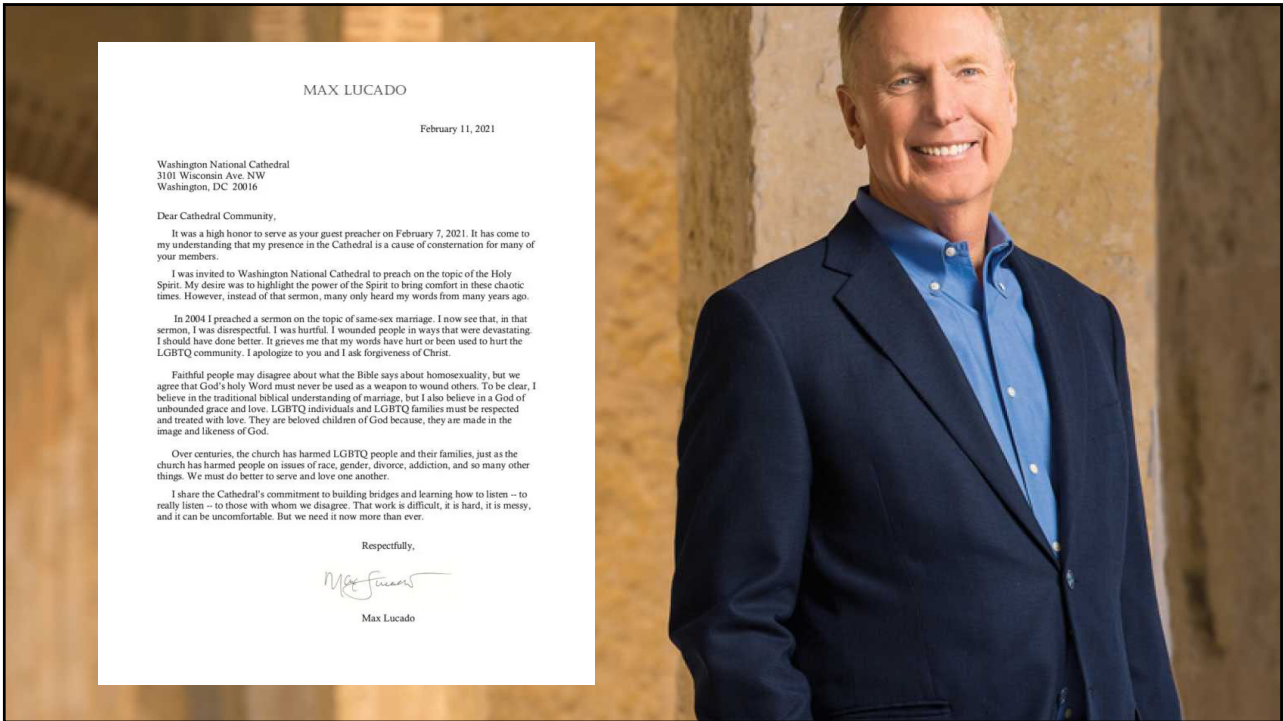


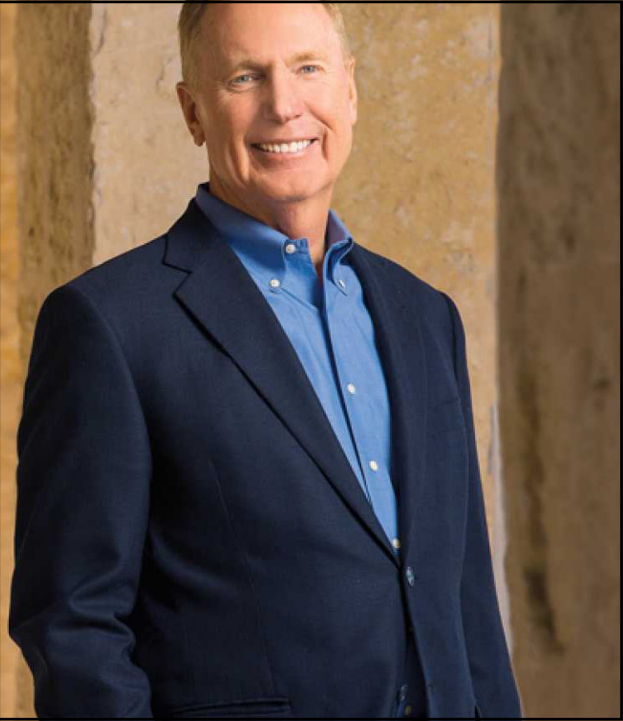
1



2

“I was invited to Washington National Cathedral to preach on the topic of the Holy Spirit. My desire was to highlight the power of the Spirit to bring comfort in these chaotic times. However, instead of that sermon, many only heard my words from many years ago.

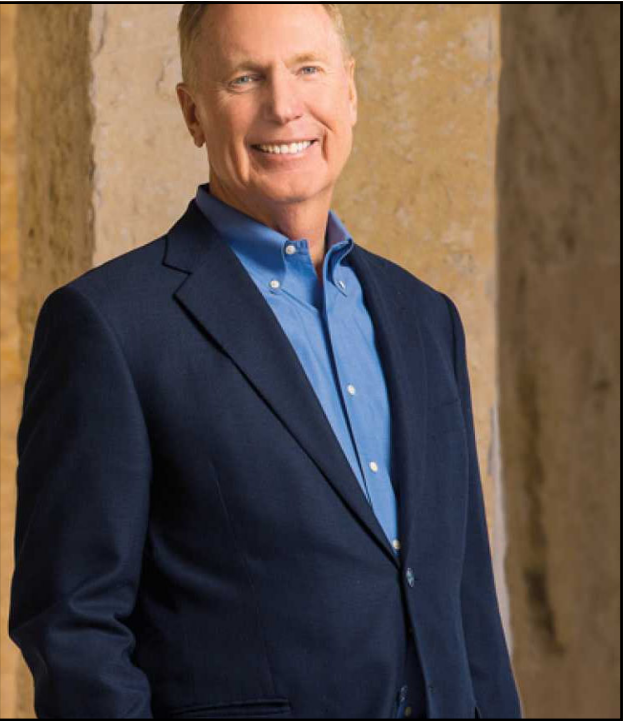
In 2004 I preached a sermon on the topic of same-sex marriage. I now see that, in that sermon, I was disrespectful. I was hurtful. I wounded people in ways that were devastating. I should have done better. It grieves me that my words have hurt or been used to hurt the LGBTQ community. I apologize to you and I ask forgiveness of Christ.

A portrait of Dan Fisher, a middle-aged man with short blonde hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue button-down shirt. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

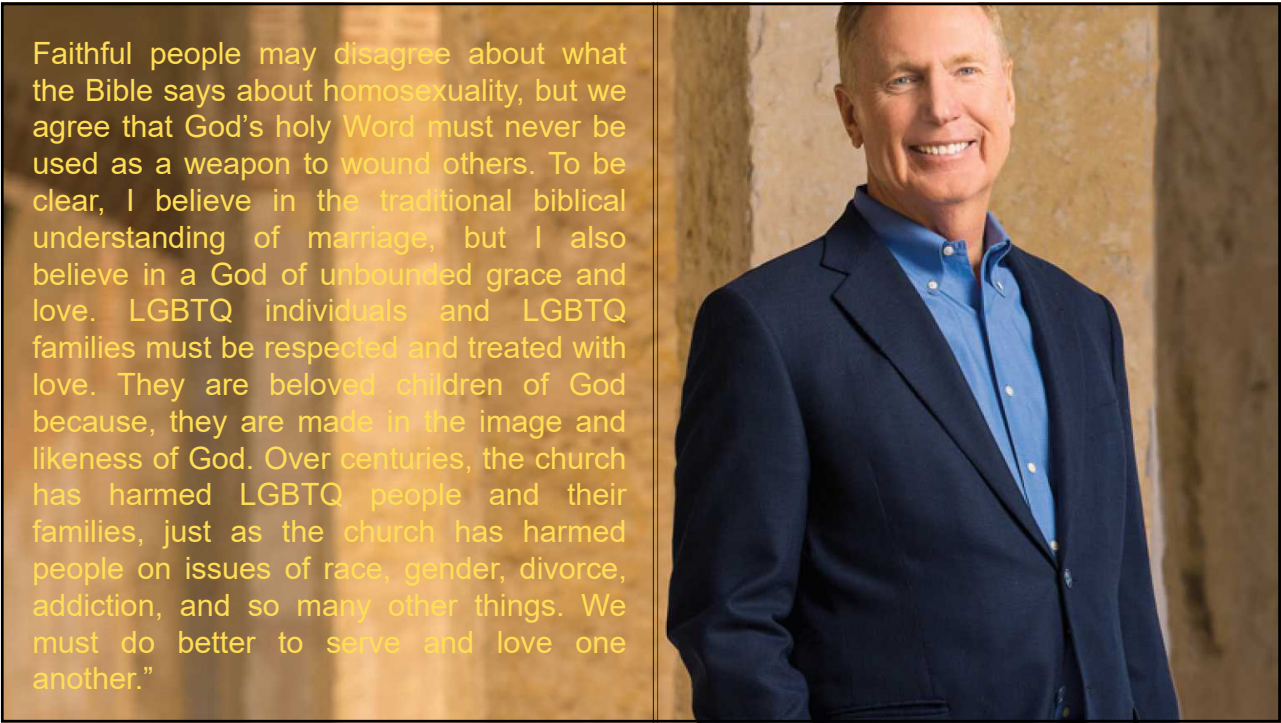
3

The 2004 sermon said:

“How will homosexuality impact our culture? What about the spread of disease? If gay lifestyle and gay marriage is endorsed – what follows? Polygamy? Legalized incest? If we can't draw a line, will lines be drawn at all? Men and women were not intended for identical gender but [the] opposite.”

A portrait of Dan Fisher, a middle-aged man with short blonde hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue button-down shirt. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

4



5



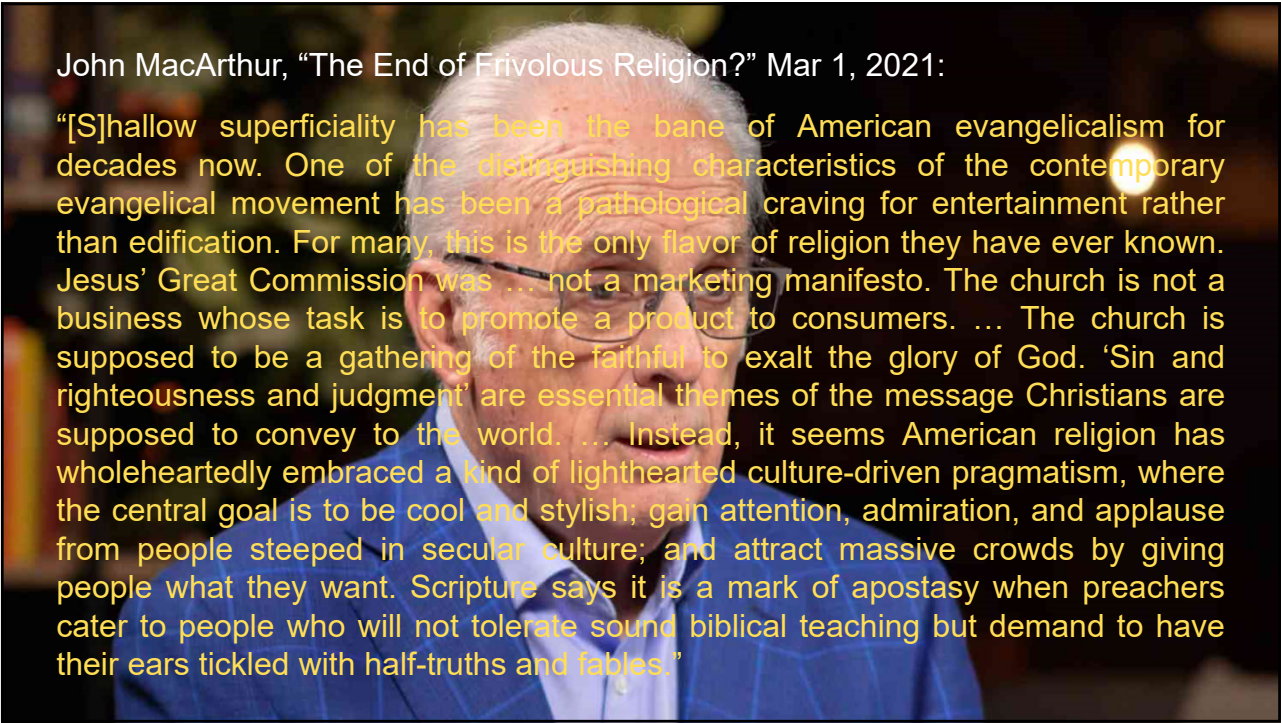
6



7



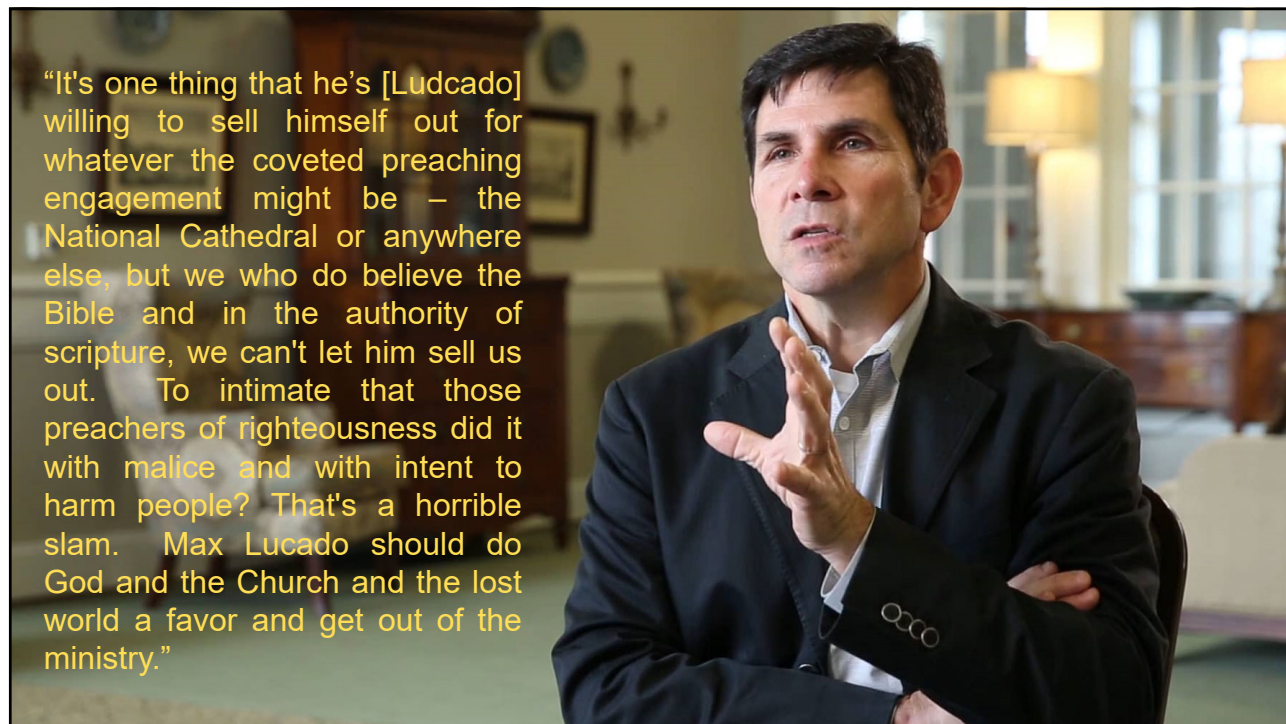
8



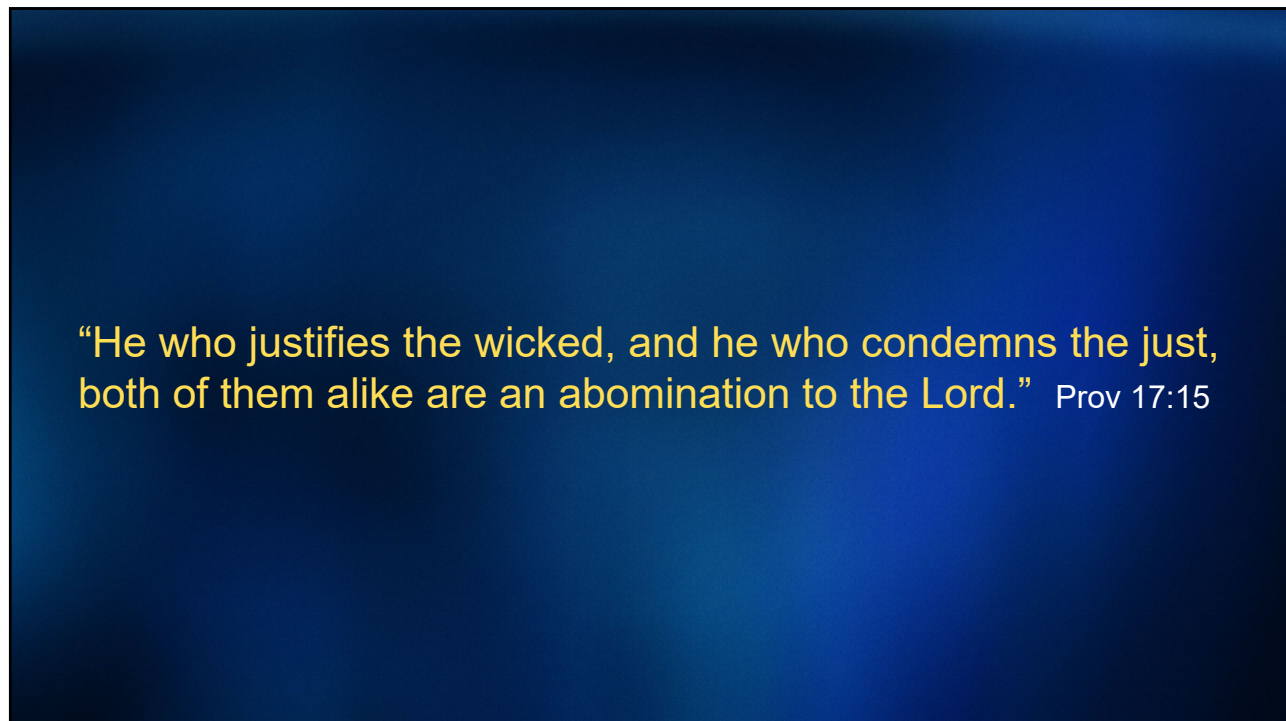
9



10



11



12

1. What is the Gospel anyway?

13

- It is John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- It is John 14:6:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

14

- It is Rom 1:16:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- It is the “Gospel of the Kingdom” Jesus & the Apostles preached:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom ... Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom Mt 4:23; 9:35

15

- It is the same Gospel preached to Abraham in 2000 B.C.:

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand ... Gal 3:8

- It is the Gospel Jesus told us to preach/teach:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Mt 28:19-20

16

- It is the same Gospel preached to Abraham in 2000 B.C.:

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand ... Gal 3:8

- It is the Gospel Jesus told us to preach/teach:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Mt 28:19-20

17

The Gospel not only takes us to heaven; it also brings heaven down to us.

The Gospel does more than save us; it also sanctifies us (makes us more like Him)

18



Paul's Departure from Ephesus

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27

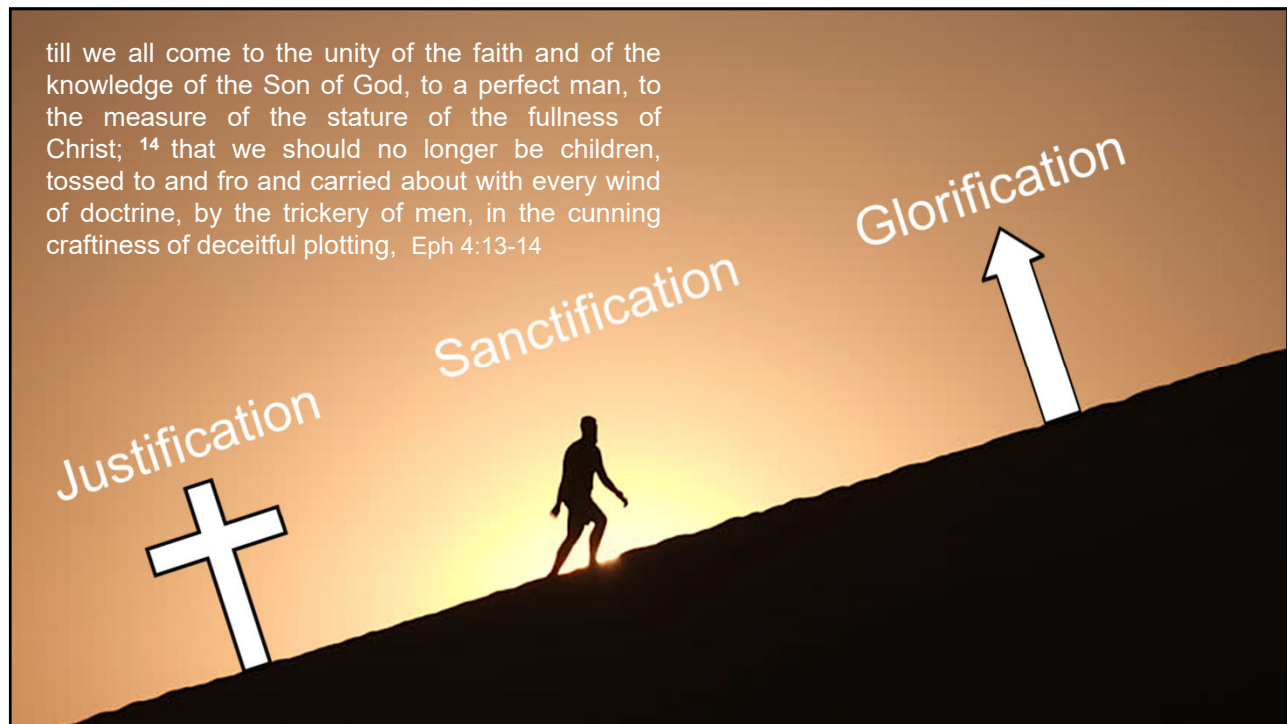
Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, Heb 6:1

19

“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,” 1 Pet 2:2

“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Heb 5:13-14

20



21

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 1 Cor 3:1-2

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb 5:12-13

22

2. Why is the Gospel so offensive?

23

- **Scripture says it is**

Is 8:14 He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense ...

Rom 9:33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

1 Pet 2:6-8 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

1 Cor 1:18,23 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

24

- **Man is sinful and wicked**

Jer 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Rom 3:10,23 “There is none righteous, no, not one; ... ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

25

- **The world hates Jesus, His Gospel, and His people**

Mt 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.

Jn 15:18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

Jn 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

26

- The Gospel claims exclusivity

Jn 14:6 No one comes to the Father but by Me

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

27

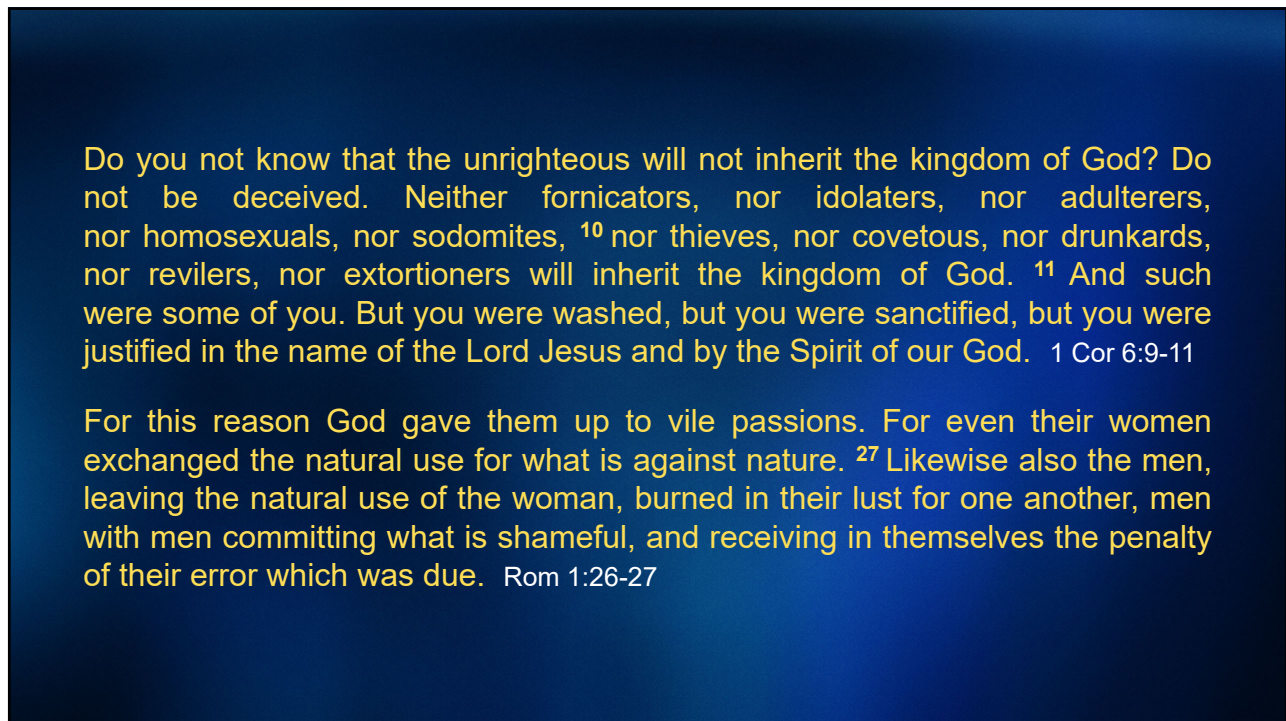
- The Gospel is brutally honest

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

28



29



30

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. ... ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Rev 21:8,27

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. Rev 22:15

31



32

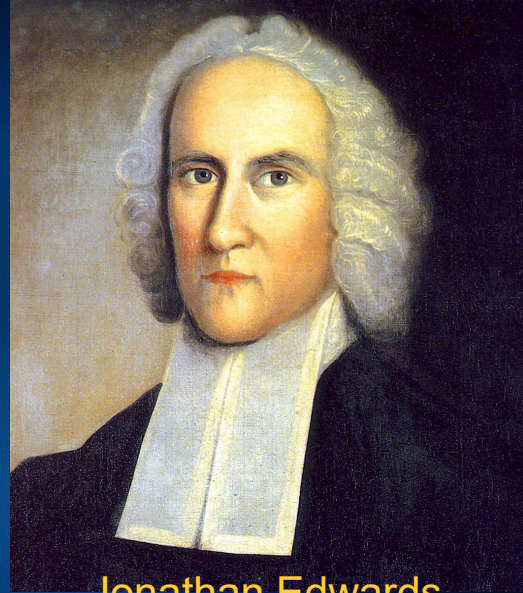
3. Does our preaching have to be offensive?

33

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? Rom 2:4

34

“Though [repentance] be a deep sorrow for sin that God requires as necessary to salvation, yet the very nature of it necessarily implies delight. Repentance of sin is a sorrow arising from the sight of God's excellency and mercy, but the apprehension of excellency or mercy must necessarily and unavoidably beget pleasure in the mind of the beholder. 'Tis impossible ... to be affected with the mercy and love of God, and his willingness to be merciful to us and love us, and not be affected with pleasure at the thoughts of [it]; but this is the very affection that begets true repentance. How much soever of a paradox it may seem, it is true that repentance is a sweet sorrow, so that the more of this sorrow, the more pleasure.”



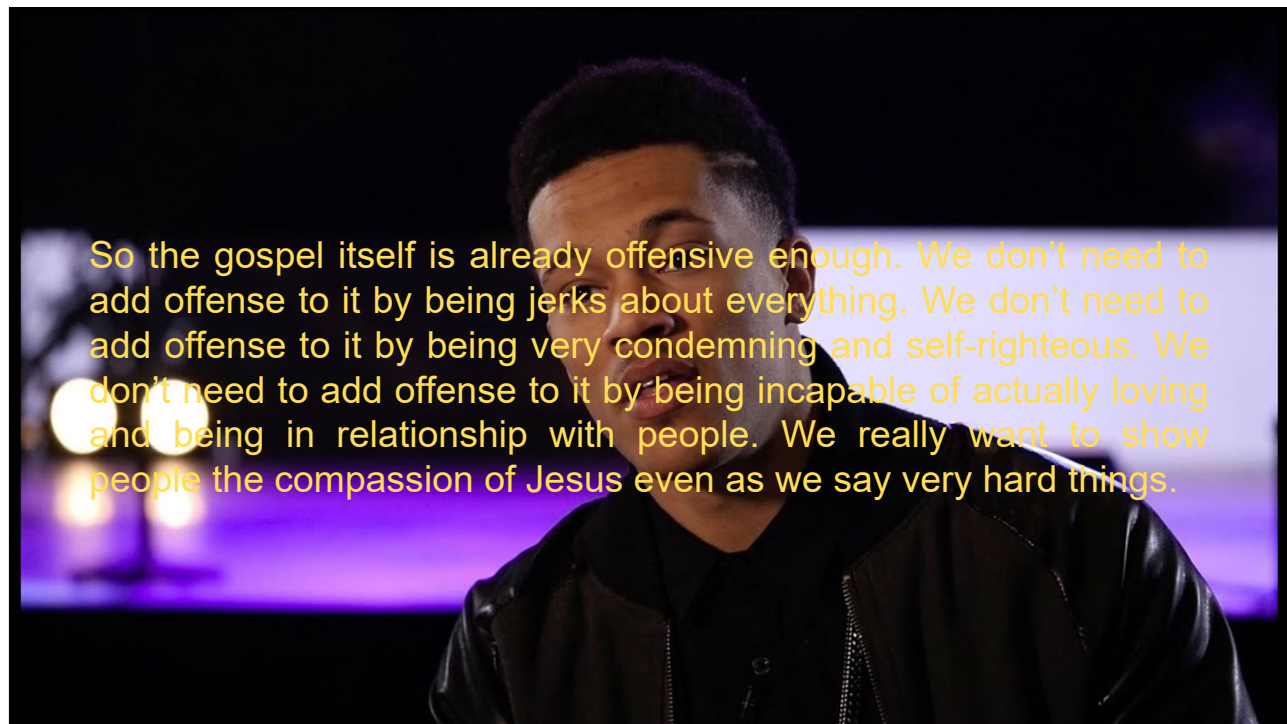
Jonathan Edwards

35



Trip Lee – pastor, teacher, author, Christian hip-hop artist

36



37

“Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.” Mt 17:27

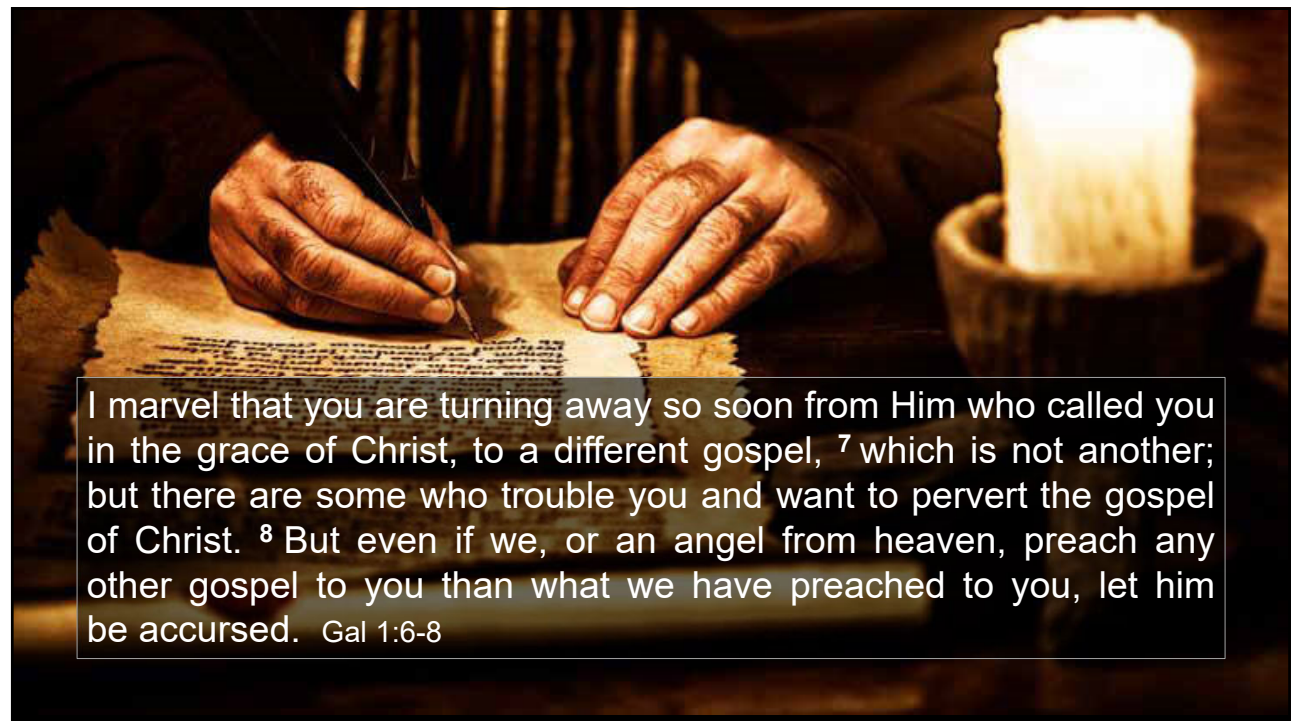
Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” ... ¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” Mt 15:12,14

He said to them, “Does this offend you? ... ⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” Jn 6:61,65-67

38

An inoffensive Gospel is no Gospel at all

39



40

“blessed is he who is not **offended** because of Me.” Lk 7:23

The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that **offend**, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Mt 13:41-42