

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #11

“Radical Christianity”

VIDEO

“This is my Bible!”

I. Introduction

A. Testimony

1. I was radically born again in 1971 and cut my Christian baby teeth on the powerful teaching of the Word of God from the great preachers of the 70’s and 80’s: Derek Prince, Bob Mumford, Ern Baxter and the amazing John Osteen, (better known today as Joel’s Dad!)

2. I can only describe those of us who were born again in those days of the “Jesus’ movement” or the “charismatic outpouring” as “radicals”!

“RADICAL”

**Of or going to the root or origin; fundamental, a radical difference
Extreme, as regards change from accepted or traditional forms**

3. I was radically saved! Fundamentally changed! Extremely baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire! And a Bible fanatic.

B. We Were Bible Fanatics!

1. The Jesus we had only heard about came alive; He walked right out of the Gospels and into our lives at every level.

2. I got up early every morning and read my Bible, 2 hours a day before I went to work; then I’d read on my lunch hour; and even when sitting at red lights! I found out what Jesus meant when He said...

**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of
the mouth of God.
Matthew 4:4**

a. Jesus was quoting the OT story of how God fed the Israelites in the wilderness with “manna” from heaven; their “daily bread”. Another version says...

**“People need more than bread for their life;
they must feed on every word of God.”**

3. We feed on food every day! But we need spiritual food every day! This Bible is our “daily bread”!

4. God gives us the Bible so we can know who we are! What we have! What we can do! As Brother Osteen led us to say...

**”This is my Bible. I am who it says I am! I have what it says I have! I can do
what it says I can do!”
John Osteen (1921-1999)**

- Who am I? (The Bible says I am a born again one; A new creature in Christ; a child of God; a saint; the salt of the earth and a light in the world; and an overcomer
- What do I have? The Bible says I have the eternal life; the promises of God; a great commission; a calling; a destiny; and spiritual gifts!
- What can I do? The Bible says I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me; pray heaven into earth; win souls; make disciples; glorify God

5. If you read your Bible and believe your Bible it will turn you into a radical!

- a. I’m not talking about being weird!
- b. I’m not talking about being mystical!
- c. I’m not talking about mere emotionalism!

**“Radical Christianity isn’t about how high you jump during a worship
service. It’s about how you walk when you come down.”
Mike Bickle**

6. Being radical for God means that you have a new root system and it affects everything else...

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

C.S. Lewis

7. I believe in the Word of God the same way.

8. Some may be thinking, “You should be radical. You’re a Pastor!” But this is for all of us....

“Lukewarm people call radical what Jesus expects of all His followers.”

Francis Chan

9. Ask yourself this: “If I’m not radical, what else am I?”

C. The Lukewarm Laodiceans

1. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus describes 3 kinds of people in His church at Laodicea; the hot, the cold, and the lukewarm; He prefers hot or cold; but the lukewarm make Him vomit.

2. Jesus prefers the hot; the radicals. He seems to hold out hope for the cold, those far away from Him. But He spits out the lukewarm; those kind of half in/half out. Including...

- The *counterfeit* Christians who think they are OK because they go to church.

“Just going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.”

G.K. Chesterton

- Then there is the lukewarm *worldly* believer; big on grace, short on holiness; afraid of being labeled a radical; one content with being “nice”; fearful of offending anyone

“There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day which many have. A cheap Christianity, which offends nobody; which costs nothing and is worth nothing.”

J.C. Ryle

3. But the most troubling of all to me are those who are lukewarm about the authority of the Word of God as the *final authority* in all the great questions of life;

a. I meet so many who seem to claim Jesus as Savior but have never thought about Jesus as LORD.

b. The great A.W. Tozer spent his life teaching, preaching and writing great books; but these are the last words he wrote before his death in 1963...

“Jesus Christ today has almost no authority at all among the groups that call themselves by His name.”

A.W. Tozer

4. It never ceases to amaze me how many churchgoers believe in evolution; abortion rights; the government’s right to redistribute wealth; gay marriage; as if the Bible doesn’t have anything to say on the subject!

5. It makes us wonder if we don’t need to re-evangelize the evangelized.

“When will we realize that one of the greatest mission fields in America is the pews of our churches on Sunday morning?”

Paul Washer

II. Why It Matters

A. We Are In A War Of Worldviews

1. What is a worldview?

“A worldview is determined by the answers people give to the most important questions in life.”

Ronald H. Nash

2. The Church is losing the war of the worldviews because the other side is radical about what they believe and we are not!

3. The worldly worldview believes truth is relative; morality is subjective; and every person can decide good and evil for themselves..

4. The biblical worldview is based on the Bible as the final authority for all of life.

a. **A Christian worldview sees the world through the lens of scripture.**

5. The Biblical worldview answers all the great questions of life.

WHO AM I?

- “This is my Bible” is a worldview; I am who it says I am; I am made in the image and likeness of God; I am not just a higher animal; an “ape in trousers”. I was born into a fallen race; but now I am born again into the family of God!

HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT IS TRUE?

Jesus prayed this to His Father...

Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth”.
John 17:17

a. The Word of God is truth; it is reality; it’s the final authority on every issue it addresses.

b. To sanctify means “make them holy” or “set them apart”; holding to the truth of the Word of God is what makes us different from the world! So why do we try to be like the world?

“The very church the world likes best is the church that God abhors most.”
Charles Spurgeon

6. Real Christianity is radical Christianity and the world will never understand it.

“Something is wrong when our lives make sense to unbelievers.”
Francis Chan

7. America’s founding fathers were radical Christians. Consider the words of General George Washington to his soldiers:

“While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.”

George Washington

a. Consider the words of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence:

“I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished one to be; sincerely attached to His doctrine in preference to all others.”

Thomas Jefferson

8. These men were ready to give their lives for what they believed.

B. It is Always Costly to be a Radical

1. We’ve come to an hour when it will cost you to be a Christian; a real, “radical” Christian.

“Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ, and He is more than enough for us.”

David Platt

2. The Word of God, especially His commandments and moral laws, are under attack or set aside altogether.

3. The more we hold forth the Word of God, the more the war of the worldviews will come into view:

“There is a reason that Christianity is violently opposed in our world while other religions and philosophies are tolerated. Biblical Christianity evokes violent responses from some people because only in Christianity is there an absolute right and wrong. People hate the Bible and Christianity because of the Law of God.”

Carman

III. Conclusion

A. Radicalizing the Church

1. The Muslims are good at “radicalizing” their disciples. But they produce only death.

2. I wish we were as good at radicalizing the Church; which would produce life!

B. A Radical Return to the Written Word

1. Start over. Dust off your Bible.

2. Don’t even open it until you’ve made up your mind to believe it!

“God said it. I believe it. That settles it.”

a. P.S. If God said it, that settles it whether you believe or not; But why would you not believe it?

- It tells us how to be healed

**My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Proverbs 4:20-22 KJV**

**He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from all their
destructions.
Psalm 107:20**

- It tells us how to be delivered (same verse)
- It tells us how to prosper!

Psalm 1; Josh 1:8

- It tells us how to deal with the devil

“It is written”

3. Oops, we're back to the beginning! One of the "it is writtens" is that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

4. The American church is at the crossroads; radical or lukewarm? Sometimes it shakes me to see how little it takes to throw some people off the tracks.

"What if we took away the cool music and cushioned chairs? What if the screens are gone and the stage is no longer decorated? What if the air conditioning is off and the comforts are removed? Would God's word still be enough for His people to come together? Is His word enough for us?"

David Platt

PRAYER

RADICAL CHRISTIANITY