

Special Sermon

Multiple

9/13/2025

Custom

For those unfamiliar with Charlie Kirk, he was a 31-year-old husband and father of two who, at 18, founded Turning Point USA, the largest conservative movement on college campuses in U.S. history. He was also a vocal follower of Christ, defender of the Christian faith, and preacher of the gospel. I have some words to say, not only about him, but to us as a church, about where our nation currently finds itself. Before I share those comments, I'd like to read something I wrote regarding Charlie's death.

To be clear, this pulpit and church are about Jesus, His word, and the truth and freedom that all people need through his gospel first and foremost. Today, we will remember and honor Charlie Kirk, because he was a once-in-a-generation leader who stood up for truth and boldly proclaimed his trust in Christ and the gospel on a national public platform, impacting an entire generation and turning the tide of a nation. There is a lot of misinformation running around about things Charlie said or did; the large majority of these claims are nothing more than twisted and slanderous words. NO, Charlie wasn't perfect in everything he did, nor did I always agree with him. A wise pastor once told me, "If we all agree on everything all the time, one of us isn't thinking." Who among us has been the perfect witness for Christ, or has never had a mistake or mispeak in our witness? The Bible teaches us in Romans 13:7 to render honor to whom honor is due. And today, in memoriam, we honor Charlie for his impact and contribution to the work of the gospel and his love for the people of this nation.

Read blogpost here: <https://pastorjoshblevins.com/2025/09/11/honoring-charlie-kirk/>

Sharing

To say that the past couple of weeks in our nation have been sobering would be an understatement. Over the past two weeks, America has been confronting a string of wrenching tragedies — from the massacre of children worshipping in Minneapolis, shootings at schools claiming the innocent lives of young children, to the heartbreaking murder of a young Ukrainian refugee riding a train in Charlotte, to the gruesome, public assassination of a conservative, Christian man, husband and father on a university campus.. In just two weeks, dozens of lives have been tragically and senselessly lost.

There are many who, sadly, would love the church of Jesus Christ to shut its mouth and just preach a flowery, feel-good sermon this weekend that doesn't challenge, equip, or instruct in the ways of righteousness. But there are moments that demand we stop, pray, reflect, and strengthen our resolve to look to Jesus, point others to Jesus, and champion the truth with more courage and boldness than ever before; this is one of those moments.

In the midst of all this, we must not overlook the crucial fact that Charlie has been "taken out" because he effectively spoke words of truth that exposed the foolishness of this age, that tore down deceptive arguments that exalted themselves above the truth, and authoritatively exhorted an entire nation and generation to repent, trust in Christ, and walk in and defend the truth. The last thing he did before his life was taken was preach and defend the gospel in front of three thousand students, the majority of whom were Mormons, at Utah Valley University. Those things are worth emulating for every follower of Christ.

And we now know what other nations have known for some time: that standing up for truth and for Christ may cost you your life by the hand of someone who has been demonically radicalized to the point of justifying, and even celebrating murder, for the sake of protecting their ideas from debate or criticism.

I will not die on the hill of justifying or defending everything, "Charlie Kirk"; I follow Jesus Christ. But I will stand upon the principles he championed. This church and this pulpit will not compromise, apologize for, or minimize the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His perfect Word. Not now, not ever, regardless of the cost. The world is typically fine with Christians preaching Jesus as long as they nueter it to affirm everyone, or keep it in the four walls of the church building. But that's not the commission Jesus gave us. If anything, we will be more resolute in preaching the gospel, teaching the word, standing in truth, loving our community through practical and radical service, praying for our enemies, fighting the spiritual battle against the true enemy, persevering in prayer, and exposing the darkness.

I believe we've been wrongfully disciplined by our culture to have a "safety above all things" response. "Josh, don't talk like this; people won't feel safe coming to church here, and you might put your life at risk." I would lovingly challenge you: What would you do as a Christian in China, Iran, or North Korea? It's never safe there. And if pastors in America concede and capitulate now, under the intimidation of evil, then our nation won't be far behind. Trust me, I love this flock and will do everything possible to physically protect it from all threats. More than anyone, I want our children to be safe and our worship to be free.

Quote

— Pastor Josh

But if you purchase "safety" at the expense of compromising truth, you trade something temporal for something eternal.

But would you have asked Paul to put a lid on saying, “to live is Christ, and to die is gain,” or “I have been crucified with Christ and my life is not my own?” When Paul knew that threats were around every corner, his response was “[Act 20:23-24 NKJV] 23 “...the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

That is our goal, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God! In my prayer and thought through these events, I want to leave you with several peives of practical application for the Christian:

Main Point

Point 1

Resist Fear and Trust the Lord

Scripture

John 14:27 (NKJV) [27] "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Application:

There are at least 300 references in the scripture to choose faith and trust in the Lord over fear; fear of circumstances, fear of man, or even fear of death.

I believe that everything born out of fear of man over the fear of God will keep people from living a life that leads them into bearing fruit that lasts for eternity. Yes, the events of the last week were satanically designed to instill fear and intimidate. No one is looking to invite danger into their lives. Like Paul said to Timothy, our desire is to live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and holiness. But when fear of death or fear of man seeks to silence the truth, Christians must make the hard, daily decision that fear will not rule our will, but rather the peace and love of God.

Scripture

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV) [25] The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

Safety is not always determined by the preservation of your physical life or body, but by the eternal salvation that has been secured through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We must acknowledge that fear can lead to cowardice, and the gospel cannot spread among those who fear men or death.

Scripture

Revelation 21:7-8 (NKJV) [7] "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. [8] But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Quote

— Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

"Captain, my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave."

Main Point

Point 2

Don't Seek Vengeance, Seek Salvation

Echoing the words of Christ, Paul writes to the Romans:

Scripture

Romans 12:17-21 (NKJV) [17] Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. [18] If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. [19] Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. [20] Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Quote

— Pastor Josh

"The Christian does not battle hate with hate and violence with violence. The Christian battles lies with truth, hatred with love, and evil with goodness."

Sadly, many Christians today believe that loving your enemy means agreeing or affirming their sin or accepting their lies as the truth. Nothing could be more hateful toward another human being than affirming them in their sin, or not telling them the truth about themselves and about the love and forgiveness of Christ.

There are many people in our city and our state who have claimed that I am a preacher of hate, and that our church propagates deception. Our motives have been assumed and slandered, our messages slived and taken out of context, and we are frequently flat-out lied about. I have something to say to that audience:

We love you, forgive you, and want nothing more than for you to confess and repent of your sin, receive the grace of Jesus Christ, and be born again into the family of God. We want your life and your family to experience the richest grace and blessings of God.

Yes, we will use our voice to speak against ideas and philosophies that are against the truth. When silence allows evil to be unhindered, silence is violence. Yes, we will call out people who blatantly and proudly promote wickedness. But no, we don't want you to go to hell. No, we don't want you to suffer. And no, we don't want to hurt you if you decide to hurt us. God will ultimately be your judge, which is why we plead with you now to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Main Point

Point 3

Give Yourself Fully to the Purposes of God.

I think one thing we learn from this week is that you may stand before Jesus sooner than you were planning on or anticipated. Tomorrow is not the day to decide that you are going to put your hand to the plow and follow Jesus wholeheartedly; that moment is now! Today is the day to obey, not tomorrow.

Scripture

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Scripture

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) [12] Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. [13] Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, [14] I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Scripture

[Mat 16:24-26 NKJV] - 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Main Point

Point 4

Conduct yourself with Grace and Truth

Scripture

John 1:14 (NKJV) [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Application

Jesus was the perfect blend of grace and truth. That is, Jesus never compromised, withheld, or disguised the truth in the name of "love, grace, or compassion." Neither did Jesus ever tell the truth in a way that wasn't motivated by grace and the hope that people would find salvation. We see this balance all throughout the gospels. When dealing with a woman caught in adultery, he dismisses her charges, sends away her accusers, and offers her forgiveness. In the very next breath, commands her, "Go and sin no more." When dealing with Pharisees who distorted the truth to accomplish their own agenda, he called them "white washed tombs, full of dead men's bones, children of satan, and a brook of vipers." He flipped tables and drove out merchants who defiled God's house, and at the same time embraced Saul of Tarsus, the Pharisee of Pharisees and persecutor of the church, saving him by His grace. John 3:16-18 shows us this perfect balance:

Scripture

John 3:16-18 (NKJV) [16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (GRACE)[18] He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (TRUTH)

Main Point

Point 5

Prepare Yourself for Battle

No, this is not a call to stock up on ammunition. I'll leave your Second Amendment rights between you and God. I'm talking about a much more crucial and important battle: the spiritual battle between righteousness and wickedness, good and evil.

Scripture

Ephesians 6:12-17 (NKJV) [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14] Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Scripture

Jude 1:3 (NKJV) [3] Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Scripture

1 John 5:19 (NKJV) [19] We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) [4] whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Wait, Josh, didn't Jesus say, "Blessed are the peacemakers?" Yes, and sometimes those who value true peace have to fight for that peace to come.

Quote

— *Pastor Josh*

“The Christian should never be one to start a fight for the sake of wanting a battle, but should always be ready to engage the fight for the sake of obtaining genuine peace.”

Application

We as Christians need to wake up to the call of prayer, preaching the gospel, staying in fellowship, and living righteously and soberly in the present evil age. This is how we engage in warfare and prepare for battle. And this does not exclude how we engage our society. The primary priority for the Christian is not who is the president, governor, or city council members. The priority of every Christian is that Jesus is King of kings, risen from the dead, and God commands all people everywhere to repent and trust in Christ, who will one day return and judge the living and the dead (Acts 17:30-31). But that doesn't mean that other things aren't important that relate to the impact of the gospel. The Christian should be very concerned and engaged with who leads our nation and the laws that govern our land, especially in a country that has given sovereign authority to the people. We live in a day and age where the facts speak for themselves. We cannot bear any more of this talk of a moral equivalency between the Democratic and Republican parties. It can be truly said that the Republican Party isn't perfect and has some things wrong... in a human society and secular government, there will not be perfect righteousness. That's reserved for King Jesus when He comes back and takes over. However, when a national ruling party advocates for and celebrates the murder of innocent human life inside the womb, desecrates God's design of human sexuality, champions the mutilation of children who are sexually confused in the name of compassion, sexually confuses those children in the classroom, and seeks to play God by redefining the very basic tenants and distinctions that God created within marriage and the family as the bedrock of society, they have lost their moral high ground. When people who swear allegiance to this party, and those who are in its leadership, openly celebrate online, with cold, heartless jubilation, the unjust murder of a husband, father, and innocent man, you have lost your right to claim any moral high ground. For those who claim to follow Jesus and recognize the authority of God's Word, there is no moral equivalency between the two. Politics and politicians won't save our nation, but having politicians who fear God, honor His moral framework, and seek to protect life, freedom of worship, and freedom of speech should certainly be the obviously better option for the Christian who claims to love their neighbor and their nation.

Conclusion:

Today, we pause to mourn the tragedies that sin and human wickedness have brought about in our nation, both that which we have seen with our eyes and that which goes on behind the scenes, but is tragic and real.

We mourn the death of a national martyr who gave his life living and defending his faith. We mourn the loss of a Ukrainian refugee, trying to find her life here in the land of the free. We mourn the loss of precious children who are now with Jesus. We mourn the 64-65 million babies that will never see the light of life because their lives were robbed. We mourn the likely 15,000 victims of sex trafficking every year in our nation. We mourn the physical violence that breaks out among fellow human beings, image bearers of God. We mourn divorced homes, broken families, and abused spouses and children. We mourn pornography addiction, drug addiction, and the many forms of idolatry that are destroying the soul of our nation.

We mourn every area in which sin seems to have temporarily triumphed, and we declare that Jesus is the answer, the church is the conduit, and the time is now!

Scripture

Psalm 29:10-11 (NKJV) [10] The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever. [11] The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.