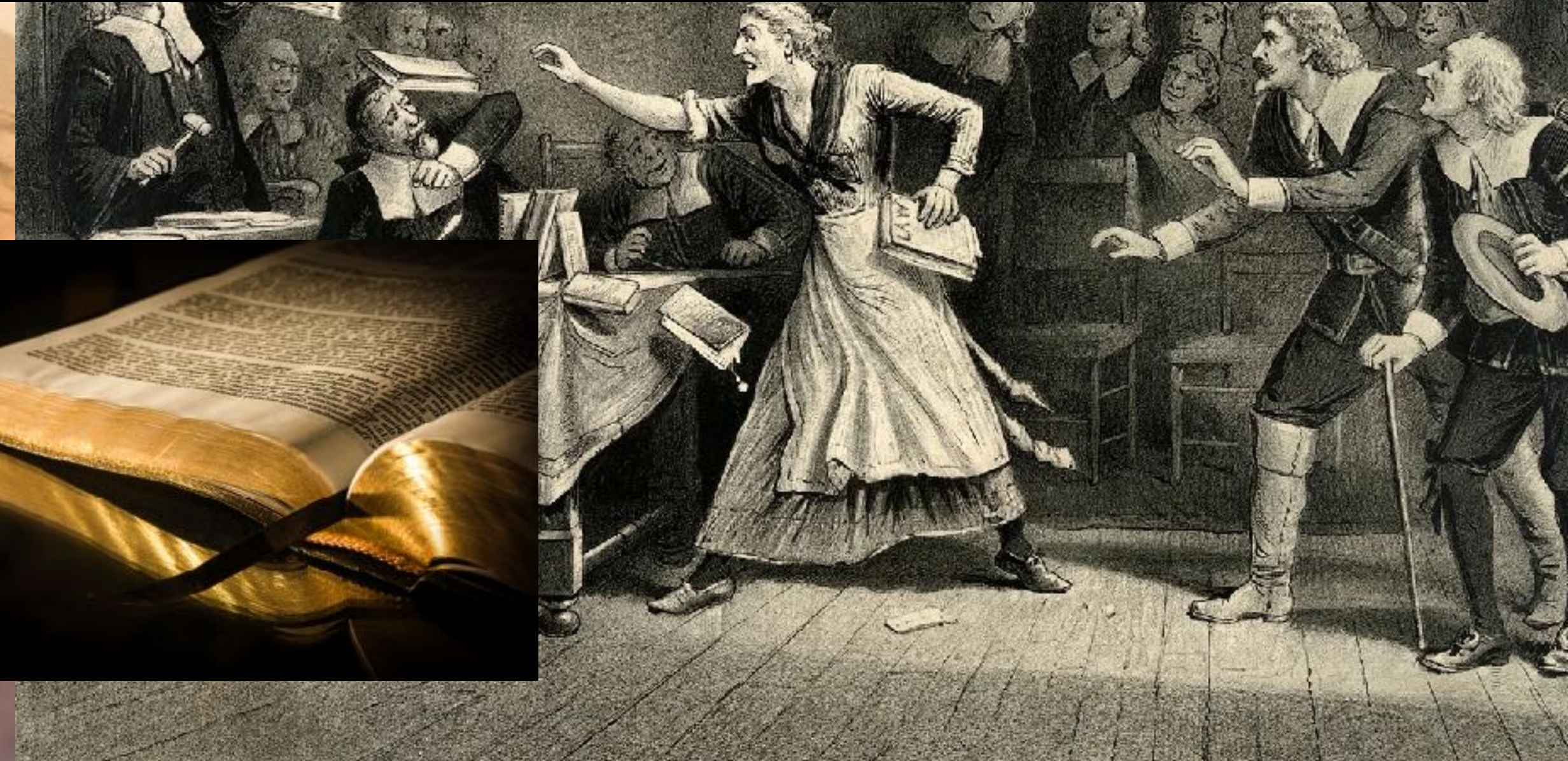


Neighborly Apologetics

8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past



Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

Neighboring Apologetic Categories:

1. Evil and Suffering

2. Absolute Truth and Relativism

3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism

4. Faith and Reason

5. Free Will and Sovereignty

6. God’s Existence and Troubling Nature

7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell

today → *8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*

9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection

10. Miracles

11. Science and Evolution

12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”

Plus: Burning Issues of our Day

Hypocrisy

*“Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!
I don’t want to have anything to do with it!”*

Christian Crimes of the Past

*“Christianity has been guilty of all kinds of
horrendous evil, violence and slavery.
Why would anyone want to be called a Christian?”*

Hypocrisy

*“Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!
I don’t want to have anything to do with it!”*

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making
the most of the opportunity.

Let your speech always be with **grace**,
as though **seasoned** with salt,
so that you might **know how to respond** to **each** person.

Colossians 4:5-6

Hypocrisy

*“Christians are just a bunch of hypocrites!
I don’t want to have anything to do with it!”*

And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone... Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Hypocrisy

“I’m not kidding you! You want to see when Jesus got angry at hypocrisy?”

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, *hypocrites*! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a *child of hell as yourselves*.

Matthew 23:15

Hypocrisy

"That's interesting. It would be nice if Christians followed Jesus."

"I agree."

"It certainly would have saved my nephew."

"What happened?"

"A priest abused him. They tried to silence him; threatened him. He didn't tell anyone for a long time. Finally, he did. It really messed him up...drugs, homosexuality, depression. He committed suicide."

"I am so sorry."

"Now you know why I'm so NOT interested in Christianity."

"I'm not either right now... Christianity is sometimes not at all like Jesus."

"You may not know this, But Jesus called out those who hurt children."

"You may not know this, But Jesus called out those who hurt children."

Really?

Yes. Look at this...

*...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,
it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around
his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

Matthew 18:6

"Maybe they will be thrown, not into the sea, but into a lake of fire, an eternal punishment. Look at this, this is Jesus speaking..."

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:40-42

"And this in Jude..."

...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 1:7

Hypocrisy

“I would like to think that would really happen, ‘cause they all got away with it. There was no justice for my nephew.”

“There will be someday.”

“Yeah, hopefully. But I suppose I’ll be thrown in there too, right?”

“Why do you say that?”

“Well, I’m not as bad as those priests, but I haven’t been the most perfect person, either.”

“Well, Jesus has a solution for that as well.”

Hypocrisy

hypocrite:

*one who puts on a mask and feigns
himself to be what he is not; a
dissembler [trickster, faker, pretender]
in religion*

Today's Dictionary of the Bible, 1982

Hypocrisy

feigns himself to be what he is not

Let's talk about what "hypocrisy" is...
and what it is not

Christian Crimes of the Past

*“Christianity has been guilty of all kinds of horrendous evil, violence and slavery.
Why would anyone want to be called a Christian?”*

Remember Colossians 4 and 2 Timothy 2



Christian Crimes of the Past

“Christianity has been guilty of all kinds of horrendous evil, violence and slavery.

Why would anyone want to be called a Christian?”

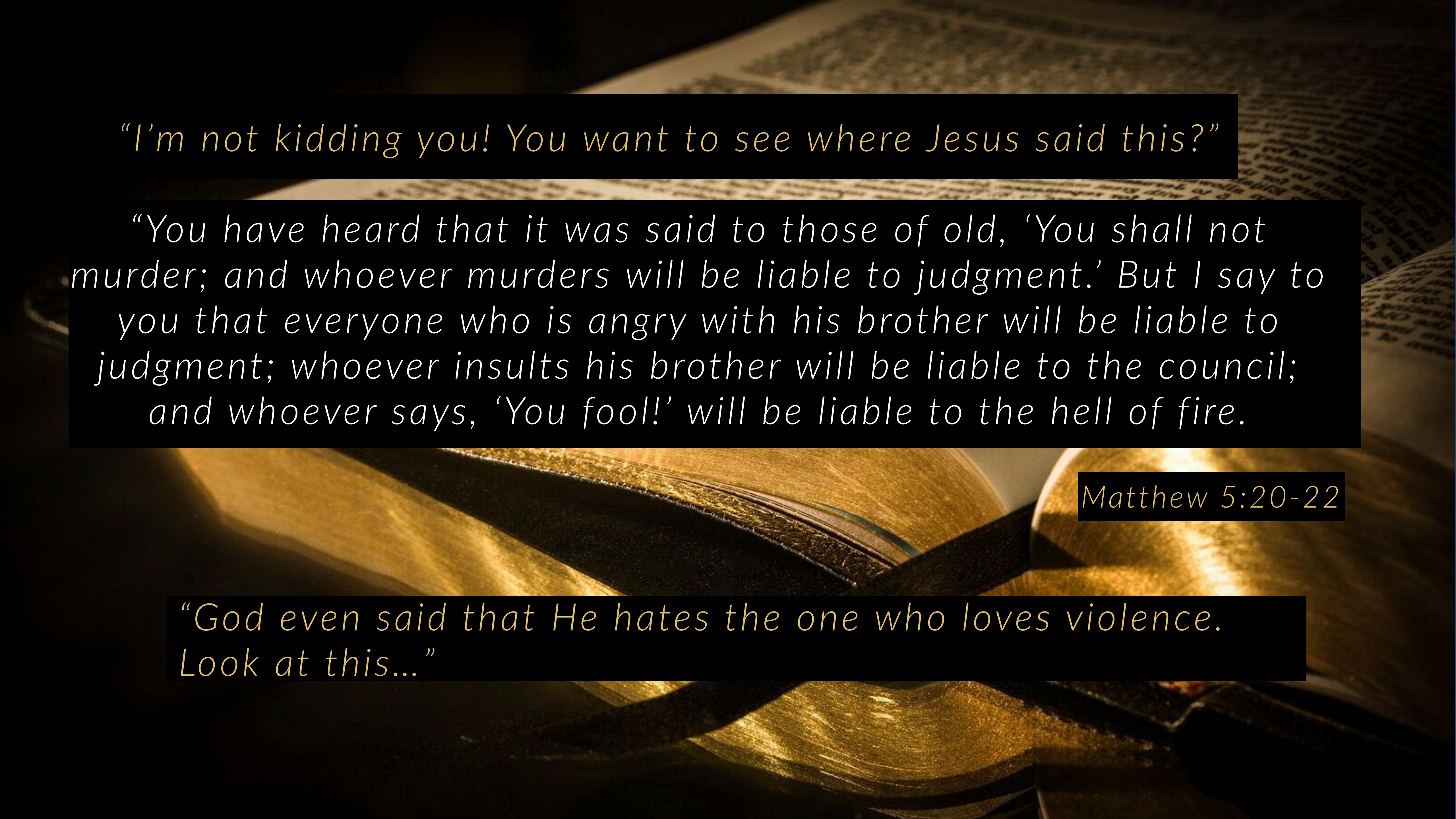
“That is so true! What kind of things are you thinking of?”

“Oh, like the Crusades, for instance. The stuff Christians did was awful! Slaughtering women and children in Jerusalem. Sickening!”

“I agree. It makes me sick to think about it, too. Are you lumping me in with them?”

“No, of course not. But it certainly makes me not want to be a Christian.”

“I can understand that. Jesus certainly had a lot to say about murder and violence. He was sickened by it, too!”

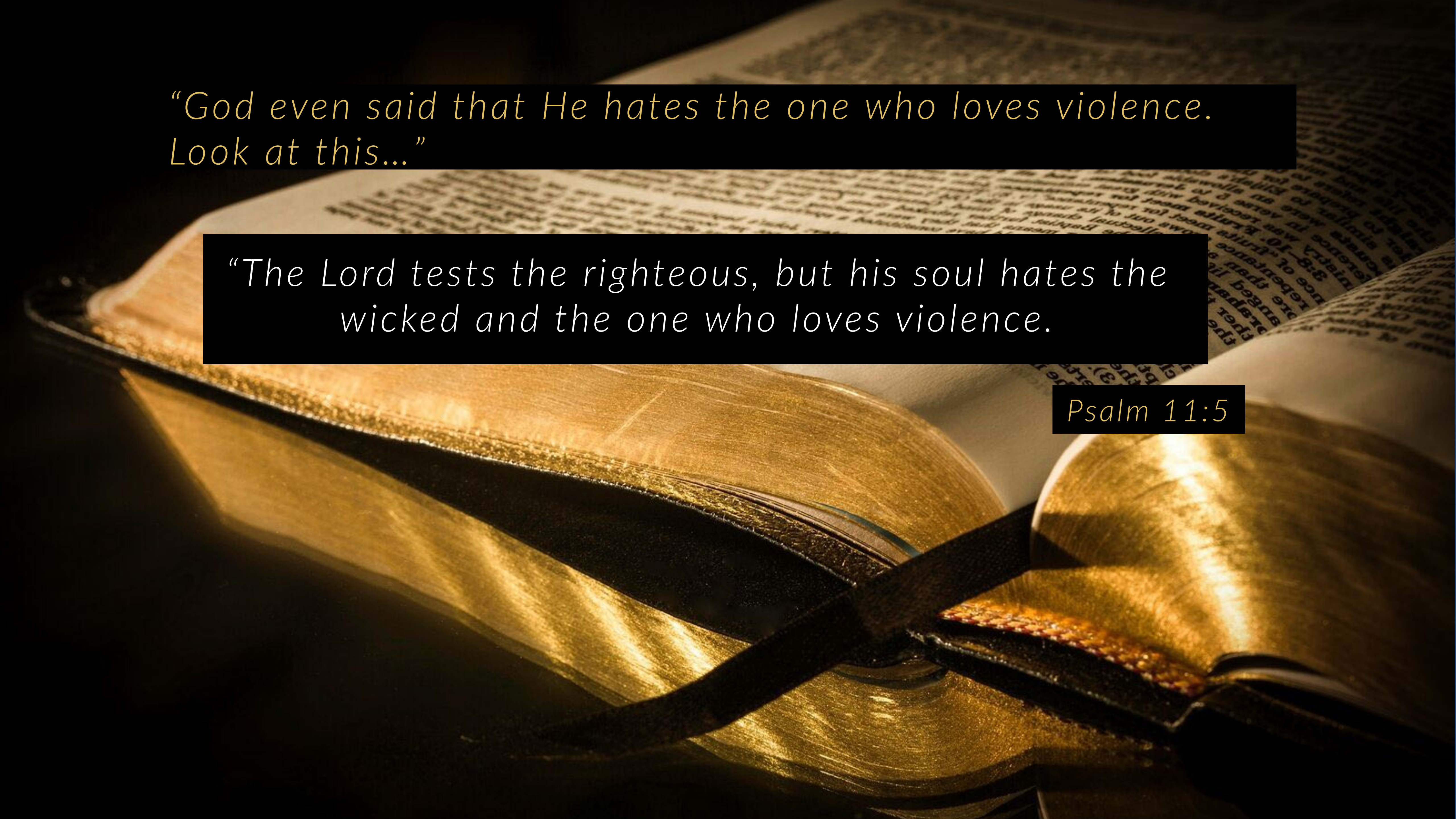


"I'm not kidding you! You want to see where Jesus said this?"

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:20-22

*"God even said that He hates the one who loves violence.
Look at this..."*



*"God even said that He hates the one who loves violence.
Look at this..."*

*"The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the
wicked and the one who loves violence."*

Psalm 11:5

“But wait! The Bible is full of God slaughtering people!”

“I wouldn’t say it is “full” of that, but yes, there are times when God brought judgment upon people and killed them.”

“So how do you reconcile that? Sounds like God is a hypocrite, doesn’t it?”

“Not really. One is a righteous act of judgment by a Holy God; the other is the unrighteous acts of murder by man. God clearly condemns that.”

“I don’t see the difference. People die either way.”

“Yes they do. But one involves God bringing justice and the other involves man bringing injustice. You are for justice, right?”

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

God condemns:

violence - "The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Psalm 11:5

Warfare for the purpose of God's judgment

vs

Warfare for selfish pursuits

Genocide by God's Judgment: consider the Flood

Consider the Final Judgment

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

the overthrow of slavery in Britain was brought about by the Christian convictions of William Wilberforce

the overthrow of slavery in the U.S. was brought about primarily by the convictions of Christians

*“The Lord chooses to change people and society gradually, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the truth of the Word of God”
- Warren Wiersbe*

estimated 27 million slaves in our world today

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Martin Luther advocating burning synagogues and exporting Jews out of Christian lands; Nazi propaganda quoted him to justify their practices

Tertullian (2nd-3rd C.): Jews are permanently cursed

*John Chrysostom (4th C.): Jewish synagogues are
“brothels of Satan”*

Augustine: Jews should remain humiliated

*Jews expelled from England (1290), France (1306, 1394),
and Spain (1492)*

Massacres of Jews occurred during the Crusades

Charges that Nazism grew out of Christian antisemitism

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

12th - 19th C.

Church-led torture and execution

Spanish Inquisition (especially brutal)

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

Religious Wars in Europe

*French Religious Wars (16th C.), St. Bartholomew's Day
Massacre (1572)*

*Thirty Years War (1618-1648), Catholic-Protestant,
millions of deaths*

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

Religious Wars in Europe

Witch Hunts & Trials

Thousands executed across Europe and America

Christian Crimes of the Past

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

Religious Wars in Europe

Witch Hunts & Trials

Sexual Abuse Scandals

Colonialism

Moral Failures in "Pastors"

Moral Failures in Christian Ministries

Health, Wealth, Prosperity Gospel

**We handle these all with grace,
and wisdom, and truth...
pointing people to Jesus, rather
than focusing on His pitiful
followers or pretenders to be**

I will give you my two cents...

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

Religious Wars in Europe

Witch Hunts & Trials

Sexual Abuse Scandals

Colonialism

Moral Failures in Christian Ministries

Health, Wealth, Prosperity Gospel

But, is there a root cause here...?

I will give you

the Footprints of Paul

Violence and War

Slavery

Antisemitism

Inquisition

Religious Wars in

Witch Hunts & Tr

Sexual Abuse Sca

Colonialism

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Health, Wealth, P

the historical move from the round to the rectangle



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contemplations
on the first 300
years of the Way

I will give you

the Footprints of Paul

Violence and War

Slavery

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Inquisition

Religious Wars in

Witch Hunts & Tr

Sexual

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Moral

Health

the historical move from the round to the rectangle



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this move took us from a focus on the spiritual kingdom to a focus on the physical

the focus on the physical took us to bigger and bigger buildings, icons and relics, notions of “holy sites” and “Christian territories”

it brought about a rise of power in the new clergy, hunger for more money, significance, and control—physical control and spiritual control

how do we proceed?

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Colossians 4:5-6

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2 Timothy 2:24-26

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next



Plus: Burning Issues of our Day

Neighboring Apologetic
Categories:

Plus: Burning Issues of our Day

Gender Identity

Spiritual Barriers in the Family

others?

Neighborly Apologetics

8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past

