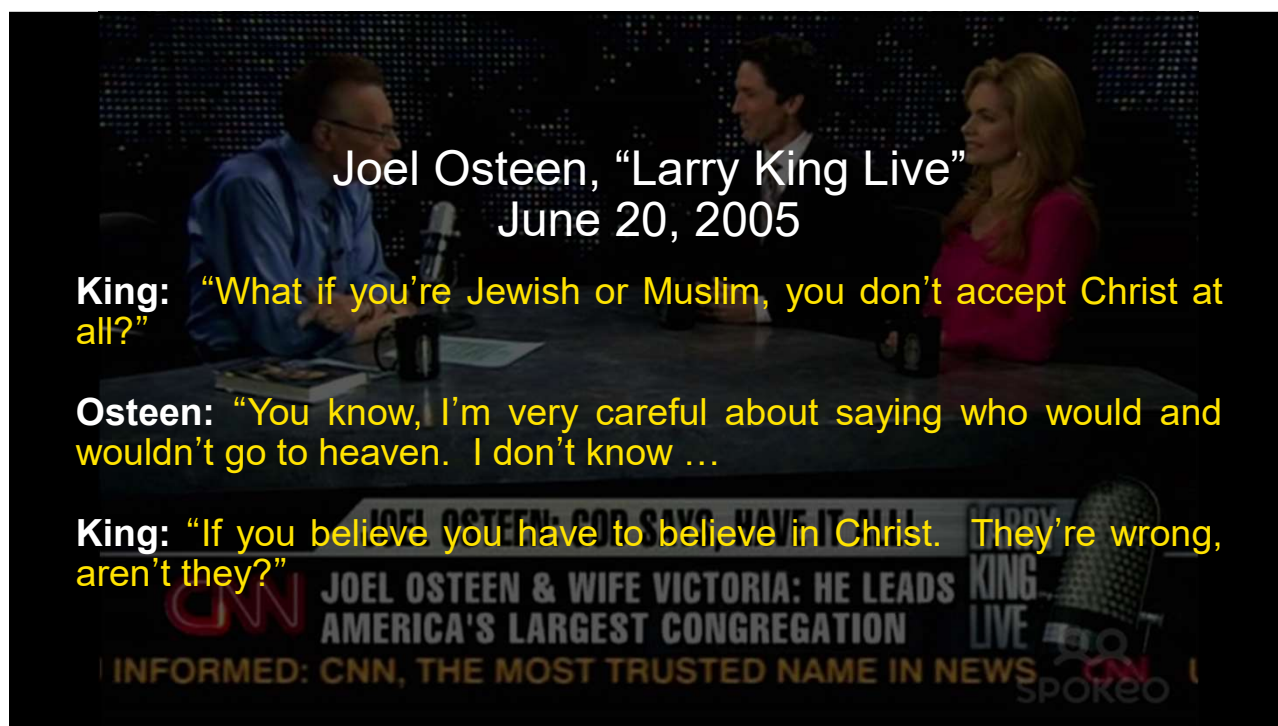


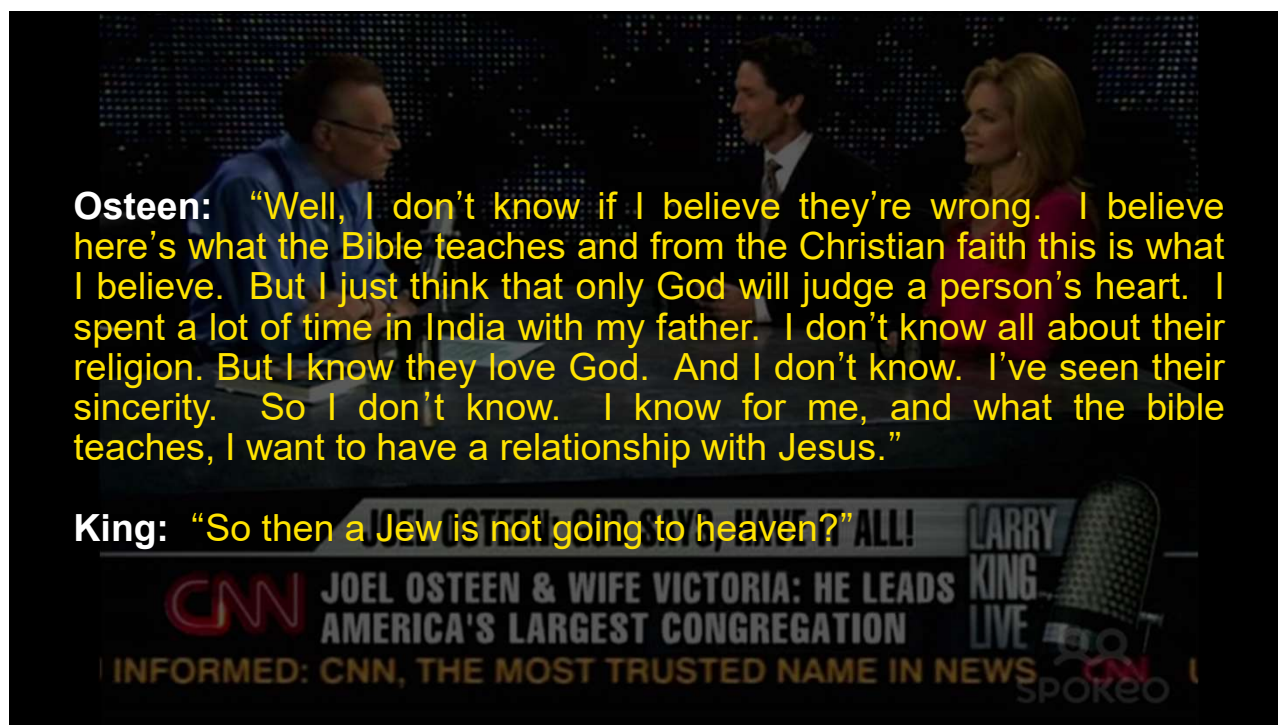
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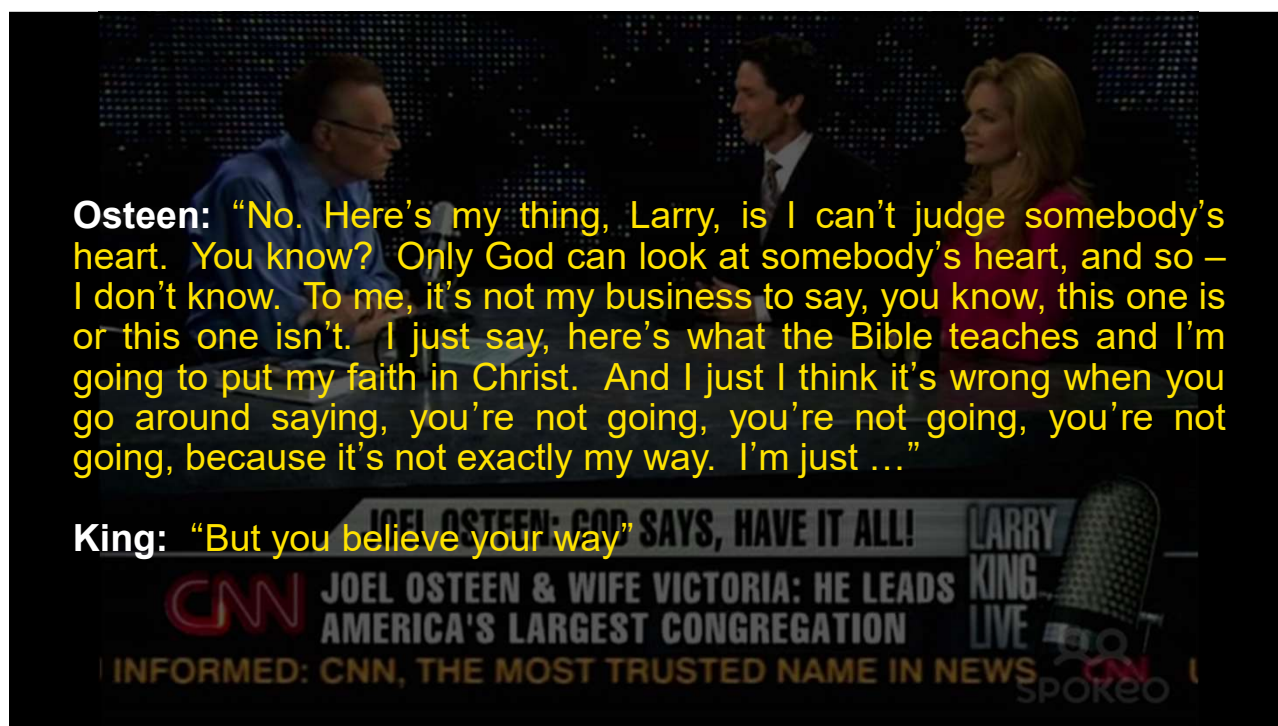
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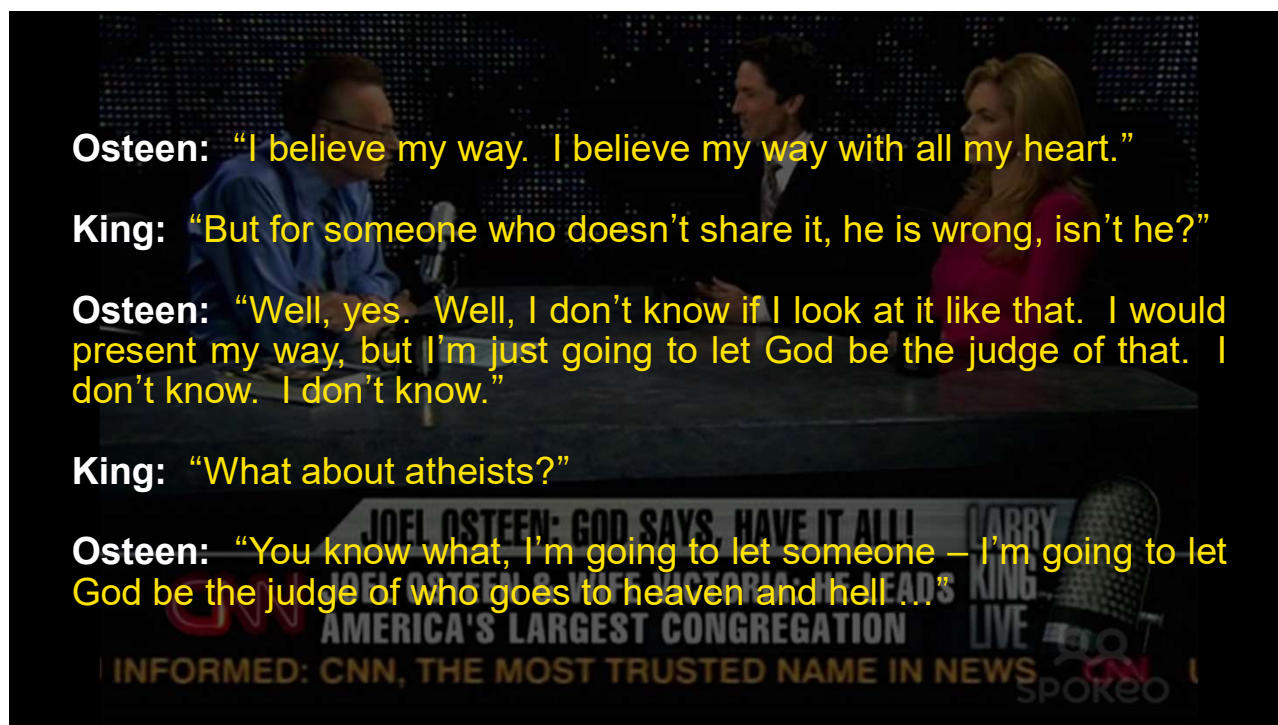
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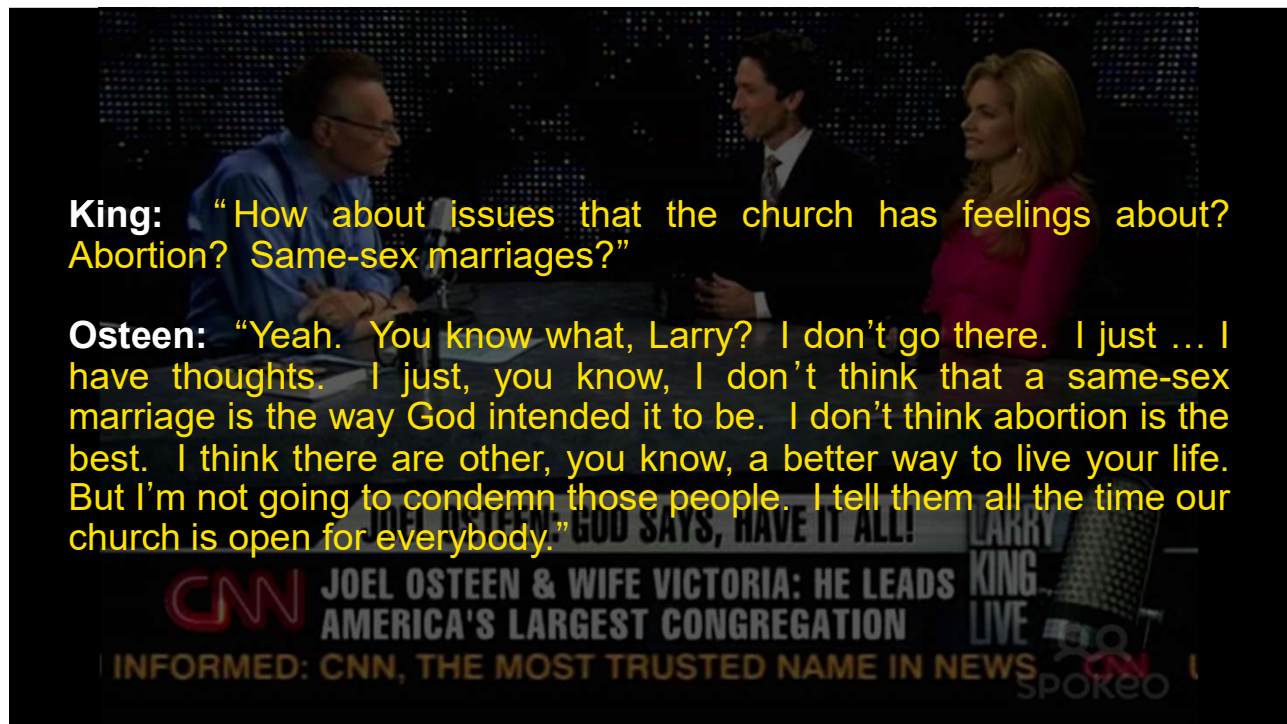
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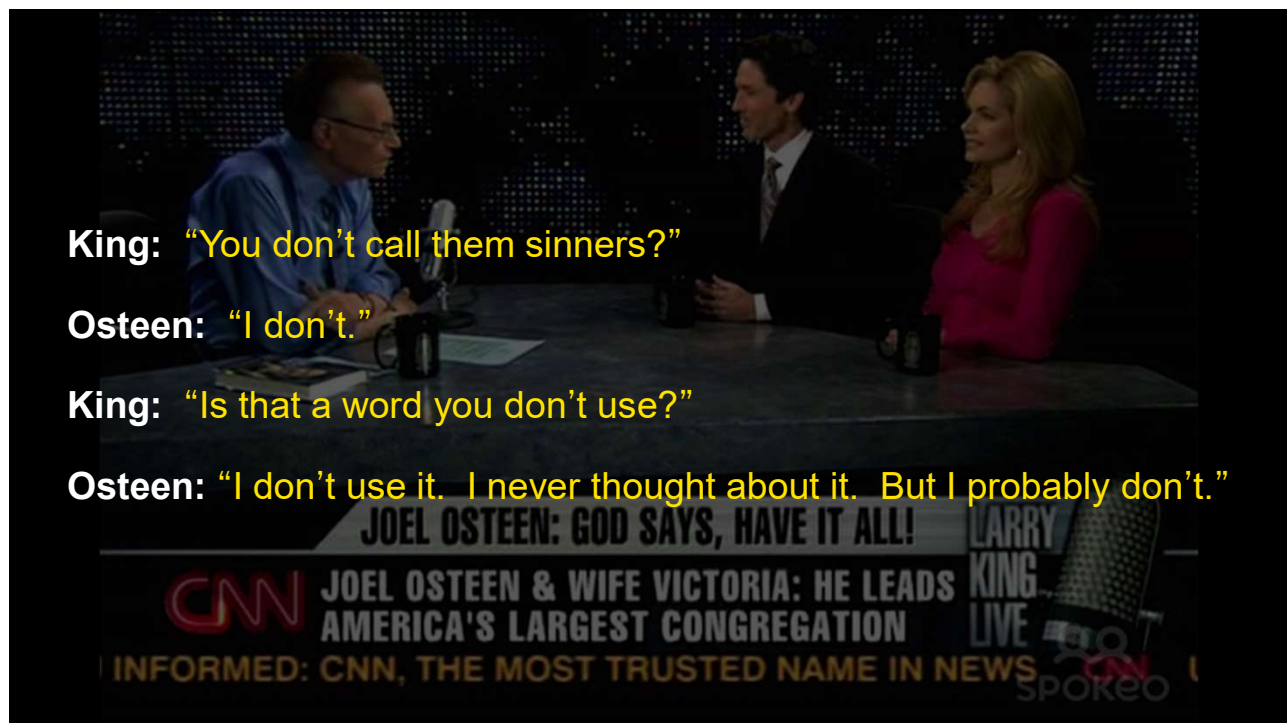
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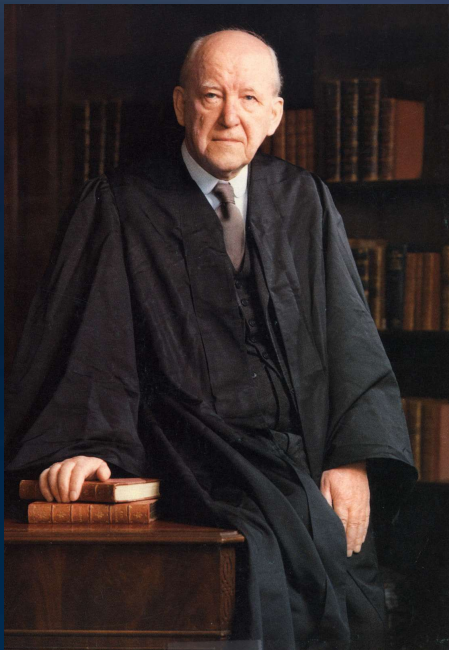


8

“Not knowing what you believe is by definition a kind of unbelief ... Advocating ambiguity, exalting uncertainty, or otherwise deliberately clouding the truth is a sinful way of nurturing unbelief. ... Truth and meaning are not determined by our intuition, experience, or desire. The true meaning of Scripture – or anything else, for that matter, has already been determined and fixed by the mind of God. The task of an interpreter is to discern that meaning. And proper interpretation must precede application.” John MacArthur

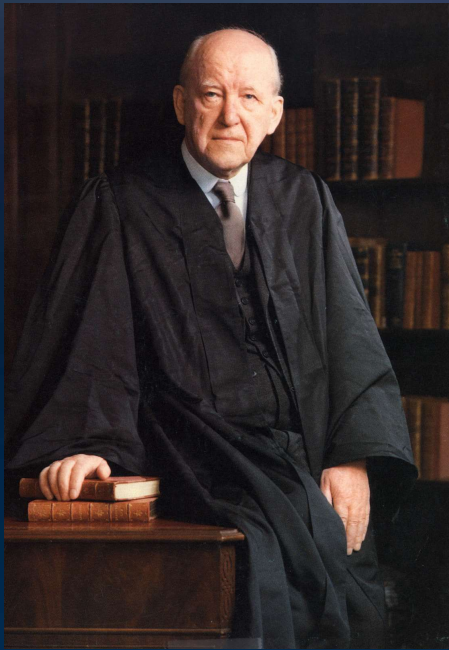


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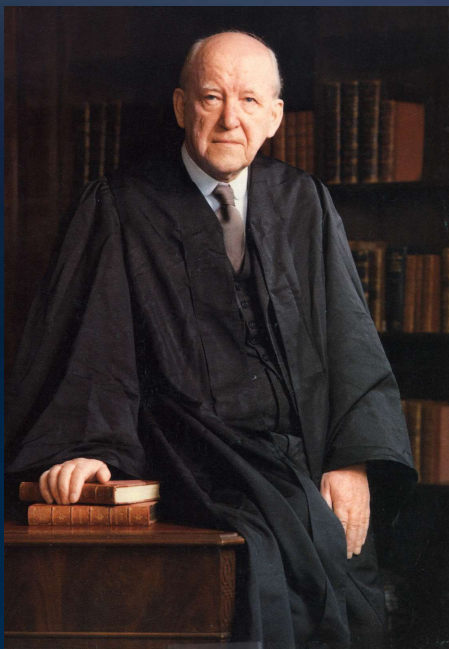
“Disapproval of polemics in the Christian Church is a very serious matter. But that is the attitude of the age in which we live. The prevailing idea today in many circles is not to bother about these things. As long as we are all Christians, anyhow, somehow, all is well. Do not let us argue about doctrine, let us all be Christians together and talk about the love of God. ... Unfortunately, that same attitude is creeping into evangelical circles also, and many say that we must not be too precise about these things. ...

10



If you hold that view you are criticizing the Apostle Paul, you are saying that he was wrong, and at the same time you are criticizing the Scriptures. The Scriptures argue and debate and dispute; they are full of polemics. ... Let us be clear about what we mean. This is not argument for the sake of argument; this is not a manifestation of an argumentative spirit; this is not just indulging one's prejudices. The Scriptures do not approve of that, and furthermore the Scriptures are very concerned about the spirit in which one engages in discussion. No man should like argument for the sake of argument.

11



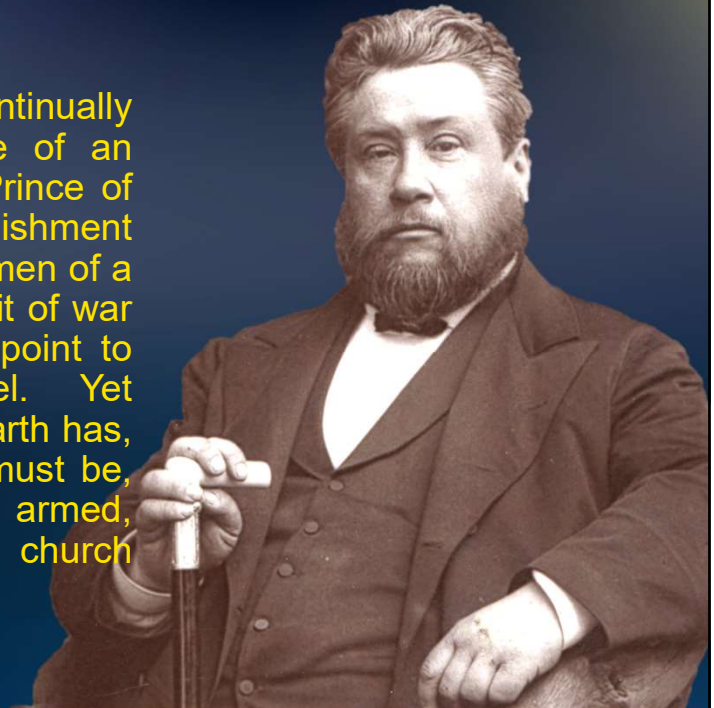
We should always regret the necessity; but though we regret and bemoan it, when we feel that a vital matter is at stake we must engage in argument. We must 'earnestly contend for the truth,' and we are called upon to do that by the New Testament."

12

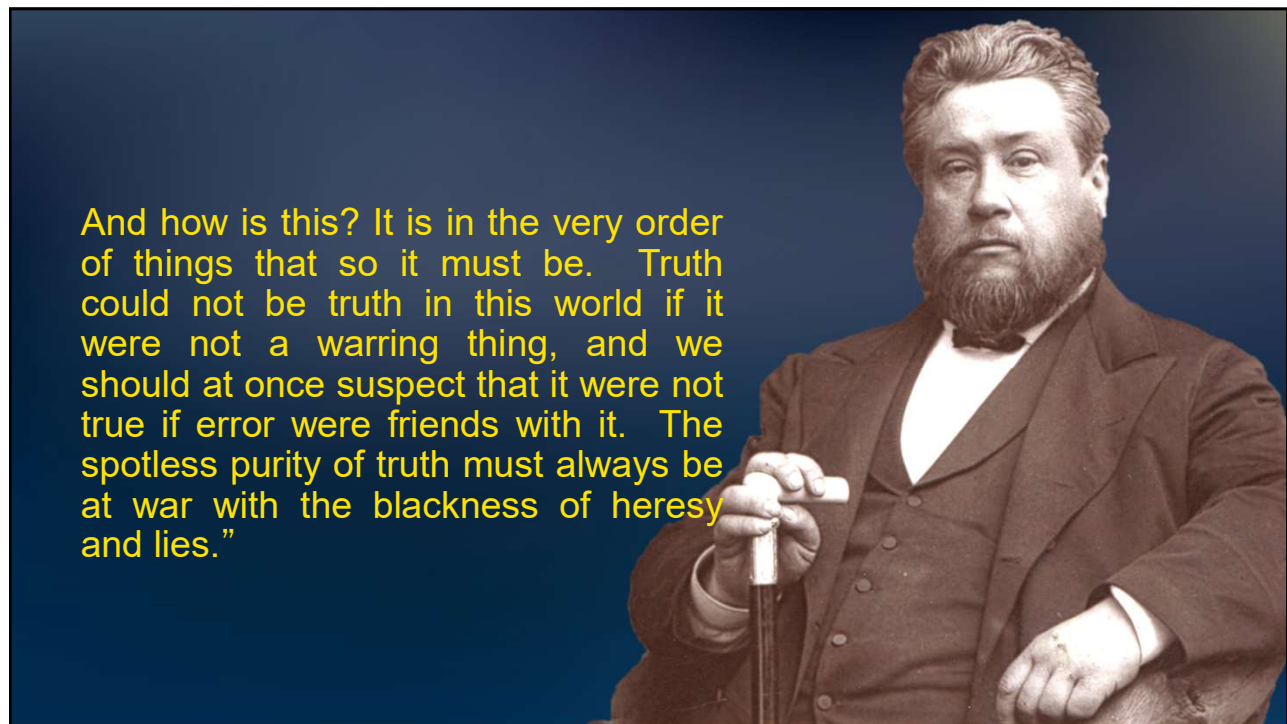
Polemic theology is the branch of theological argumentation devoted to the history or conduct of controversy over religious matters. It is distinguished from apologetics, the intellectual defense of faith.

13

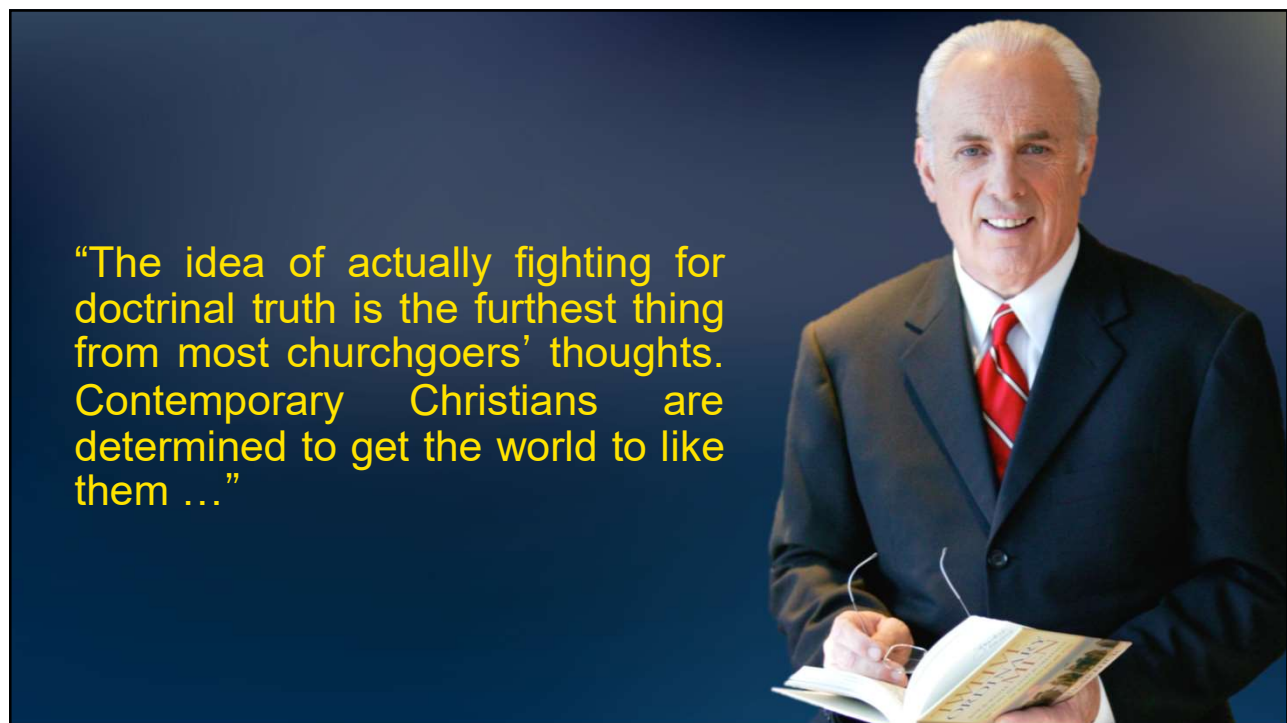
“The Church of Christ is continually represented under the figure of an army; yet its Captain is the Prince of Peace; its object is the establishment of peace, and its soldiers are men of a peaceful disposition. The spirit of war is at the extremely opposite point to the spirit of the gospel. Yet nevertheless, the church on earth has, and until the second advent must be, the church militant, the church armed, the church warring, the church conquering.



14



15

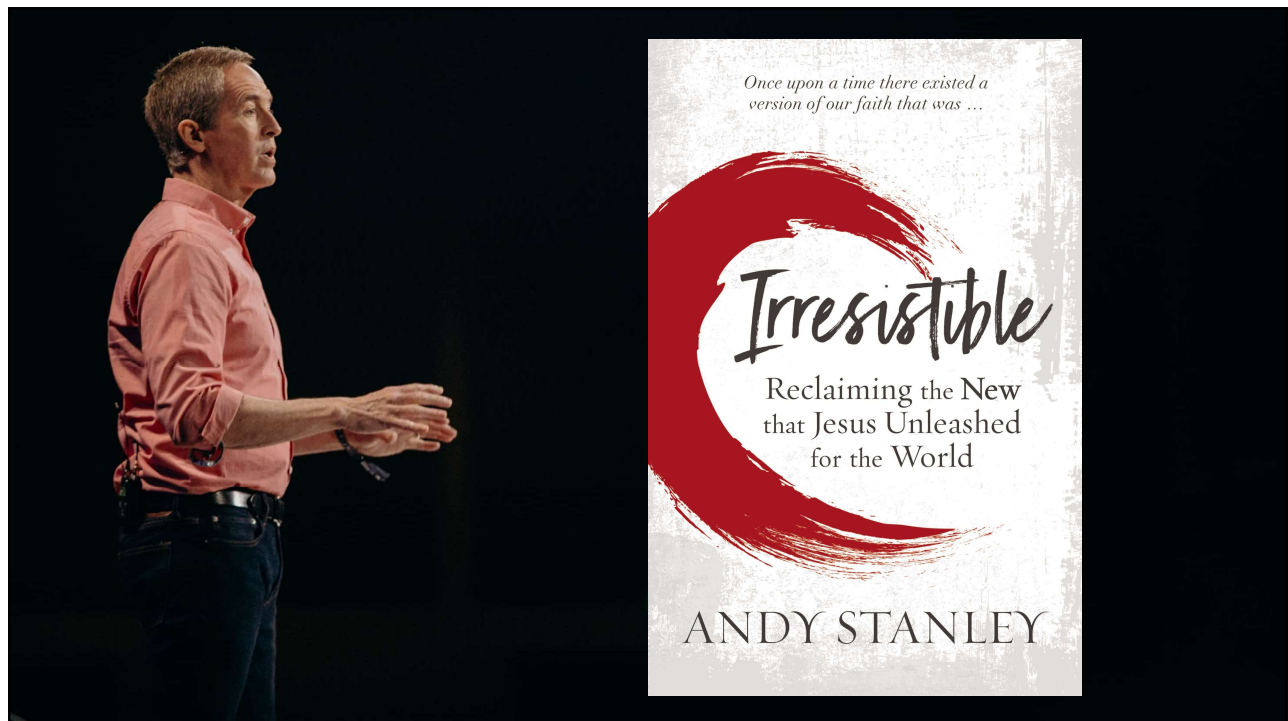


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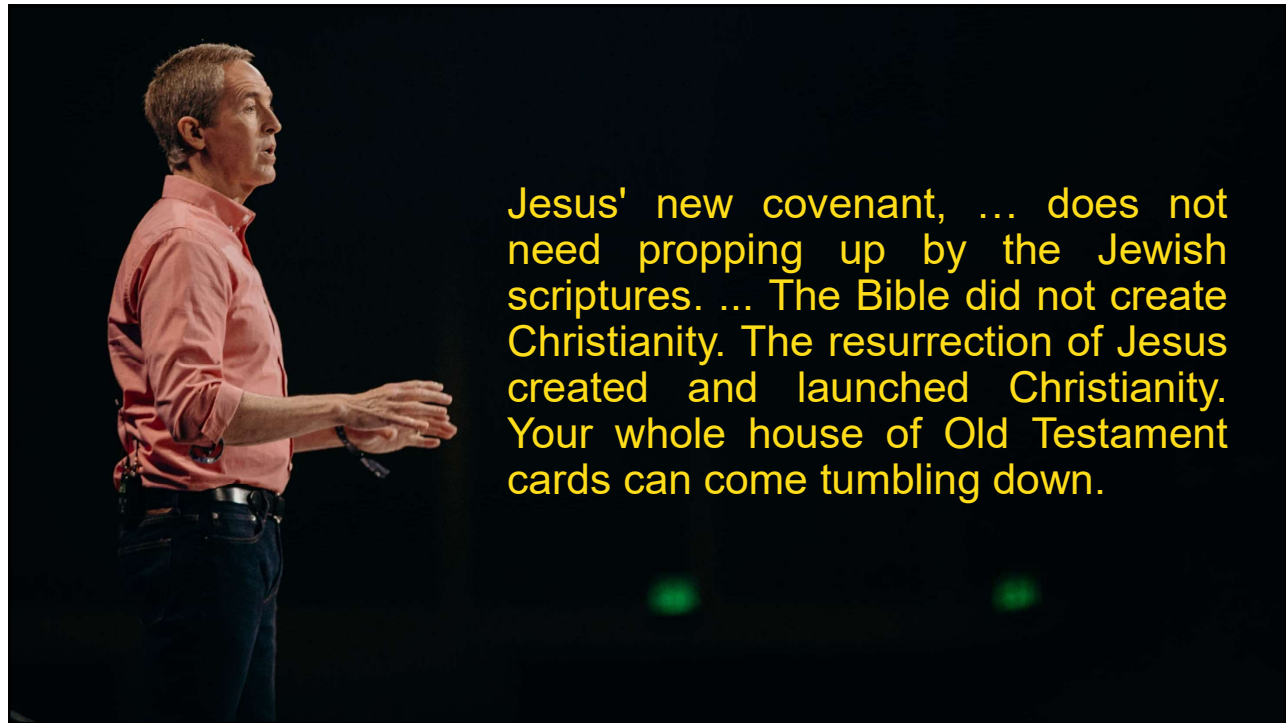
Are there really false teachers among us or are we just being overly dramatic?

- Jesus warned about false teachers: Mt 7:15, 24:24-25
- Paul warned about false teachers: Acts 20:29-31
- Peter warned about false teachers: 2 Pet 2:1-2
- John warned about false teachers: 2 Jn 7

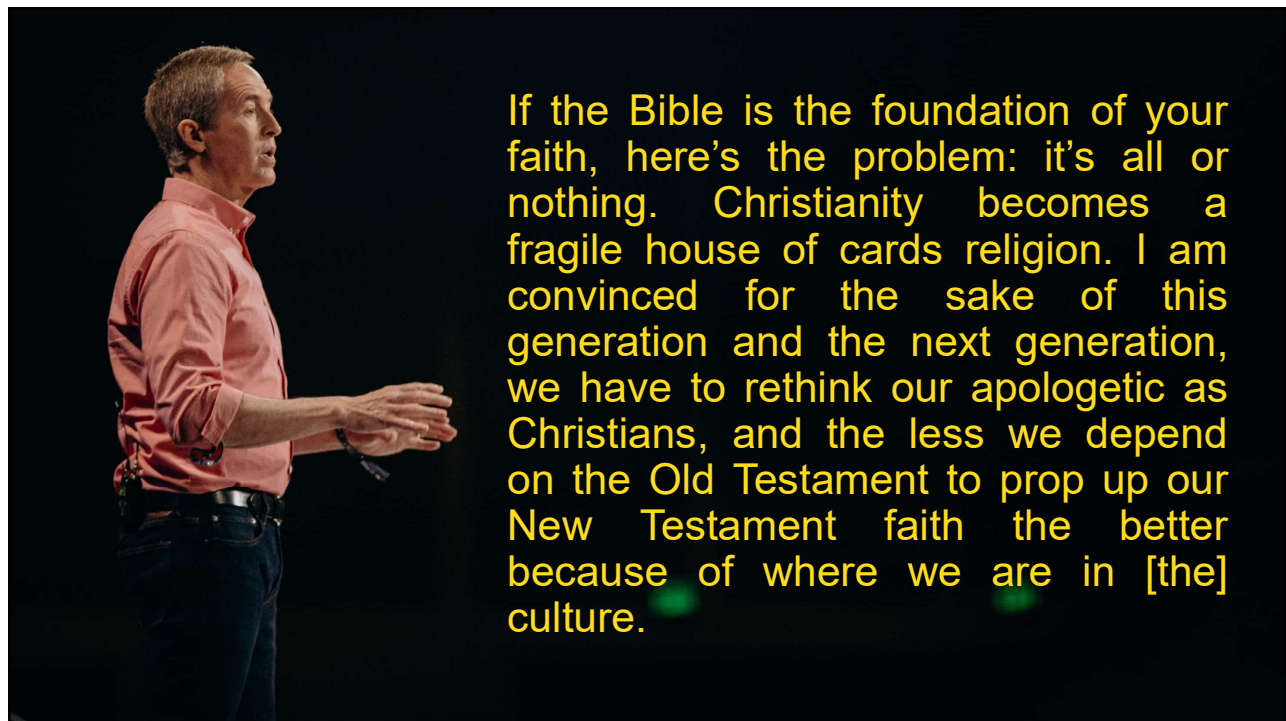
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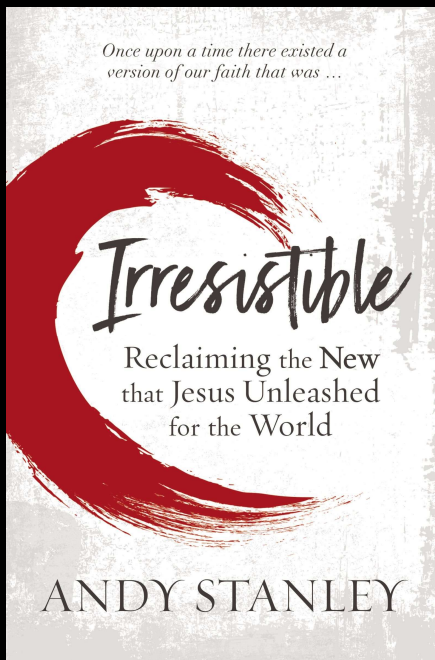
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19



20



“The good news is even if none of those [Old Testament] things actually happened it does nothing to undermine the credibility of our new covenant faith.” (p. 306)

“The Ten Commandments have no authority over you. None. To be clear: Though shalt not obey the Ten Commandments.” (p. 136)

“Paul never leverages the old covenant as a basis for Christian behavior.” (p. 209)

21



Brian McLaren, best-known figure in the Emerging Church movement, *Christianity Today*, Nov 2004:

“I don't think we've got the gospel right yet ... I don't think the liberals have it right. But I don't think we have it right either. None of us has arrived at orthodoxy ...”

22



... ask me if Christianity is orthodox, meaning true, and here's my honest answer: a little, but not yet ... I'd have to say that we probably have a couple of things right, but a lot of things wrong ... Ultimately, I hope that Jesus will save Buddhism, Islam and every other religion, including the Christian religion, which often seems to need saving about as much as any other religion does."

23

"The Bible is a collection of stories that teach us about what it looks like when God is at work through actual people. The Bible has the authority it does only because it contains stories about people interacting with the God who has all authority. ... But it wasn't until the 300s that what we know as the sixty-six books of the Bible were actually agreed upon as 'the Bible'. This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that 'Scripture alone' is our guide.



24

It sounds nice, but it is not true. In reaction to abuses by the church, a group of believers during a time called the Reformation claimed that we only need the authority of the Bible. ... When people say that all we need is the Bible, it is simply not true. In affirming the Bible as inspired, I also have to affirm the Spirit who I believe was inspiring those people to choose those books." Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis*



25



Tony Jones
Emergent Church leader

I am quite convinced that the Bible is a subversive text, that it constantly undermines our assumptions, transgresses our boundaries, and subverts our comforts. ... I think the Bible is a f--ing scary book (pardon my French) ... I think that deconstruction is the only hermeneutical avenue that comes close to expressing the transgressive nature of our sacred text."

26



"The belief that truth is best understood by reducing it to a few fundamentals or a single 'sola' insight is, to me, at least questionable if not downright dangerous"

Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*

27

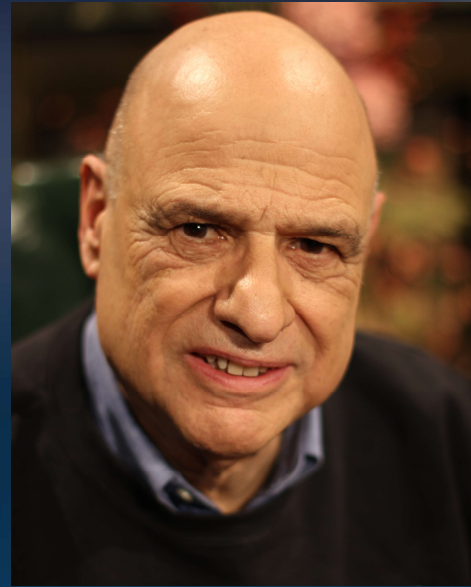
"What's disturbing is when people talk more about hell after this life than they do about hell here and now. As a Christian, I want to do what I can to resist hell coming to earth. Poverty, injustice, suffering – they are all hells on earth and as Christians we oppose them with all our energies."

Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis*, p. 148



28

“My purpose in writing the book [*Speaking My Mind*] was to communicate loud and clear that I felt that evangelical Christianity had been hijacked. When did it become anti-feminist? When did evangelical Christianity become anti-gay? When did it become supportive of capital punishment? Pro-war? When did it become so negative towards other religious groups?” Tony Campolo



29

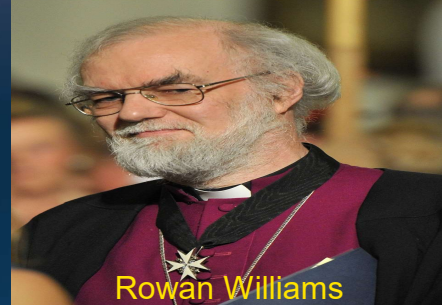
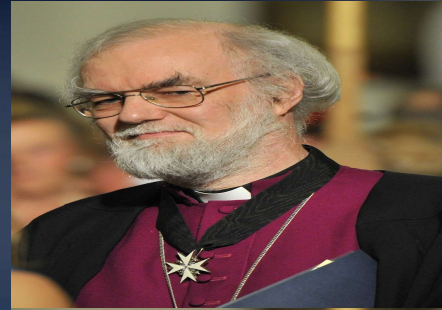


“Frankly, many of us don't know what we should think about homosexuality. We've heard all sides but no position has yet won our confidence so that we can say ‘it seems good to the Holy Spirit and us.’ ... We aren't sure if or where lines are to be drawn, nor do we know how to enforce with fairness whatever lines are drawn.”

Brian McLaren, *Christianity Today.Com*

30

“The virgin birth? ... that ’ s something I’m committed to as part of what I’ve inherited ... I don’t want to set it as a kind of hurdle that people have to get over before they, you know, be signed up ... About thirty years ago I might have said I wasn’t too fussed about it – now I see it much more as dovetailing with the rest of what I believe about the story ... St. Matthew’s gone to his Greek version of the Bible and said ‘Oh, virgin; sounds like the story I know,’ and put it in.”



Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury

31

“What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus had a real, earthly, biological father named Larry, and archaeologists find Larry’s tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing the Gospel writers threw in to appeal to the followers of the Mithra and Dionysian religious cults that were hugely popular at the time of Jesus, whose gods had virgin births? ...



32

But what if as you study the origin of the word virgin, you discover that the word virgin in the gospel of Matthew actually comes from the book of Isaiah, and then you find out that in the Hebrew language at that time, the word virgin could mean several things. And what if you discover that in the first century being 'born of a virgin' also referred to a child whose mother became pregnant the first time she had intercourse?"



33

What if that spring was seriously questioned?
Could a person keep jumping?
Could a person still love God?
Could you still be a Christian?
Is the way of Jesus still the best possible way to live?
Or does the whole thing fall apart?
But if the whole faith falls apart when we reexamine and rethink one spring, then it wasn't that strong in the first place, was it?

Velvet Elvis



34

1 Tim 6:20-21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge – ²¹by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

Jude 1-3 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: ²mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

35

Titus 1:11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

2 Jn 2:9-11 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

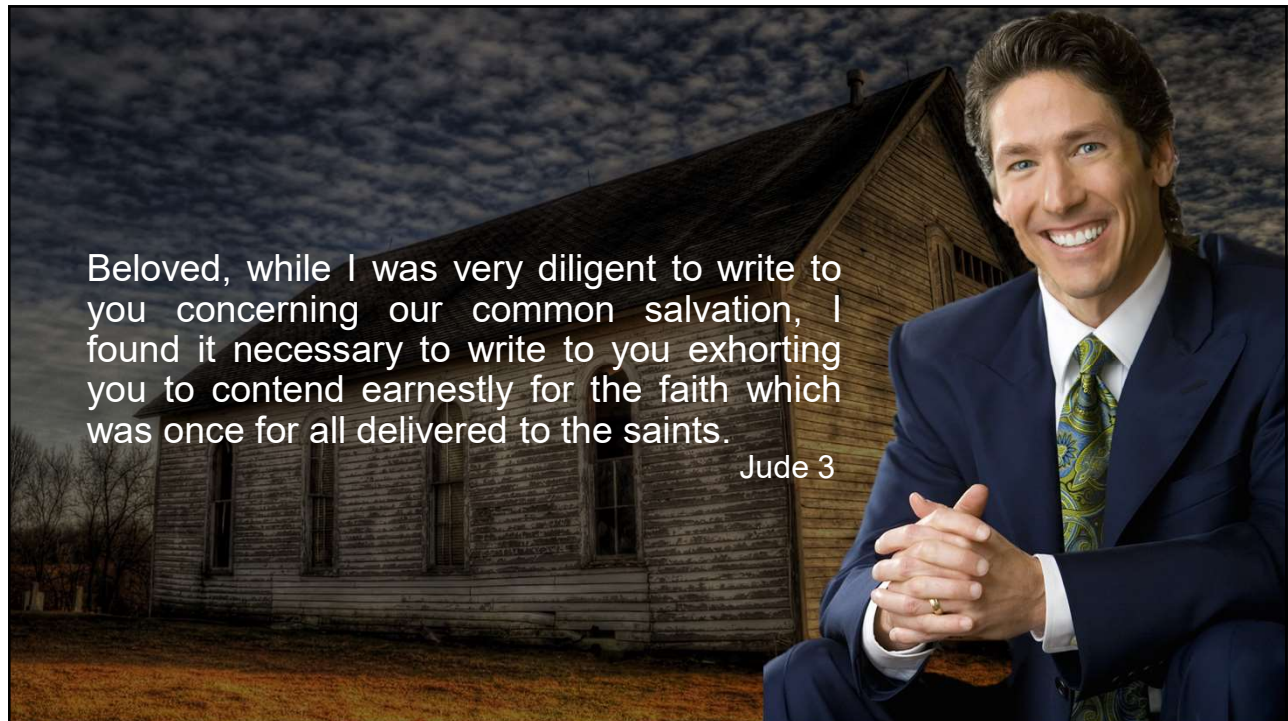
36



“But, if many things still remain abstruse to many, this does not arise from obscurity in the Scriptures, but from [our] own blindness or want of understanding, who do not go the way to see the all-perfect clearness of truth ... nothing whatever is left obscure or ambiguous; but all things that are in the Scriptures, are by the Word brought forth into the clearest light, and proclaimed to the whole world.”

Martin Luther, *Bondage of the Will*

37



Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 3

38