

# THE GOD OF

# BOOTH

Part 1 • March 23, 2025

Pastor Jason Smotherman

## ***ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11 (ESV)***

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*

Tribalism is a real issue in today's society. **Definition: Tribalism - noun**

- the state or fact of being organized in a tribe or tribes.
- mainly derogatory, the behavior and attitudes that stem from strong loyalty to one's own tribe or social group: a society motivated by cultural tribalism.

We see tribalism everywhere. Church, politics, cultures, friend groups. It has crept into the vernacular of our dialogue. Ride or Die. No matter what. To the End. "Hecka" Loyal. You are either for me or against me. **We live in an either/or society.**

Giants or Dodgers. 49ers or Seahawks. Oregon or Oregon State. JFK - it was the CIA or lone actor. COVID - China and not real. Which is it? Democrat or Republican. Israel or the Palestinian people. (It's possible to be burdened for the whole world, Jesus was)

Scripture does teach us that there are hills to die on. Most things don't need nuance. There are black and white issues. There are either/or decisions we need to make as Christians.

## **EXAMPLE 1 - THE ONLY WAY.**

### ***JOHN 14:6 (KJV)***

*I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

## **EXAMPLE 2 - MORAL SOCIETAL ISSUES**

Marriage

### ***GENESIS 2:24 (KJV)***

*A man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*

Value of Life - Pro - Life.

### ***PSALM 139:13 (NKJV)***

*You have covered me in my mother's womb.*

Other issues need nuance. It is very hard to get people to understand nuance in problems or circumstances. Theological (Bible issues) that need nuance are difficult to understand, especially in today's tribalistic world.

## **HOW CAN THE BIBLE DECLARE PSALM 150 AND HABAKKUK 2:20?**

### ***HABAKKUK 2:20 (NKJV)***

*"But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him!"*

This verse emphasizes the need for reverence and silence in the presence of God.

### ***PSALM 150 (ESV)***

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens! Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe! Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

These verses emphasize the need for passion and declaration in praise through dance. Shouting, and exuberance.

## **HOW CAN THE BIBLE DECLARE ROMANS 13:1-5 AND ACTS 5:29?**

### ***ROMANS 13:1-5 (ESV)***

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant*

*for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*

This verse emphasizes the importance of submitting to authority. This verse was and has been weaponized throughout the history of the modern world. Could you imagine being a Christian in Nazi Germany and so called "believers" demanding that you follow the extermination of the Jewish People because of this scripture?

**ACTS 5:29 (KJV)**

*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

This verse emphasizes the proper authority structure for believers. God than man.

**HOW CAN THE BIBLE DECLARE HAGGAI 2:8 AND MALACHI 3:10?**

*Haggai 2:8 (KJV)*

*The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.*

This verse emphasizes that it's ALL His.

**MALACHI 3:10 (KJV)**

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

This verse emphasized that 10% of what is ours is to be returned to the House of God, that 10% is his.

When it comes to nuanced issues, do the following:

**1. Understand Context (taking the Lord's name in vain)**

**LEVITICUS 19:12 (ESV)**

*"You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord"*

**JEREMIAH 23:25 (ESV)**

*"I have heard what the prophets have said who 'prophesy lies in my name"*

**ISAIAH 48:1-2 (ESV)**

*"Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and who came from the waters of Judah, who swear by the name of the Lord and confess the God of Israel, but not in truth or right*

The worst thing we do as believers is say God is saying something that He is not. This always happens because we are trying to fit God in our life, and not live in His.

## **2. Determine your discipline (Fear and trembling needed)**

### ***PHILIPPIANS 2:12 (NLT)***

*Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.*

## **3. God's priority over your preference.**

Religion makes it about me. Relationship makes it about Him.

### ***HEBREWS 11:6 (KJV)***

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Our preference will always meet the diving board of Faith. A jump-off point. Where my preference will be challenged to give way to His priority.

- You like it loud - He will ask you for silence.
- You like it silent - He will ask you for a sacrifice of praise.
- You like it measured - He will ask you to do what David Did.

Luke Lezon put it best:

When David told Goliath he would cut off his head, he didn't have a sword.

David made the declaration knowing he would have to use the Giants sword.

God can give you the vision, while it seems like the enemy has the weapon.

### **We are in a season of Declaration -**

What could and should be will be met with faith or doubt.

Live in God's priority over your preference!