



This past weekend, we had the pleasure of hearing from Eric Metaxas, bestselling author of numerous books, including *Bonhoeffer*, *Fish Out of Water*, and *Martin Luther*. He has also written more than thirty children's books, including bestsellers *Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving* and *It's Time to Sleep, My Love*. His latest book is *Letter to the American Church*. Eric is also the host of the *Eric Metaxas Radio Show*, a nationally syndicated radio program heard in more than 120 cities around the U.S.

Eric challenged the Church in America to stand boldly in the midst of the chaos, turmoil, and confusion currently plaguing our culture. Walking through his new book, *Letter to the American Church*, he discussed the parallels between the German Church in 1930s and their response to Nazi totalitarianism and the overwhelming silence from the American Church against socialist ideologies being presented in today's political arenas.

- James 2:14 says, "What good is it my brothers and sisters if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?" James goes on to speak about people who say they have faith, but their life shows no works. In verse 26, he says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." Eric challenged us to reflect on our own lives and whether or not we are acting out our faith.

***In what ways can faith be evidenced in your life through works?***

- Eric says, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. God will not hold us guiltless." The response by the Church to the rapid dismantling of a Christian worldview from the highest offices and seats of influence has been, at best, disheartening. Eric has called the Church to battle and to stand with boldness.

***Why do you think the American Church has largely remained silent against anti-Christian ideologies such as abortion, gender confusion, same-sex marriage, Marxism, and so on?***

- Eric discussed how the American Church has made an idol of evangelism—remaining silent against ungodliness in order to maintain the ability to preach the gospel above all else. We have misunderstood what faith and grace means, cheapening it to serve our own needs above our God-given assignments.

***How can something good become an idol? When have you struggled with this in your own life?***

***Have you ever used losing the ability to share the gospel as an "excuse" for not standing for a biblical worldview?***

- Eric shared in detail about the 12,000 pastors who during Nazi Germany were not willing to commit themselves to standing for the truth, refusing to talk about non-theological issues. This response was primarily due to fear of being prosecuted, or in today's terms, cancelled. They simply wanted to continue "playing church" and did so in the name of not losing their platforms to share the gospel. As Eric reminded us, the American Church will be punished if we do not find our voices and sacrifice our routines and our comfort to stand firm for the truth God sent his son to die for.

***What does it mean to live self-sacrificially for the sake of the Kingdom? What does that look like in your day-to-day life?***

- Revelation 21:7-8 says, "The one who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But to the **cowardly** and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur..."

***What can we learn from the German church's cowardness during the 1930s as we boldly respond to today's issues?***

## Prayer

Father, I thank you for every voice you're using to speak the truth to your church—in our nation and to the nations of the world. I thank you for the tools you have given us and for all the different ways we can communicate. Lord, we pray protection for those who are standing boldly for the truth, that you will continue to open wide and effectual doors to share the gospel and that no person will be able to close them. We pray that you will raise up many voices that will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ so that it is preached to all the nations.

We pray not for a theoretical faith, but a faith that will stand in the face of the evil of this generation. Thank you for the triumph of the cross, and for the complete, eternal, and irreversible victory of the redemptive work of Jesus. I pray that we will have the courage to tell our God stories in our families and to our friends, in our communities and wherever you open the door. May you be pleased with us. May the name of Jesus be held in high esteem and may the darkness be turned back. We praise you for it. May the glory of the Lord fill the earth in our generation. In Jesus' name, amen.