Christians and the Cancel Culture

- Cancel Culture "Kills the Children"
- Cancel Culture "Silences God's Messengers"
- Cancel Culture "Destroys the Word of God"
- Cancel Culture "Persecutes the Opposition"

We live in an age, that the Scriptures describe as "this present evil world" (Gal.1:4). Society, constantly attempts to Redefine morality, Promote ungodliness, and Pressure christians, to Conform to evil, worldly values.

This effort, described in our society as "Cancel culture" is one of Satan's tools
—seeking to Silence Truth, Shame those who stand for righteousness, and Erase God from public life.

The Bible reminds us:

• "Be **NOT Conformed** to this world: but **Be** ye **Transformed**, by the renewing of your mind" (Rom.12:2).

Throughout history, attempts were made to **Cancel** <u>God's people</u> and <u>God's Truth</u>. From Pharaoh **to** Herod, from Jezebel **to** Jehoiakim, the **Faithful** faced opposition.

But God's Word prevailed, His People persevered, and His Purpose was fulfilled.

Our subject this morning is "*Christians and the Cancel Culture*". This lesson will show how **cancel culture**, continues these ancient tactics, and how **Christians**, can respond with <u>faith</u>, <u>courage</u>, and <u>endurance</u>.

Satan has always tried to destroy the next generation of believers, because the future of God's people, depends on them.

Cancel culture today, does the same, attacking children's innocence, identity, and faith.

I. Cancel Culture "Kills the Children"

Let's first look at how this played out in Egypt, under...

A. Pharaoh's Attempt to Cancel Israel

Pharaoh feared the growth of God's people, so he sought to destroy Israel's children.

- He commanded, "When ye do the office of a midwife... if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live." (Ex.1:16)
- "Every son that is born, ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter, ye shall save alive." (Ex.1:22)

The Bible says,

• "They sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood." (Psa.106:37-38)

Cancel culture in Egypt, sought to stop God's promises, by attacking children. Yet God preserved Moses (<u>Heb.11:23</u>), showing His plan cannot be cancelled.

Just as Pharaoh tried to cancel God's people, by attacking their children, another ruler, centuries later, repeated the same wicked tactic, which was...

B. Herod's Attempt to Cancel Christ

Herod, fearing the newborn King, tried to destroy the Christ, by slaughtering infants.

- "Herod... slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under." (Matt.2:16)
- "The kings of the earth set themselves... against the LORD, and against His Anointed." (Psa.2:2-4)

Earthly rulers may attempt to cancel God's plan, but no king can overthrow the will of God. Christ lived, and God's purpose was fulfilled.

Though God's plan, could not be stopped by Pharaoh or Herod, Satan has not given up.

C. Today, Cancel Culture's Attack is Still on Children

—not always physically, but spiritually, mentally, and morally.

The Bible says,

- "Children, obey your parents... And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:
 but bring them up in the <u>nurture</u> and <u>admonition</u> of the Lord." (Eph.6:1-4)
- "And these words... thou shalt **Teach them diligently** unto thy children." (Deut.6:6-7)
- "Train up a child, in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov.22:6)
- "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones, which believe in Me, it were better for him... that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matt.18:6)

Modern society undermines the family, redefines marriage, and confuses gender identity. Christians must guard children and bring them up in God's truth.

Cancel culture, has always targeted the young. Whether in Egypt, Bethlehem, or our schools and media today, Satan seeks to cancel godly influence in children. God's people must resist and teach His ways faithfully.

Once Satan weakens the children, his next move is to, silence those who dare speak the truth.

II. Cancel Culture "Silences God's Messengers"

In the Old Testament, we find a vivid example of how leaders tried to silence God's truth, through...

A. Jezebel's Persecution of the Prophets

In the old days, the Bible confirms that...

- "Jezebel, cut off the prophets of the LORD." (1Kgs.18:4)
- Elijah said, "The children of Israel, have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets, with the sword." (1Kgs.19:10)

God's prophets, were hunted and silenced, but the word of God endured.

Just as Jezebel sought to silence the prophets of God,

B. Jesus Condemns Israel's Leaders

...for continuing the same pattern of hostility, toward God's messengers.

Jesus said,

- "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets... and some of them, ye shall kill and crucify." (Matt.23:34)
- "Ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them." (Lk.11:47-48)

God's prophets were persecuted, by the very people who claimed to serve Him.

Cancel culture is not new—it is as old, as rebellion against truth.

This rejection did not stop with Israel's leaders; it carried over into...

C. Apostolic Opposition

The Bible reveals that...

- "They called them, and commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach in the Name of Jesus." (Acts 4:18)
- "They called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded, that they should not speak, in the Name of Jesus." (Acts 5:40)
- Saul "breathing out threatenings and slaughter, against the disciples." (Acts 9:1)
- Herod the King, "...killed James, the brother of John, with the sword." (Acts 12:2)

Even the apostles were threatened, beaten, and killed for preaching the truth. Yet the gospel spread with power.

And just as the prophets and apostles were pressured to keep silent, we also see...

D. Today's Attempts to Silence Truth

In today's **cancel culture**, truth itself is under attack. Those who speak God's word are mocked, censored, or misrepresented.

The Bible says,

- "God is no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34)
- "There is neither Jew nor Greek... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal.3:28)
- "Recompense to no man, evil for evil...
 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom.12:17-21)
- "Love worketh no ill, to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Rom.13:10)

Cancel culture, may attempt to silence us,

but Christians must speak with grace, love, and courage, showing God's truth, by both word and deed.

Beyond silencing God's messengers, Satan through...

III. Cancel Culture "Destroys the Word of God"

...But the Bible endures forever.

The Bible also records, attempts to destroy God's word itself, such as through...

A. King Jehoiakim's Burning of the Scroll

The Bible says,

- "He cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire." (Jer.36:23)
- "The king commanded... to take Baruch the scribe, and Jeremiah the prophet." (Jer.36:26)
- "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God, shall stand for ever." (Isa.40:8)
- "For ever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in heaven." (Psa.119:89)

Men may burn scrolls, ban books or silence preachers, in an effort to suppress or distort the Scriptures, but God's Word itself, remains unshaken and eternal (Isa.40:8; 1Pet.1:24-25).

Although kings of old, tried to burn God's word, today's cancel culture, uses different tactics, such as...

B. Attempts to Redefine God's Word

The apostles told, the Jewish ruling council (the Sanhedrin),

• "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20)

The Bible says,

- "Preach the word... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." (2Tim.4:2-4)
- "Earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude vs.3)

Cancel culture may mock, rewrite, or ban Scripture, but God's word endures unchanged.

When silencing and destroying fail,

IV. Cancel Culture "Persecutes the Opposition"

Satan directs persecution of those, who resist conformity to the world, through...

A. Misrepresentation and Lies

The Jewish leaders, falsely informed the Roman governor of Judea (Pontius Pilate),

• "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar." (Lk.23:2)

Before the council, false witnesses testified against Stephen, saying:,

"...This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words
against this holy place, and the law: 14 for we have heard him say,
that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place,
and shall change the customs, which Moses delivered us." (Acts 6:13-14)

To Christians, being slandered for doing what is right, Peter gives this charge, about demeanor and conscience:

 "having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed, that FALSELY <u>accuse</u>, your good conversation (or good conduct) IN Christ." (<u>1Pet.3:16</u>)

Lies and slander, are common tools of persecution.

One of the ways persecution grows, is through...

B. Marginalizing the Righteous

... that is, treating faithful Christians as unimportant, pushing them aside, or labeling them as extremists or troublemakers.

From Acts 19:26-28,

Demetrius accused Paul, of turning people from idols.

Before Governor Felix, Tertullus—the prosecutor—falsely accused Paul, saying:,

"For we have found this man, a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition
among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:" (Acts 24:5)

Jesus said,

• "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (Jn.15:19)

Christians are often portrayed as extremists, when they refuse to conform.

Just as Paul and the early disciples were labeled as troublemakers, faithful Christians today, may also be dismissed or ignored, when they speak God's truth — yet their light must continue to shine (Matt.5:14–16).

Marginalization is often followed by outright...

C. Demands for Conformity

...where Christians are pressured, to compromise their faith, to survive.

From Heb.10:32-34, we learn that,

- Early Christians endured loss joyfully, for Christ.
- "Yea, and all that will live godly IN Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution." (2Tim.3:12)
- "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation." (Jas.1:12)

Persecution—whether through lies, marginalization, or forced conformity—is nothing new. Christians must remain faithful, even at cost.

V. Some Final Thoughts

All of this reminds us, of a sobering reality... We are at war with Satan (Rev.12:17). Cancel culture is one of his tactics to Silence truth, Distort peace, and Cancel the gospel.

God's Word, is clear:

 "For so is the Will of God, that with Well Doing (or right doing), ye may Put to Silence, the ignorance of foolish men" (1Pet.2:15).

Jesus warned, saying,

• "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me, before it hated you." (Jn.15:18).

Let us **NOT** be silenced.

Let us **Stand** firm, **Speak** boldly, and **Live** faithfully, so that Christ is **Glorified** in us.

We should obey God now,

rather than give in, to the fear stirred by this sinful mob, that seeks to cancel Christianity.

Jesus said, "I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that, have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will forewarn you, whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, which after He hath killed, hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him." (Lk.12:4-5)

May God help us to Let our light so shine before men, through...

- Hearing (Rom.10:13-17; Matt.7:21),
- Believing (<u>Heb.11:6</u>; <u>Jn.8:24</u>),
- Repenting (w/godly sorrow: <u>2Cor.7:10</u>; <u>Lk.13:3</u>; <u>Acts 17:30</u>)
- Confessing (Acts 8:37; Matt.10:32-33; Rom.10:9-10),
- being Baptized INTO Christ (Gal.3:26-27; Rom.6:3-5; Mk.16:16)
- And remaining Faithful (Rev.2:10; Matt.10:22; Jas.1:12)