

How to Recognize Lies, Resist Temptation,
and Be Victorious in Spiritual Warfare

WINNING THE INVISIBLE WAR

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Founder, Leading The Way

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Whenever we see God at work, there will be opposition and warfare. There will be peril and risk. But it's an exciting way to live—and there are unimaginable rewards for all who fight in the army of the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

THE STRUGGLE WE FACE

On February 24, 2022, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin sent thousands of troops into neighboring Ukraine—a massive escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian War. But long before that military invasion, Russia had been waging an *invisible* war against Ukraine and Western nations.

Tech journalist Andy Greenberg reports that Russia has engaged in cyberwarfare against the West since 2015. Russian hackers have crippled hospitals and power grids, shut corporate operations, and spread panic in government institutions—not only in Ukraine but around the world, including the United States.

These attacks should have triggered an international response. Instead, Greenberg said, all the governments around the world—except Ukraine—pretended nothing happened. Russia got away with its crimes because the war it waged was *invisible*. This lack of consequences, Greenberg said, “invited Russia to just keep going.”¹

In much the same way, Satan and his demonic agents are now waging an invisible war against the forces of God and the entire human race. Many people—including many Christians—pretend that there is no war. They even deny that Satan exists because they can’t detect his presence with their physical senses.

But the invisible war is real. It's raging every day all around us and within us. This war destroys many lives, day after day—yet we cannot see the enemy with our own eyes. This war brings disorder and division to our society—yet few people know where our invisible enemy lurks. The prophets and apostles and Jesus himself explained to us the strategies and tactics of our invisible foe—yet we continually find ourselves vulnerable to the enemy's plans and schemes.

That is why I have written *Winning the Invisible War*. I want you to see with the eyes of your soul and spirit what your physical eyes cannot see. I want you to understand the nature of the battle we face and the plans of our enemy. I want you to be a victor, not a victim, of our invisible struggle against Satan and his demonic agents in the world.

SATAN IS REAL

The more you want to be effective for the Lord, the more Satan will intensify his assault. Satan always revs up his attack machine against those who want to grow deeper in the faith.

You might think, "Well, I'll just drift along in my Christian life. I don't want any conflict with Satan. I'll be a complacent, third-rate Christian—and that way Satan will leave me alone." But do you really prefer mediocrity and defeat over the adventure of knowing and serving Jesus?

It's true that Christians can and do play at being Christians. Churches can play at being God's church. It's easy to be a pretend Christian, a pretend church. And if you choose to be a pretend Christian, Satan may well leave you alone.

A Christian can go to church and talk the talk and sing the songs—and never be truly serious about a genuine relationship with Jesus. A church can have a popular preacher, lots of activities and programs, the best worship music—and never be serious about God's kingdom.

A church or a Christian who just pretends is a spiritually dead

corpse. Satan won't bother a corpse. But why would you want to be a corpse?

Whenever we see God at work, there will be opposition and warfare. There will be peril and risk. But it's an exciting way to live—and there are unimaginable rewards for all who fight in the army of the Lord.

Satan is crafty and deceptive. One of his most successful deceptions is the widespread claim that he doesn't exist at all, that belief in a literal devil is mere superstition.

According to a nationwide survey of adults who call themselves Christians, 59 percent said they somewhat or strongly agree that Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.” Only a minority of Christians—35 percent—said they somewhat or strongly believe that Satan is real. The remaining participants couldn't say what they believe.²

THE IDENTITY OF SATAN

To believe that Satan doesn't exist, you must deny many key passages of Scripture. Jesus said he saw Satan fall from heaven (see Luke 10:18). He spoke directly to Satan when he was tempted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4; Mark 1; and Luke 4).

Satan is depicted in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Disguised as a serpent, Satan deceived Adam and Eve. He was the source of Job's torments. He was the accuser of the nation of Judah and its high priest (see Zechariah 3). God, speaking through Ezekiel, said to Satan:

You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.

You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you (Ezekiel 28:14-15).

The book of Hebrews tells us that, on the cross, Jesus shattered “the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). Paul tells us that Satan hinders God’s servants (1 Thessalonians 2:18), hinders the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4), sets traps for believers (1 Timothy 3:7), and disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Paul calls Satan “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and “the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)—which means that Satan controls the systems of this world, such as the United Nations and the World Economic Forum, which may one day be Satan’s tools for imposing a one-world government on all nations—a government ruled by the Antichrist.

In Jude 1:9, Satan contends with the archangel Michael. And John tells us that the whole world is under Satan’s control (1 John 5:19).

Jesus depicts Satan in several parables, including the parable of the sower, the parable of the weeds (or tares), and the parable of the strong man. Jesus tells us that Satan “was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). Jesus also called Satan “the prince of this world” (John 12:31; 16:11). The Gospel of John reveals that Satan personally inspired Judas to betray Jesus (John 13:2).

The Bible is emphatically clear: Satan is not a metaphor. He’s *real*. Jesus has confronted him face-to-face. Satan and his agents are invisibly present and active in the world around us. We need to understand who Satan is, how he behaves, and what his strategies are.

OUR INVISIBLE STRUGGLE

Paul’s warning is timely—and timeless: “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). When Paul speaks of “our

struggle,” he uses a Greek word that suggests a wrestling match, a battle at close quarters.

Our enemy is a deceiver who doesn’t fight fairly. He and his subordinate demons—“the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”—routinely lie and break every rule. Paul wants us to understand that Satan’s goal is to destroy the church of Jesus Christ.

Never forget that while we Christians squabble among ourselves over doctrinal disputes or the color of the carpet in the church sanctuary, Satan’s army is highly disciplined, highly motivated, and well organized. The rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world are obedient to the chain of command.

Satan’s forces are intensely interested in human affairs, and they have infiltrated the political systems of Earth. You might think that Satan and his agents have only taken control of oppressive authoritarian regimes like those of Russia, Iran, Cuba, North Korea, and Communist China. But no, the army of Satan has countless agents in our so-called “Western democracies,” manipulating our leaders, spreading lies, and infecting all levels of government with satanic ideologies.

We dare not ignore the threat we face. Instead, let’s look to our Commander, the Lord Jesus, who alone is powerful enough to defeat Satan.

DON'T BE A DRAFT DODGER!

The Vietnam War caused deep divisions in American society in the 1960s and 1970s. The war was so controversial that vast numbers of young American men resisted the draft. Many fled to Canada rather than be sent to Vietnam. Official records show that the government classified about 570,000 American men as draft offenders.³

One of the leading figures of the anti-draft movement was folk singer Phil Ochs, who performed a satirical tune called “Draft Dodger Rag.” In the song, a young man reports to the draft board and lists

all the reasons he can't go to Vietnam, including a ruptured spleen, bad eyes, flat feet, and an addiction to drugs.⁴ Many Christians are like the draft dodger in that song. They have a hundred excuses for not serving in God's army. They are Christian draft dodgers, refusing to report for duty in the invisible war.

Christian draft dodgers aren't interested in putting on the full armor of God. After all, why would anyone need to wear armor if he's fled the battlefield? But the true soldier in Christ's army knows the joy that comes from putting on the full armor of God. All we have to do is suit up and then let our Commander fight for us.

Unimaginable rewards await us at the end of our adventure. The greatest joy belongs to those who have fought the invisible war to its inevitable conclusion. If you go into battle wearing the armor of God, in the strength and might of your Commander, you can't lose. Victory is assured. And the greater the victory, the greater your eternal joy will be.

So get set for adventure and turn the page. With eyes of faith, guided by God's Word, let's report for duty and claim the victory in the invisible war.

ASSAULT FROM THE OUTSIDE

Please don't let Satan frighten you. In fact, the central theme of this book is that we should be bold and courageous as we fight our spiritual battles. In the coming chapters, I'll give you the tools to be victorious in our war against Satan. I will show you again and again that the Lord who is in us, the Lord who leads us, is greater than Satan. Victory is a matter of knowing how to lay hold of God's power for the battles of this life.

ASSAULT FROM THE OUTSIDE

In 2023, students at the B.M. Williams Primary School, an elementary school in Chesapeake, Virginia, got to attend their first After-School Satan Club, sponsored by the local Satanic Temple. The American Civil Liberties Union praised the first meeting as “a victory for free speech and religious liberty.”

Members of the Satanic Temple organized the After-School Satan Club in response to Good News Clubs, sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship. According to *The Washington Post*, the Satan Club organizers “point out that Christian evangelical groups already have infiltrated the lives of America’s children through after-school religious programming in public schools, and they appear determined to give young students a choice: Jesus or Satan.”

The *Post* quotes Satanic Temple cofounder Doug Mesner as saying, “It’s critical that children understand that there are multiple perspectives on all issues, and that they have a choice in how they think.” The Satanic Temple claims not to believe in the existence of Satan or any other supernatural being. Mesner asserts that Satan is merely a “metaphorical construct.”¹

Mesner and his fellow “rational” Satanists are the fulfillment of C.S. Lewis’s prophetic words in *The Screwtape Letters*, in which the

demon Screwtape says, “When the humans disbelieve in our existence we lose all the pleasing results of direct terrorism and we make no magicians. On the other hand, when they believe in us we cannot make them materialists and skeptics—at least not yet...If once we can produce our perfect work—the Materialist Magician, the man, not using, but veritably worshipping what he vaguely calls ‘Forces’ while denying the existence of ‘spirits’—then the end of the war will be in sight.”²

Screwtape has achieved his goal. The members of the Satanic Temple perfectly fit Lewis’s definition of a “Materialist Magician.” They invoke the name of Satan while denying his existence. They claim to help children think rationally while labeling these clubs with the emblem of Satan. Such a masterpiece of deception and delusion could only be hatched by a demonic mind.

We are at war. This is an *invisible* war, a *spiritual* war. And the followers of Satan—even if they don’t believe in his existence—are doing his bidding and carrying out his commands. They are targeting your children and grandchildren for destruction.

A CULT HAS CAPTURED OUR CULTURE

During fiscal year 2021–2022, the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families reported that more than 9,700 children were placed in its custody.³ Many of these children are languishing in state custody because there are not enough foster homes to go around. As one social worker told Boston’s Channel 5, “The kids, they have no place to go. They’re walking around with garbage bags filled with their clothes, wondering where they’re going to go night to night.”⁴

You would think that nothing would be more important than finding foster homes for children who have suffered from abuse or neglect or loss. Yet there is one thing that the Massachusetts foster

care bureaucracy prizes even more than the welfare of children: ideological purity.

You are undoubtedly aware of the secular-left cult of gender ideology. And yes, I chose the word “cult” with care. Dr. Az Hakeem of Great Britain, a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the author of *Trans: Exploring Gender Identity and Gender Dysphoria*, has said, “Gender ideology is made up. It’s a social construct. It’s a cult belief...The worst thing we can do is presume it’s a medical condition...It’s not.”⁵

And Kathleen Hayes, who survived more than two decades in a mind-controlling cult, also calls radical gender ideology a cult in which young people are “transformed seemingly overnight into mouthpieces of incomprehensible jargon and vitriol...I use the word ‘cult’ not as an insult, but because it fits.”⁶

The gender ideology cult has had a destructive impact on the policies and practices of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. When a Catholic couple, Michael and Catherine “Kitty” Burke, applied to become foster parents, the department sent a social worker to interview them. The social worker asked how the Burkes felt about fostering children who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or queer.

The Burkes said they would love any child unconditionally, but the child would “need to live a chaste life,” and they didn’t approve of medically altering a child who identified as “transgender.” They also expressed hesitation about using so-called “preferred pronouns.” Because of those answers, the Burkes’ application was denied by the Department of Children and Families. The Burkes have filed a lawsuit, charging the department with violating their First Amendment rights.⁷

An overwhelming majority of Americans oppose radical gender identity ideology.⁸ Yet the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families will only accept foster parents who submit to the cult

view of gender. Like so many segments of our society, this arm of the government is determined to impose cultlike standards on children and parents.

The cult of radical gender ideology has overwhelmed our schools (from kindergarten through university levels), the teachers' unions, collegiate sports, our news media, Hollywood, and much of our political establishment. President Biden, on his first day in office, signed Executive Order 13988, forcing schools to give men who call themselves "women" access to women's sports teams, bathrooms, and locker rooms.⁹ Because of the radical gender cult, no woman or girl in America could feel safe in these women's spaces.

Even though President Biden's successor, President Trump, has reversed Executive Order 13988 and many other policies of the radical gender cult, the satanic forces that lobbied for these policies still wield power and influence in our society. They are still targeting your children and grandchildren for spiritual destruction, and they will not accept defeat. They will not go away quietly.

DON'T BE DECEIVED

The radical gender cult has even infiltrated the practice of medicine. When you sign in at your doctor's office, hospital, or medical lab, you will be asked your "gender identity" and you'll be offered such options as "Agender," "Transgender," "Genderqueer," and "Non-binary." The American Medical Association, the Children's Hospital Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have been fully persuaded by the radical gender cult, and now endorse the sexual mutilation of minor children with puberty blockers, hormones, and experimental gender surgeries, including surgically removing girls' breasts and boys' genitals.¹⁰

The gender theorists tell us that biological sex is irrelevant to our identity. They claim that our sexuality is a blank slate upon which

we can write any identity we choose. They “gaslight” us and tell us that our sex is “assigned at birth” by the doctors who delivered us, when it is obvious to any rational person that one’s anatomical sex is *observed* by the doctor, not “assigned.” I am convinced that this cult ideology is all part of a satanic strategy to shatter families and destroy young souls.

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God made us, both male and female, in his image. And 1 Corinthians 6:19 tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Our manhood or womanhood is a gift from God. Our masculinity or femininity is *not* something we should disregard or disfigure or try to rewrite.

Since the beginning of time, Satan has tried to upend and usurp God’s creation, including the human beings God created. Satan continually tempts us to reject God’s design for our lives. God creates; Satan destroys. God gives life; Satan inflicts death. God blesses; Satan curses.

When Adam fell, the human race and all of creation came under a curse. One aspect of that curse, I believe, is that it caused many people to experience confusion and distortion in their identity and sexuality. Today, evil people, led by Satan, are working overtime to normalize these corrupted sexual identities—and seduce more and more confused people into their cult.

If you look all around our culture, it becomes obvious that evil forces that used to lurk in the shadows are now out in the open. Their satanic goals and power are on full display. These forces of evil are the foot soldiers of the Father of Lies, and that is why they spread an ideology of lies. They lie just as Satan lies. They want to deceive well-meaning but undiscerning people. That is their goal.

I don’t want you to be deceived. That’s why I am giving you examples and naming names. I want you to be aware of the invisible enemy that has targeted you and your family. I want you to be aware of the

invisible war that is being fought all around you—from outside you and from within you. I want you to be well defended against the powerful satanic deception that pervades and rules this world.

Let me give you a few examples of how Satan is assaulting us all from the outside.

SATANIC ATTACKS ON OUR CHILDREN

First, *the child indoctrination movement* is a demonic stronghold. This movement can be found in both the public schools and in the entertainment industry. I could offer hundreds of examples, but let's just look at two.

Public school teachers and librarians are working hand-in-hand with cross-dressing entertainers—so-called “drag queens”—to indoctrinate our children into accepting sexual perversion. Events called “Drag Queen Story Hour” first began in San Francisco in 2015. At these events, a man dressed in a wig, garish makeup, fake body contours, and a colorful gown reads books to young children in a womanish voice. The books have titles like *Bye, Bye Binary*, *The Gender Wheel*, and *They, She, He, Easy as ABC*.

Years ago, when I first heard about a “Drag Queen Story Hour” in San Francisco, I thought, *Well, that's San Francisco for you!* But I underestimated the evil forces behind that first event. Since then, “Drag Queen Story Hour” has spread across America, and thousands of children from preschool age on up are being brainwashed into denying and defiling their God-given sexuality.¹¹ Drag Story Hour is now a national organization. Its website proudly proclaims:

WHAT IS DRAG STORY HOUR?

It's just what it sounds like! Storytellers using the art of drag to read books to kids in libraries, schools, and bookstores.

DSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models.

In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where everyone can be their authentic selves!¹²

How pervasive is the influence of this organization? At the bottom of its website, Drag Story Hour lists “some organizations we’ve worked with,” including Disney, PBS, HBO, Facebook, Google, Hulu, Microsoft, Spotify, and Home Chef.¹³ Why do you think these organizations, along with countless schools and public libraries, want to recruit little children into an “unabashedly queer” lifestyle? What kind of mind is ultimately behind this assault on the innocence of our children?

The second example of the child indoctrination movement (and it pains me to say this) is the Walt Disney Company. The founder of the company, Walt Disney, was a flawed man in many ways, but he professed a strong faith in God and a strong desire to produce wholesome entertainment for the entire family.¹⁴ I’m sure he would be appalled to see the morally toxic fare his company spews out today.

The Disney Company has made no secret of the LGBTQ+ agenda in many of its products aimed at children. Some recent examples:

- *Star Wars Resistance*, an animated series that aired from 2018 to 2020 on the Disney Channel, featuring LGBTQ characters
- A short Pixar animated film titled *Out* on Disney+ in 2020, about a boy who hides his gay identity from his parents

- The animated series *The Owl House*, which ran on The Disney Channel from 2020 through 2023, featuring several LGBTQ characters
- *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder*, which premiered on Disney+ in 2022, featuring assorted LGBTQ themes and characters
- *Strange World*, a 2022 animated film featuring Disney's first gay lead character
- *Lightyear*, a 2022 animated theatrical release from Pixar and Walt Disney Pictures, which features the studio's first on-screen same-sex kiss
- *Elemental*, a 2023 Pixar-Disney movie with a “nonbinary” character who uses “they/them pronouns”¹⁵

In 2022, video from an online Disney “employee diversity and inclusion meeting” was leaked to the media. In the video, Disney television animation executive producer Latoya Raveneau (*The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder*) said, “In my little pocket of Proud Family Disney TVA, the showrunners were super welcoming...to my not-at-all-secret gay agenda...[I felt a] sense of ‘I don’t have to be afraid to have these two characters kiss in the background.’ I was just, wherever I could, adding queerness...No one would stop me, and no one was trying to stop me.”¹⁶

Please understand, God loves LGBTQ people and so do I. The concern I am raising here comes not out of hatred or so-called “homophobia,” but from my conviction that no one should ever try to sexualize children or rob them of their innocence. Jesus himself warns of God’s dire judgment against anyone who “causes one of these little ones...to stumble.” So I pray for revival and repentance to take hold of the

Walt Disney Company. I pray that God would raise up believers who would steer the company toward using its power and influence to enrich the lives of children instead of indoctrinating them.

These are just two examples of how Satan has targeted our children for moral and spiritual destruction.

"WHEN WOKEISM REPLACES COMMON SENSE"

Second, *the public education system* is rapidly being infiltrated and even conquered by satanic ideologies. This should chill the marrow of every citizen, especially parents and grandparents. Former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy warns against "the conversion of the nation's public schools into ideological-indoctrination factories that peddle woke, race-obsessed anti-Americanism" and he urges parents to "hold school boards accountable in local elections."¹⁷

Kaylee McGhee White of the *Washington Examiner* observes, "Bureaucrats and union lobbyists running the public education system aren't actually interested in educating or caring for students... [Woke instructional materials have] taken over public schools' curricula. From the ahistorical *1619 Project* to the *Gender Unicorn*, leftist ideology is running amok in our public classrooms, and students are suffering as a result."¹⁸

White observes that reading and mathematics proficiency scores are plummeting, and American students are lagging behind students in other countries. "In California," she writes, "the average eighth grader has the mathematical proficiency of a fifth grader. One would think this lapse in achievement would send off alarm bells in the minds of education leaders. And yet the state's response has been to lower the testing standards for the sake of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is what happens when wokeism replaces common sense."¹⁹

Kali Fontanilla was a public school teacher in California who left her job when, she said, "it became clear to me that school officials were

obsessed with left-wing indoctrination, and that dissenting voices—like my own—were not welcome.” She says that public school officials are single-mindedly imposing on students the notion that (in her words) “America was founded on systemic racism and that our institutions still discriminate against black Americans like me.”

She reports that students memorize the “four I’s of oppression (institutional, internalized, ideological, and interpersonal),” that students are taught to rank their identities into “intersectional rainbows,” and that they are given a “privilege quiz” in which students grade how much they are “marginalized” or “privileged.” Because she can no longer do her job in California, Fontanilla and her husband moved to Florida and opened an online K-12 school called Exodus Institute.²⁰

You might think, “Well, that’s California for you—a neon-blue progressive state. I live in a red state, and I’m sure my kids are being educated, not indoctrinated.” Don’t be too sure about that. Even public schools in conservative regions have been infiltrated by teachers who are products of the university indoctrination industry. Like our universities, many formerly excellent public schools have been turned into indoctrination factories.

I urge you, if at all possible, to get your children or grandchildren out of the clutches of government-run schools. If you can afford an excellent Christian private school, or if you can homeschool your children or get them into a homeschool co-op, I urge you to do so. I know that privately educating children is a sacrifice of time and money—but the government school alternative requires you to *sacrifice your children* on the altar of satanic ideologies.

If you absolutely have no choice but to keep your children in the public school system, then make sure you are involved. Talk to your children about what they are learning. Volunteer to help in the classroom. Know what books are available in the school library. Attend

school board meetings. Defend your children from the cult ideologies that are all around us.

Don't let your children be casualties of the invisible war in our society.

SATAN GOES TO COLLEGE

Third, *the university system* is a stronghold of Satan. The concept of higher learning was invented by Christians in the Middle Ages. The world's first university was founded as a Christian cathedral school at Bologna, Italy, in about 1088. The medieval church soon founded more universities in Oxford, Cambridge, and Paris. Christian scholars taught students how to reason and how to explore the orderly world God had made.

Most of the leading universities in America were founded by Christians. Harvard University was founded by Puritans in 1636 and named for the Puritan clergyman John Harvard. Yale University and Dartmouth were also founded by Puritans. The University of Chicago was founded by Baptists. Brown University, Columbia University, and the College of William and Mary were founded by Anglicans. Princeton was founded by Presbyterians. Duke University was founded by Methodists.

Today, all of these institutions have been largely captured by godless ideologies. Christians founded them, and Satan hijacked them. Satan doesn't have a creative mind, and he can't create a university. He has to infiltrate and take over what God's people have created. So, instead of learning how to reason, today's university students are indoctrinated by tenured radicals into anti-Christian, neo-Marxist ideologies such as "postcolonial theory," "queer theory," and "fat studies."

The mind-virus of "woke" grievance studies has infected every department, including the so-called "hard sciences" of mathematics, physics, and astronomy. An American Mathematical Society blog

post asserts that math must be taught as an “intersectional, anti-racist, and class-consciously feminist enterprise” which rejects the “whiteness” of traditional mathematics.²¹ Marxist university professors fill young skulls full of mush with the idea that “diversity” means conformity to a cult ideology, that “inclusivity” means intolerance of differing opinions, and that the traditional family equals “patriarchal oppression.”

Don’t buy into the lie that you or your children *must* go to college to succeed in life. The list of successful people who never earned a college degree includes media figures Mark Burnett and Rush Limbaugh; tech entrepreneurs Bill Gates, Michael Dell, and Larry Ellison; and retail entrepreneurs John Mackey and David Green. If you or your children need a college education to enter a field such as law or medicine, then I urge you to consider an excellent Christian college or university to lay a solid learning foundation *without* godless indoctrination.

WHEN GOOD IS EVIL AND EVIL IS GOOD

Fourth, *the criminal justice system* has been infected by satanic ideologies. The Bible tells us, “The one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer” (Romans 13:4). Today, prosecutors in many leftist cities have turned God’s plan for good government on its head.

A prime example is New York City, where District Attorney Alvin Bragg, Jr., lets the “wrongdoers” go free while he prosecutes innocent citizens. I’m reminded of the warning of the prophet Isaiah: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isaiah 5:20).

Bragg is a pioneering leader of the “progressive prosecution

movement,” which is rooted in critical race theory.²² In 2021, Bragg said, “I will not prosecute most petty offenses...I will either dismiss these charges outright or offer the accused person the opportunity to complete a program without ever setting foot in a courtroom.” The result, according to the police department data, was that New York City has been overrun by a small number of criminals who are arrested and released hundreds of times without any consequences.²³

In 2022, Bragg hired Meg Reiss as his chief prosecutor. Her focus was to implement “racial equity reforms” explicitly rooted in critical race theory. She said she would stop treating criminals as “bad dudes”—and she would no longer give “the benefit of the doubt to law enforcement” when police used force against suspects.²⁴ Meg Reiss wants criminals on the streets, not in prison, saying, “We know incarceration doesn’t really solve any problems.”²⁵

While showing leniency to the vilest criminals, Alvin Bragg and his office prosecuted the innocent. One of the most outrageous cases was Bragg’s prosecution of Jose Alba, a bodega clerk in his sixties.

On July 7, 2022, a young man came behind Alba’s counter, shouting threats. In the struggle, Alba grabbed a knife and stabbed the assailant, who died of his wounds. Though the police said Alba had acted in self-defense, Bragg wanted to punish Alba for defending himself. He charged Alba with murder, requested bail of \$500,000, and had Alba confined to New York’s notorious Rikers Island prison. Bragg only dropped the charges after protests from the public and civic leaders.²⁶

Bragg’s office also prosecuted a Marine veteran named Daniel Penny, who tackled a crazed man who threatened subway riders, screaming “I’m ready to die!” After the struggle, Penny got the man in a chokehold, during which the man died. It turned out that the crazed man had a record of 42 arrests, including four for assault. Penny’s fellow subway passengers hailed him as a hero—but Alvin Bragg tried to send him to prison for up to 15 years.

Though the jury acquitted Penny on December 9, 2024, Bragg's prosecution of Penny effectively made New York City subways more dangerous. Less than two weeks after the acquittal, an illegal immigrant set fire to a woman sleeping on a subway car. As she burned to death, witnesses stood by and recorded the horror with their phones, but no one moved to help her or catch the murderer. This response was later called "the Daniel Penny effect," because people feared being prosecuted.²⁷

Alvin Bragg is just one of many soft-on-crime prosecutors who are supported by organizations funded by radical-left billionaire George Soros. Others include George Gascón in Los Angeles (who was removed by voters in 2024 because of surging crime rates), Kim Foxx in Chicago, and Larry Krasner in Philadelphia. Reporters Cully Stimson and Zack Smith call this phenomenon "the rogue prosecutor movement" and say it's "an outgrowth of the same radicals that created the Black Lives Matter movement."²⁸

A DESTROY-THE-FAMILY AGENDA

Fifth, *radical activism* has all the traits of a satanic strategy. We have seen the rise of radical activist movements that are bent on tearing down our civilization. Examples include: Antifa, which uses fascist violence to advance a supposedly "anti-fascist" cause; Black Lives Matter (BLM), the movement that, in 2020, launched waves of protests (some peaceful, some violent); the so-called "anti-racism" movement championed by Ibram X. Kendi and others; and the "Defund the Police" movement.

These radical activist movements have their ideological roots sunk into Marxist soil. They all profess a belief that Western society is riddled with "systemic oppression" of women, racial minorities, and gender minorities. The stated goal of these movements is to tear down "hierarchies of power"—but in reality, they are targeting Western civilization (including Christianity) for destruction.

Black Lives Matter's cofounder Patrisse Cullors proudly calls herself and cofounder Alicia Garza "trained Marxists." Cullors was recruited at age 17 by the radical activist Eric Mann (a veteran of Students for a Democratic Society, the Weathermen, and the Black Panther Party). For a decade, Cullors trained to be a radical Marxist organizer.²⁹

In the summer of 2020, Black Lives Matter led waves of protests that spread across America. Many protests turned into riots. Rioters defaced monuments, toppled statues, looted stores, and set cars and buildings ablaze. At least 25 people were killed in Black Lives Matter riots.³⁰ According to Axios, the BLM riots were the "most expensive in insurance history."³¹

By the fall of 2020, Black Lives Matter had deleted the "What We Believe" page from its website after conservative groups took note and began to publicize BLM's true agenda. One of the statements on that page stated that BLM seeks to "disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure."³²

This is exactly the sort of goal you would expect from an organization founded by "trained Marxists." Karl Marx, the founder of Communism, stated that one of his main goals was to destroy the family—to completely eliminate families from society. In Chapter 2 of *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx writes:

Abolition of the family!...[This is the] infamous proposal of the Communists.

On what foundation is the present family, the bourgeois family, based? On capital, on private gain. In its completely developed form, this family exists only among the bourgeoisie. But this state of things finds its complement in the practical absence of the family among the proletarians, and in public prostitution.

The bourgeois family will vanish...with the vanishing of capital.³³

Today's radical neo-Marxist activists divide society into oppressors and victims based on race, gender, and other identities. They claim that "white males" are oppressors due to their "systemic privilege," that all "cisgender" and "heteronormative" people oppress the "LGBTQ+" community, that people of a healthy body weight impose "fatphobia" and "body-shaming" on "plus-size" people, that able-bodied people (or "ableists") oppress those with disabilities, and that Christians and Jews oppress people of other religions (or no religion at all). This lexicon relies on a neo-Marxist concept called "intersectionality," which ranks people on a scale depending upon how "privileged" or "oppressed" they are.

It seems clear that Marxism and "woke" neo-Marxism are effective tools that Satan has used to attack Western civilization, undermine Judeo-Christian values, destroy families and individual lives, and plunge vast masses of people into spiritual enslavement and ignorance. Those who would divide us by race, gender, and other identities cling to a set of demonic ideas advanced by one of the most evil men in history, Karl Marx.

According to the authors of the authoritative study *The Black Book of Communism*, "between 85 million and 100 million" people have been murdered by Communist regimes (including the Soviet Union, Communist China, Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, Vietnam, and North Korea). The authors conclude that "the Communist record offers the most colossal case of political carnage in history."³⁴

These murderous regimes are the philosophical allies of radical-left activists who are even now working day and night to tear down our civilization from within.

AN INCREASINGLY CRUEL, CORROSIVE WORLD

The pre-Christian world was a cruel and corrosive world. Slavery was an accepted practice in every society on Earth. Governments maintained order through terror, murder, and torture. In the pre-Christian Roman Empire, crucifixion was commonplace.

At the Battle of the Silarius River in 71 BC, the Roman army under general Marcus Licinius Crassus captured 6,000 rebellious slaves. Crassus ordered that they all be crucified. Imagine 6,000 crosses, each with a dying man nailed to its timbers—a line of crosses 132 miles long, from Rome to Capua. Did this gruesome sight trouble Roman consciences? Not at all. The Romans depended on slavery for their prosperity. The threat of crucifixion kept slaves in their place.

It was into this brutal world that Jesus came, preaching a new message: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:43-45 NKJV).

No one had ever heard such a message before. This one man, Jesus of Nazareth, literally changed the world. Today, slavery and torture are officially outlawed throughout Western civilization. Compassion is written into law. There are still brutal societies in the world—but they are societies that have never been impacted by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But now the world has changed once more. We are living in a post-Christian world, a world that has increasingly rejected the teachings of Jesus. This post-Christian world is now beginning to resemble the pre-Christian world. The further we move from the teachings of Jesus, the more corrosive and violent our world is becoming. Like the ancient Romans, an increasing number of people today embrace the notion that murder is an acceptable way to solve disputes. The

thin veneer of civilization is eroding, revealing the barbarism that lurks just beneath the surface.

We saw this barbarism revealed after the 2024 murder of Brian Thompson, the chief executive officer of UnitedHealthcare and a father of two. On December 4, Thompson was in New York for an investors meeting. He left his hotel and walked across the street toward the convention hall. While walking along West 54th Street at 6:45 a.m., a man in a hooded jacket shot him in the back, then shot him again after he fell to the pavement, killing him. A suspect was arrested five days later in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and charged with murder.

It was a horrifying and senseless crime—but not everyone was horrified. In fact, social media exploded with praise for the killer and hatred for the murdered man. One person sneered on TikTok, “Thoughts and deductibles to the family. Unfortunately, my condolences are out-of-network.” Another posted, “This needs to be the new norm. EAT THE RICH.”³⁵

One US Senator—a longtime critic of the healthcare industry—expressed what sounded like sympathy for the killer and those who praised him: “The visceral response from people across this country who feel cheated, ripped off, and threatened by the vile practices of their insurance companies should be a warning to everyone in the health care system. Violence is never the answer, but people can be pushed only so far.”³⁶

A poll conducted a few days later by Emerson College Polling found that 41 percent of adults under age 30 viewed the cold-blooded killing of the healthcare executive as—are you ready for this?—“acceptable.”³⁷

In pre-Christian Rome, people rationalized slavery and approved of crucifixion. In post-Christian America, people increasingly rationalize murder as a solution to political and economic disputes. And echoing in the background of these chilling opinion polls, we can hear the gloating laughter of demons.

AN ANCIENT, ONGOING, INVISIBLE WAR

A nonbeliever might look at these events and say, “What’s wrong with people? What is this world coming to? Are people losing their minds?”

But spiritually insightful believers look at these events and say, “Satan’s up to his old tricks. He’s using the same old strategies and deceptions he used against Adam and Eve—and they’re still working! Oh, he dresses them up in nice modern disguises so they appear new to undiscerning people. He can misdirect the directionless—but he can’t fool the wise. Everything that’s happening is part of the invisible war that has been raging since the beginning of time.”

This invisible war was raging in the first-century world. The early church was on the front lines of that war. There is a scene in Acts 20 where the apostle Paul speaks to the leaders of the church in Ephesus. Just before Paul leaves Ephesus to return to Jerusalem, he warns them of the battles they will face in the invisible war:

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! (Acts 20:28-31).

I have been to the ruins of Ephesus on the Ionian coast, southwest of Selçuk in İzmir Province, Turkey. Ephesus was famed for its grand architecture—the Temple of Artemis, the Library of Celsus, and the great open-air theater. It was a moving experience to stand on that historic ground, in the stillness of those broken and time-worn columns.

I imagined Paul's commanding voice, urging those church leaders to be inwardly vigilant and outwardly attentive to the needs of God's flock, to be true shepherds of God's church. In my mind, I could hear Paul warning them that, from within the church itself, maybe even from among those leaders, savage wolves would arise to draw people away from the truth.

Paul reminded the Ephesian leaders of a principle that many preachers and teachers seem to forget in these days: It is not our church! It is not the church of this pastor or that teacher. It is the church of Jesus Christ, which he purchased with his blood.

Paul's words of encouragement and warning to those church leaders still echo with urgency in our world today. The invisible war still rages all around us and within us. The "savage wolves" Paul warns about continue to attack the church of Jesus Christ today. Tragically, the wolves sometimes win. Over the decades, I have seen individual Christians and entire churches fall as casualties in the invisible war.

OUR CUNNING AND RUTHLESS ADVERSARY

In order to win the invisible war, we need to understand the commanding general of the opposing army. We need to understand the enemy of our souls, the enemy of the church.

Satan is not wise, but he is incredibly intelligent—and we should never underestimate him. He's cunning, he's conniving, he's deceptive. He is a master of subterfuge and infiltration. He knows how to worm his way into the church and use church people to achieve his goals. He's absolutely ruthless in his campaign to destroy the church Jesus has built.

But please don't let Satan frighten you. In fact, the central theme of this book is that we should be bold and courageous as we fight our spiritual battles. In the coming chapters, I'll give you the tools to be victorious in our war against Satan. I will show you again and

again that the Lord who is in us, the Lord who leads us, is greater than Satan. Victory is a matter of knowing how to lay hold of God's power for the battles of this life.

Can Satan really deceive people in the church? Can he delude and destroy a congregation or an individual Christian? Yes, it has happened again and again through the centuries. There have been in the past—and there will be in the future—tragic casualties of the invisible war.

But Satan can *never* defeat the church of Jesus Christ, the body of believers, the elect of God from every tongue, tribe, and nation. Satan can never destroy the church as a whole. Jesus has promised that the gates of hell cannot prevail against his church. He will lead us to a complete and ultimate victory.

My goal in this book is to arm you so that you will be a victor in this war—not a victim of Satan's deceptive strategies.

In these days—and we are seeing increasing signs that these may really be the last days—it seems that the remnant of faithful believers is diminishing. More and more people in the church are falling away from a faith in the uncompromised Word of God. I believe this is because increasing numbers of professing Christians are falling prey to Satan's strategies.

But even though the faithful remnant is dwindling, I am not discouraged. Numbers don't matter. After all, Jesus used 12 men to turn the world upside down and build his church. We choose to be aware of Satan's strategies and advance God's kingdom in the world.

As you are about to see, Satan is already defeated. Though it may not always seem like it, we have already won the invisible war.