of the LORD burns against them...”* That is a problem indeed.

Today, my second sermon in the series is titled, “WHO KEEPS SHAKING THE SNOW GLOBE?” It’s a rhetorical question meant to give you a visual of what it feels like to live in this moment of time. Can you sense what I mean? Most of us are content to live in our little world. We don’t wish to harm anyone, just do our thing and be left alone, but just when we think we have our footing, one group or another comes along and shakes up our world. Well, those of us who are Christians and believe the Word of God, we know who the mastermind behind all this evil is, don’t we?

Today, I’m going to talk to you about some very difficult things. So, I need to explain myself. First of all, I do not preach or teach political ideologies. If you have been at this church any length of time, you know I preach the Word of God. I try, as much as humanly possible, to exegete the Holy Scripture without opinion or bias. My calling and desire is to preach the Bible. I have long held the belief that it’s mostly unnecessary to preach on fads and cultural issues. If you preach the Word, it is then the job of the Spirit to convict, challenge, and change the hearts of listeners. So because of that, I don’t get my sermons from the newspapers or from news channels, I try my best to preach, Thus says the Lord! Now, I’m fallible and I do make mistakes. But my heart desire is to be true to God’s Word.

In addition, I am much more comfortable as an expositor than I am as a topical preacher. In case you don’t know the difference, a topical preacher will choose a topic, it could be any topic at any time, and he develops a sermon with scriptural support around that topic. The topic could be anything from a social ill such as depression, or a doctrine of scripture such as eschatology, the study of end times. An expositor typically takes a passage of scripture, or book, and expounds it verse by verse, remaining true contextually, and also declaring relevant truths and observations as he makes his way through. That’s what I believe I am called to do. God has used both methods to reach the hearts of people down through the years. But I am convinced the most effective practice, and that which grounds people in the Word most and best is expository preaching.

With that being said, today, I am going way outside my norm and comfort zone. And I’m doing so for one reason only. God is leading me to.

Today, I am going to talk to you about something that is of great threat to our world. And sadly, it is becoming more and more accepted, and taught, in evangelical church life. If it continues unchecked, it will destroy the nuclear family as we know it today, as well as, the churches they represent. Our subject matter is, Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Intersectionality.

Many of you are probably somewhat familiar with CRT, but I would dare say most of you haven't even heard of Intersectionality So let me give a quick overview.

Critical Race Theory, which has its birthplace in Marxism, holds two primary claims. First, everyone can be divided into two groups: those who have power and those who don't. Secondly, it says, that those who have power always oppress those who don't. That is the simplified, yet accurately described teaching of Critical Theory.

According to this theory, whether or not you are an oppressor or one of the oppressed, is based solely on your group identity. (*It has nothing to do with behavior or character, only your identity*) Your identity is made up of things like race, gender, religion, immigration status, income, sexual orientation, and gender identity. And according to how many of these groups you identify with, and which groups, then you are deemed more or less oppressed. That's where Intersectionality comes in. Intersectionality seeks to measure someone's level of oppression based on how many of these identity groups intersect in this person's life. NOW LISTEN, this is where it really goes awry, In critical theory, the degree to which you are oppressed determines your level of moral authority. The more categories of oppression someone identifies with, the more moral authority they have. THAT'S NOT ME SAYING THAT, THAT'S WHAT CRT ASSERTS. As a result, the experience and perspective of a gay, black, woman is deemed far more valuable than the experience and perspective of a straight white man, regardless of what they have to say. In the same way, the more oppressed someone is, the less moral responsibility they have for their actions. And then it goes a step farther, those who aren't part of oppressed groups—straight, white, men, and to a lesser degree, white women—the only way they can regain any moral authority, is by surrendering to those who have it—the oppressed. This is called being “woke.”

Now, some people claim that since Jesus cares about oppression, critical theory and intersectionality should be embraced by Christians. And we see that happening in a lot of churches and denominations. But, critical race theory and intersectionality are not consistent with Christianity and the teaching of scripture. FIRST of all, CRT holds a different view of humanity than does Christianity. True Christianity considers humanity from a biblical worldview, while CRT follows a secular humanist worldview. Critical theory claims that our identity as human beings are rooted in things like race and gender, features that differ from person to person. But the Bible grounds our identity as human beings, and the value every human has, in the fact that we are created in God's own image. While critical theory pits some groups of people against other groups based on their status as oppressors or oppressed, the Bible says we are all equal before God: created equal, equally valuable, equally guilty of sin, equally deserving of punishment, and equally able to find grace and mercy in Jesus. Which leads to the second point. Critical theory offers a different view of sin than Christianity The Bible identifies sin as anything that violates God's design for people, including unjust oppression of other people, but critical theory identifies sin only as oppression. As a result, advocates of critical theory would see biblical practices such as discipleship, correction, leadership, and reproof as sinful assertions of power, if the speaker is among the oppressors. Likewise, they would excuse sin, such as anger, jealousy, hatred, bitterness, pride, or envy among the oppressed. LISTEN, Power and oppression does not explain everything. Power is real, and oppression exists. But so does love, kindness, respect, and charity. If you want to know truth, you must look to God's Word. Let's do that.

I want you to read with me from Paul's second letter written to young Timothy. 2 Timothy chapter 3. 2 Timothy is found in the "T" books of the New Testament. All the books that start with T are together. And to remember what order they are in, they go from longest to shortest names, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, then the little book of Titus.

We read these verses last week, but I want to spend more time here today. Now, I won't be able to expound this passage the way it deserves because of the time I spent on my introduction, but we do need to get the gist of what it's saying and how it applies to us today. I am convinced from reading God's Word that we are living in the last days. Meaning, Jesus Christ will soon come back for His church. And that knowledge should stir in us a desire to live our lives in a way that honors Him. So let's read together...

2 Timothy 3: 1-5, 12-13 *"But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!... 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."*

And the church said... Oh Me! Those last two verses are haunting, "12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." Here's the truth, we're in trouble. The last days aren't going to be good days. And unless our country experiences revival, either through God's mercy or His judgement, things will continue to grow worse and worse for the Christian, until Jesus comes to take us out of this world.

Let's get into this sermon. Notice...

I) THE PERIL: v 1 *"But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come."* "understand" (Gr. Ginosko - to realize, to know) Ginosko is an intelligent comprehension. It is literally knowledge obtained by experience. Paul is saying that at the end of time people will be able to look around and KNOW/REALIZE that they are living in the last days because of what they see and experience. Of course, our knowledge, our experience comes from being taught God's Word and knowing His truth. LOST SINNERS haven't had the same experience we as Christ followers have had. They don't KNOW, but there's no excuse for us not knowing. AND WHAT IS IT THAT WE SHOULD KNOW?...

"In the last days terrible times will come." There are two things here that Paul assumes we can plainly see. 1. That we are in the last days. 2. Times are terrible! The Greek word for terrible is Chalepos (hal-a-pos). It's been translated as difficult, terrible, and perilous. It means, hard to bear, and troublesome. But the word that probably describes it best, is the word OPPRESSIVE! Voddie Baucham is most likely the leading biblical authority when it comes to critical race theory. If you aren't familiar with Voddie, he's an incredible man of God and preacher of the Word, who just happens to be black. And for more than a decade he has been telling people about this great ideology of hate and evil that was coming for the church. It's only been in the last couple years that people have started listening to him. But this is what he is saying to the church now concerning CRT, Voddie recently said in an interview, "We are in trouble. We can't win, we can't get even, and we can't get out of the game". WOW, that's serious! Can it be that bad? I believe it is.

I) THE PERIL: v 1 CONTINUED These are perilous times! Well preacher, what can we do? We start by repenting of our sins, and pleading for God to have mercy! We cry out for revival. We start telling those in our sphere of influence about Jesus. We share with them His plan of salvation for them, and our own personal testimony of what God has done for us. And then, we pray like there's no tomorrow!

II) THE PROBLEM: vv 2-5 *“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4 traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!...”*

Now, I don't have time to go through these individually. Suffice it to say, this generation that Paul is speaking of is **UTTERLY SELF ABSORBED!**

New American Commentary – When the center of gravity in an individual shifts from God to self, a plethora of sins will spring up.

This “VICE LIST” contains 19 things that are among the most abhorrent sins one can imagine! I could preach at least a dozen sermons on those 4 verses. It's a sickening and perverse gathering of those who call evil good, and good evil. God help us!

Now notice the command in v 5 *“...Turn away from such as these!...”* Timothy is commanded (imperative mood) to continually (present tense) turn himself from these people. And so are we! This doesn't mean we are not to love them, but it does mean you don't associate with them! The truth is, the more you associate with them, the more you will become like them. Regardless of how convincing a false idea may appear or how sincere a false teacher may seem to be, we are to take ourselves by the scruff of the neck, as it were, and make ourselves avoid such people. They are wolves who desire to kill you.

Romans 16: 17-18 *“Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Turn away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”*

Ephesians 4: 14-15a *“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself...”*

We've seen the PERIL and the PROBLEM, now notice...

III) THE PERSECUTION: vv 12-13 *“Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and imposters go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*

“Indeed, (for sure, there's no doubt about it) all (every last one, every man, woman, boy and girl) who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be (absolutely) persecuted,”

Jesus said to His disciples in **John 15: 20** *“Remember the word that I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well;”*

I) THE PERIL: v 1

II) THE PROBLEM: vv 2-5

III THE PERSECUTION: vv 12-13 CONTINUED 1 Peter 4: 12-13 *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory.”*

God has never tried to pull the wool over anyone’s eyes. We are told over and over again in scripture that if we stand for truth, there will be those who will persecute us. THAT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE TRUE THAN IT IS TODAY!

You may not be aware, but more Christians were killed in the twentieth century, than in the previous nineteen centuries combined! AND THE 21ST Century is setting and all new standard for Christian persecution. According to OPEN DOORS, a ministry that tracks Christian persecution around the world, in the 50 countries that tops their World Watch List, in the last year alone; Over 340 million Christians experienced persecution and discrimination on a level that is considered “high”. 4,761 Christians have been killed for their faith, in the last year! 4,488 churches and other Christian buildings have been attacked. And 4,277 believers have been detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned. ALL IN THE LAST YEAR.

If you find yourself supporting causes such as Critical Race Theory, LGBTQIA (MICKEY-MOUSE, IDK), Black Lives Matter the movement, and others, just because you have an affinity for the underdog, then you should be championing Christians everywhere. Because no one, and no group of people, have suffered more for their belief than Christians!

Listen to me, critical race theory is a hate doctrine! And those who promote it, and actually understand what they are doing, are prejudice and haters themselves. And they don’t just hate WHITE MALES. It goes beyond that. There is the heterosexual component. But then it goes further. There’s the cisgender issue, that’s part of it too. (If you don’t know what that is, A cisgender person is a person whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth.) What a novel idea! But it still goes beyond that! According to CRT literature, Christianity is near the top tier of hegemonic oppression!

AND SO, it is the task of everyone “oppressed” to bring down, to silent, to cancel those which CRT deems as oppressors!

Now, where does that put me? Well, I’m WHITE, a MALE, STRAIGHT, a unashamed CHRISTIAN, and a PASTOR of a Christian church. WHITE, MALE, STRAIGHT, CHRISTIAN, PASTOR! According to CRT I am the worst of the worst! COME ON, LOOK AT ME, I’M A TEDDY BEAR! Now I’m not trying to make fun, But I am trying to show you the idiocy behind this scheme to re-shape our country!

CONCLUSION: If you’re here this morning and you have been led astray by the false teachings of this culture, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. Jesus loves you, and so do we! **Ephesians 1: 4-8** *“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us in all wisdom and understanding,”*