

SPEAKING TRUTH IN LOVE

Sunday, September 14, 2025 -- CHRIST & CULTURE MOMENT -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

JUDE 1:3

*"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints."*

PHILIPPIANS 1:27

*"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind **striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.**"*

1 TIMOTHY 6:12

*"**Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sounda teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

RHETORICAL TOOLS of GOD in Scripture:

God the Father, the OT Prophets, the NT Apostles, & Christ the Messiah used **instruction, parables, accusation, irony, satire, mockery, hyperbole, sarcasm, sharp denunciation, line of reason questions and counter questions and invitation** to reveal God's truth to the world.

Debate (back and forth reasoning) is often seen in scripture. It is essential to human thought and learning.

A serrated edge in speech and debate is often used to wake up, provoke thought, expose and convince.

Jesus used satire, irony, and sharp denunciation—but always aimed at pride or entrenched hypocrisy (esp. leaders hardening others), yet these were never used to crush the contrite. In other words, the “serrated edge” cuts for love: to expose lies so that real healing and repentance are possible (cf. Matt 12:20; John 1:14).

The Gospel is offensive. It offends our pride, flesh and erroneous thinking. Very often people think pastors, sermons or Christians should never say anything that might upset anyone. Did Jesus have that attitude? Did the Apostle Peter? The Apostle Paul? Far from it. Our sinful hearts, blind eyes and deaf ears must often be pricked in order to think clearly through the help of God's Spirit.

ACTS 2: PETER'S BOLD, PROVOCATIVE SERMON AT PENTECOST (SHAVUOT):

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

Peter quotes
from Psalm 16

29 "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."'

Peter quotes
from Psalm 110

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

JESUS'S RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION & VIOLENCE:

MATTHEW 14 — [John the Baptist is beheaded by Herod]

10 King Herod sent and had John beheaded in the prison, 11 and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." [then Jesus fed 5,000 of them]

PRESENT ISSUES:

1) Clash of BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS vs SECULAR FOUNDATIONS.

Marriage & Family
Parenting
God or no God
Acceptance of Christ (Messiah) or Rejection of Christ (Messiah)
Biblical values and morality

2) Right of free speech, personal liberty and basic freedoms

3) All the moral/social issues... Abortion, Transgenderism, LGBTQ+, DEI, Wokism, etc

4) All the political issues... Economics, Immigration, socialism vs free enterprise, property rights, law, order and governance, etc

PRESENT FORCES:

- 1) Digital invasion (screens, social media, games, entertainment, siloing, echo chambers, AI)
- 2) Cultural Marxism, economic Marxism
- 3) Extreme hedonism/secularism/humanism
- 4) International conflicts over ideologies, territory, security, oppression/dictatorships
- 5) Radical islam
- 6) Totalitarian communistic expansion
- 7) ultimately Satanic rage against God, His order and His people.

RESOURCES:

#1 — God's Holy Word!

#2 — Your Church (truth, worship, community, mission)

Monergism.com
AlMohler.com
Answers in Genesis
Desiring God
Nine Marks
World Magazine
CBMW

Grace To You
In His Image
The Bible Project
Summit Ministries
Truthpoint
The Daily Wire

Ligonier Ministries
Risen Motherhood
Focus On The Family
Turning Point USA
Prager University
CanonPlus