

The True Answer

April 5, 2015

On February 17, 2015, the White House hosted a Summit on Countering Violent Extremism to highlight domestic and international efforts to prevent violent extremists and their supporters from radicalizing, recruiting, or inspiring individuals or groups in the United States and abroad to commit acts of violence, efforts made even more imperative in light of recent, tragic attacks throughout the world.

President Obama said that much of the blame for such violent behavior can be traced to the lack of jobs and improper education of those terrorists. I don't know what to say about his statement. I don't know whether he is plain clueless about these terrorists or just too naive. The ISIS terrorist known as "Jihadi John" who beheaded several hostages turned out to be Mohammad Emwazi who graduated in computer programming and was raised in west London as the son of well-to-do parents. He is not the only one among the notable Islamist terrorists. Osama Bin Laden was born to the family of billionaire in Saudi Arabia and attended a university there.

Like the people who have the bumper sticker "Visualize world peace," the majority of the people around the world are looking to politicians, scientists, and educators to bring peace to this world as well as solve their life problems, not our Lord Jesus.

In my opinion, this blame must go to the believers of Jesus Christ first, especially the pastors and Bible teachers. Unfortunately many of them wanted to be liked by their congregation more than being obedient to the Word of God that they waterdown the Lord Jesus and the Gospel of Him.

Way too many Christians keep their Savior Jesus Christ tucked away in quiet little recesses and His name is only mentioned in church setting on Sundays. They'd rather spend time on Facebook and Twitter more than spending time with the Lord in prayers and reading His Word, the Bible daily. Many of us act and live as if Christ were dead and not risen.

It is no wonder that unbelievers around us don't see the real Jesus in our lives, because we don't represent Him well to them. To them, our Jesus seems weak, small, and irrelevant.

In results, people doubt the authority of the Scriptures and their ideas of God are far less than the God of the Bible. In many cases, these two are not even remotely resembled. Since these people think that there is no authority in the Bible and the Christian God is not a Holy and Righteous God, they would do whatever they want and they think that they can make up their ideas of what God should be.

It is total chaos in their spiritual world and it contaminates their physical and emotional world. As far as they are concerned "Jesus Christ" is someone's name which they can use to cuss, not God at all.

Matthew 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

For many people, especially those who are willing to embrace physical temporary peace at all cost, they insist what Jesus said and taught in the Bible must be rejected because it would cost them too much to follow. Even many pastors and Bible teachers try to teach Jesus like a dope-smoking and peace-loving hippie who sings “Que Sera, Sera, Whatever will be, will be,” and winks at people’s sins. By the way, if you know how to sing that song, you just dated yourself.

Before World War II, Nazism blossomed in Germany only after the church had failed to fill the vacuum following World War I. When the church failed to present and declare a dynamic, living Christ, someone else stepped in to fill that void – Adolf Hitler. When Christ is pushed out of His rightful place as Lord in any nation, immorality, deceit, and tyranny take over.

Who has not heard about the disgraced NBC News anchor Brian Williams who had falsely recounted a story that he was in a helicopter that was hit by ground fire in Iraq in 2003? How about Lance Armstrong who used performance-enhancing drugs throughout his career and fiercely defended his innocence, only to crash and burn and lost all seven Tour titles?

Is this kind of deception limited to the rich and famous only? No. The Book “The Day America Told The Truth” shows us humans’ true color. According to this book, 91% of Americans admitted that they lie regularly; 86% admitted lying to their parents; 75% admitted lying to their friends; and 69% of Americans admitted they lie to their spouse.

One study by the University of Massachusetts in 2002 reports that 60% of people lied at least once during a 10-minute conversation and told an average of two or three lies.

Jesus taught us that satan is the father of lies in John chapter 8. Since the Garden of Eden He continually provokes human minds and encourages us to lie. Here are 5 lies that the world believes to counter God’s truth on the matter:

Lie #1: There is no absolute moral authority.

The liars claim this until it goes against them. But whether they like it or not, the Bible has the absolute moral, ethical, and spiritual authority.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Lie #2: If it feels good, do it.

This is the biggest deception against women in America since 1960. It started the “Free Sex” movement.

Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the spirits.

Lie #3: We are free to redefine marriage as we want.

It is not just about homosexual marriage, having more than one spouse, and who knows what else sinful humans would come up with. They don’t want to be limited within the God-given marriage of one husband and one wife to satisfy their sinful nature.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Lie #4: Homosexuality is God-given and good and should be celebrated.

I don't know where they find their basis in the Holy Bible. From the OT to the NT, it is very clear that God does not condone homosexuality. Our Lord never goes against His own Word, the Bible.

Romans 1:26-28 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting

Lie #5: It's my body. I can do whatever I want to do with it.

This is another lie that was pulled against women from 1960's. Yes, they are their bodies, but the unborn babies they are trying to abort are human beings. When someone tries to stop a human's life without a justifiable cause, it is a "MURDER".

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

In the United States, more than 1.3 million unborn babies are killed in abortions each year. Approximately 54 million babies have been killed since abortion was legalized in 1973.

I like what Russell D. Moore who is president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said, "Many Americans are living under the illusion that lying causes no victims. When, in fact, lying has victims, starting with the conscience and the integrity of the liar himself or herself. We must realize what lying does to one's own soul." Then, he added, "We're all sinners desperately in need of grace." I couldn't agree with him more.

Within our hearts, the Lord our God has placed three inner needs – the need for love, significance, and security. Rather than humbling ourselves to the Lord to receive His love, and becoming the children of God, and protected by His ultimate power, many people lie to others, to meet one of these three inner needs – illegitimately.

By now, some of you are thinking, "Wow, I came to this church to hear all these dark and gloomy things about humans. Where is an encouragement?" Relax, I am getting there now.

John 15:11-12 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Jesus our Savior promised to us that we can have His inexpressible joy only we come to Him with humility and repentance of our sins and accept Him as our Savior and Lord. No religion, no high educational ideology, no nothing is required to be accepted by Him except simple faith in Him.

Many people tend to divide their lives into several compartments – politics in here, finance over there, Oh yeah, somewhere way in the back, faith in God that they pull out only when they are in hot water or a couple of hours on Sunday morning once in awhile.

Our God Jesus Christ who was risen from the dead has the power to confront and solve your problems. Do you know anyone who has enough power to overcome one's own death? No one, except our Lord.

Jesus once declared this in Luke 4:

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed"

You may not fall into one of these categories physically, emotionally. But spiritually you might be one because you don't have Him as your Savior and Lord in your heart. Here is the Good News for the spiritually poor; emotionally broken hearted, and spiritual prisoners, as well as spiritual blinds.

There are many self-proclaimed saviors in the world, none can save to the uttermost, because they cannot reach to the depths of our depravity. There is only one God who rescues us from that depth.

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the Lord, And besides Me there is no savior.

The next event on the prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the church which can happen any moment. However, if you try to look up the word "rapture" in the Bible, you won't find it. Unless you have a Latin translation, that is. The phrase "caught up," is the Latin word "rapturus," which means "to be caught up." A more literal definition is "to be snatched up." Believers will be taken to meet the Lord in the air.

The apostle Paul described this event in his letter to the Christians at Thessalonica:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Unless you are a born-again Christian now, you will not be snatched up to heaven with us by Jesus. Right after the rapture, there will be the Great Tribulation – a practical hell on earth. It means that you will be left behind and will have to go through that horror. World War III will be only the beginning.

If you don't know Him as your Savior and Lord, I'd like to introduce Him to you this morning.