

Reviled for Christ

A Pastoral Discussion



Reviled for Christ – A Pastoral Discussion

- Christians Under Attack
- Christians Made An Effective Stand Against Persecution
- The Victory for the Kingdom of God

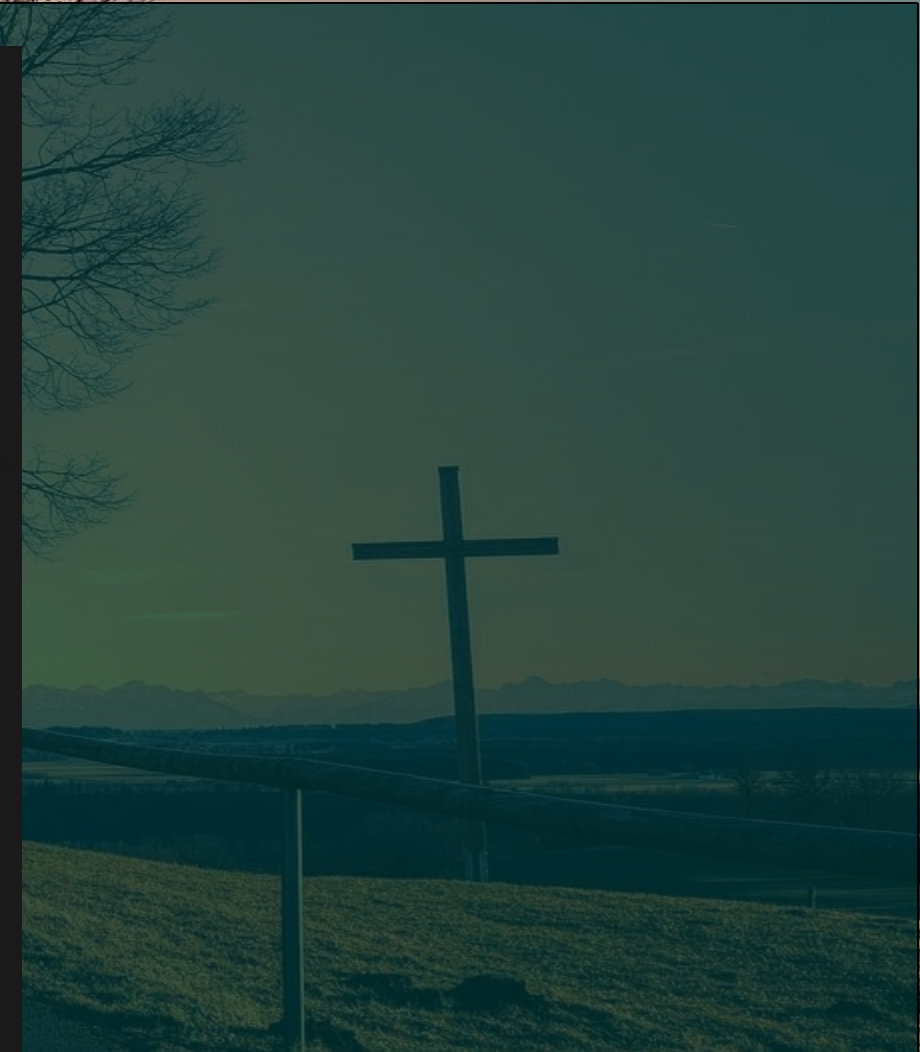
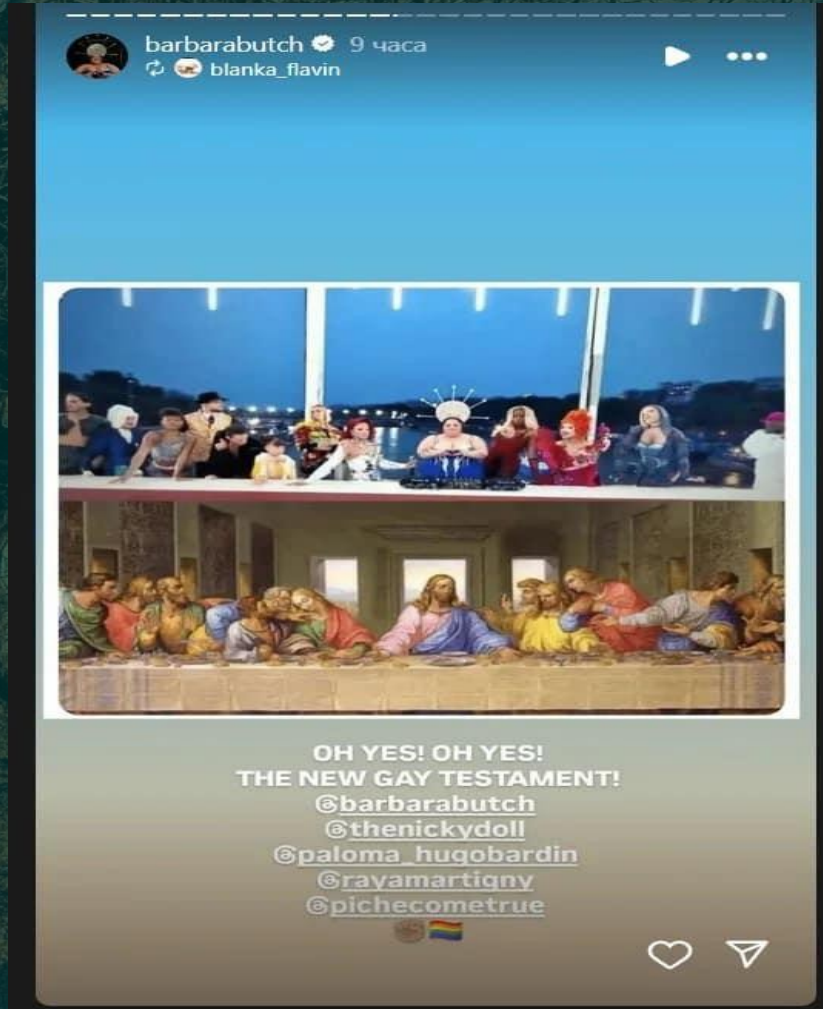
The Beatitude For Persecution

Mat 5:11-12 **"Blessed** are you when they **revile** and **persecute** you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. (12) — **Rejoice** and **be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for **so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Christians Under Attack



Christians Under Attack



Christians Under Attack



Christians Under Attack

- Attack Included gaslighting, arguing that it was about Dionysus/Baccanalia, not the Last Supper
- It was actually both/and
- Their claims historically inaccurate



Christians Under Attack

https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/other/paris-olympics-producers-confirm-the-last-supper-inspired-that-opening-ceremony-scene-many-have-done-it-before/ar-BB1qMcR6?fbclid=...

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A scene from the Paris 2024 Olympics © TheWrap

Paris Olympics Opening ceremony sparks controversy Sunday as some Christians apparently opposing statement



The scene in question featured a line of drag performers posing shoulder-to-shoulder on a Parisian bridge before turning the bridge into a fashion-forward catwalk. Later, those same queens celebrated over a meal where the dish was revealed to be a nearly nude man painted blue.

Many, including Jolly and the official Olympics Games X account, said that the scene is an "interpretation of the Greek God Dionysus" that "makes us aware of the absurdity of violence between human beings."

Others, including a statement from Paris 2024 producers obtained by TheWrap Sunday, said that it was in fact inspired by Da Vinci's famous painting — a skewing of the religious imagery that has been slammed by the Christian right as a mockery of Jesus Christ.

"For the 'Festivities' segment, Thomas Jolly took inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting to create the setting," producers said in the statement. "Clearly, there was never an intention to show disrespect towards any religious group or belief ... [Jolly] is not the first artist to make a reference to what is a world-famous work of art. From Andy Warhol to 'The Simpsons,' many have done it before him."

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▶ Related video: Paris 2024 says sorry over opening ceremony's 'Last Supper' sketch (Dailymotion)

https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/other/paris-olympics-producers-confirm-the-last-supper-inspired-that-opening-ceremony-scene-many-have-done-it-before/ar-BB1qMcR6

An Effective Stand Against Persecution

1 Pe 3:14–16 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. " **AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED.**" (15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;** (16) **having a good conscience,** that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

The Battle is Joined

- Christians pushed back and called out the attack. (Boldness)
- Christians refuted the gaslighting (Gave an answer for the hope inside us)
- Christians refrained from doing idiocy, not returning evil for evil

Boldness for the Kingdom of God



“Unless there is more bravery to stand up for what is fair and right, Christianity will perish.”

Elon Musk X



Fox News

July 28 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

“WILL PERISH”: Elon Musk speaks out after Paris Olympics opening ceremony sparks controversy for using drag queens to mock the Last Supper.



Boldness for the Kingdom of God

- BE BOLD, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!!!
- What Musk is saying is hypothetically true. The truth of the 'If' part makes the 'then' part inevitable. Musk is, at best, a cultural Christian who lacks Divine assurances concerning the Church. He makes a valid, but not sound, point.

Boldness for the Kingdom of God

- In absolute terms, this statement will end up falsified as Christ is the author and finisher of the faith of believers particularly and the Church collectively. Christ will assure that there will always be a bold remnant filled with courage and **POWER**.

Boldness for the Kingdom of God

- What Christians must not do is assume that the Church can remain willy-nilly and survive simply because it is written. Christ's fulfillment of His Promise that the Church will endure requires that He instill the requisite boldness to bring the Cross to the battle field.
- BE BOLD, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!!!

The Faith Defended Against Gaslighting

- Gaslighting claimed it was “obviously” about Dionysus, implying Christians were idiots.
- Some gaslighting claimed that perceived similarities to the Last Supper were proof that the story of Christ was a retelling of the story of Dionysus.

Gaslighting Refuted

- Dionysus story was one of dying/rising from the dead in seasonal cycles; Jesus conquered death once for all.
- The religion of Dionysus / Bacchanalia was extremely carnal; Christ taught denying the flesh.

Gaslighting Refuted

- No historical basis for connecting Dionysus to either the Last Supper or the Olympics.
- Bacchanalia was also the breeding ground for political conspiracies, making it a good fit for any Marxist/Neomarxist narrative.

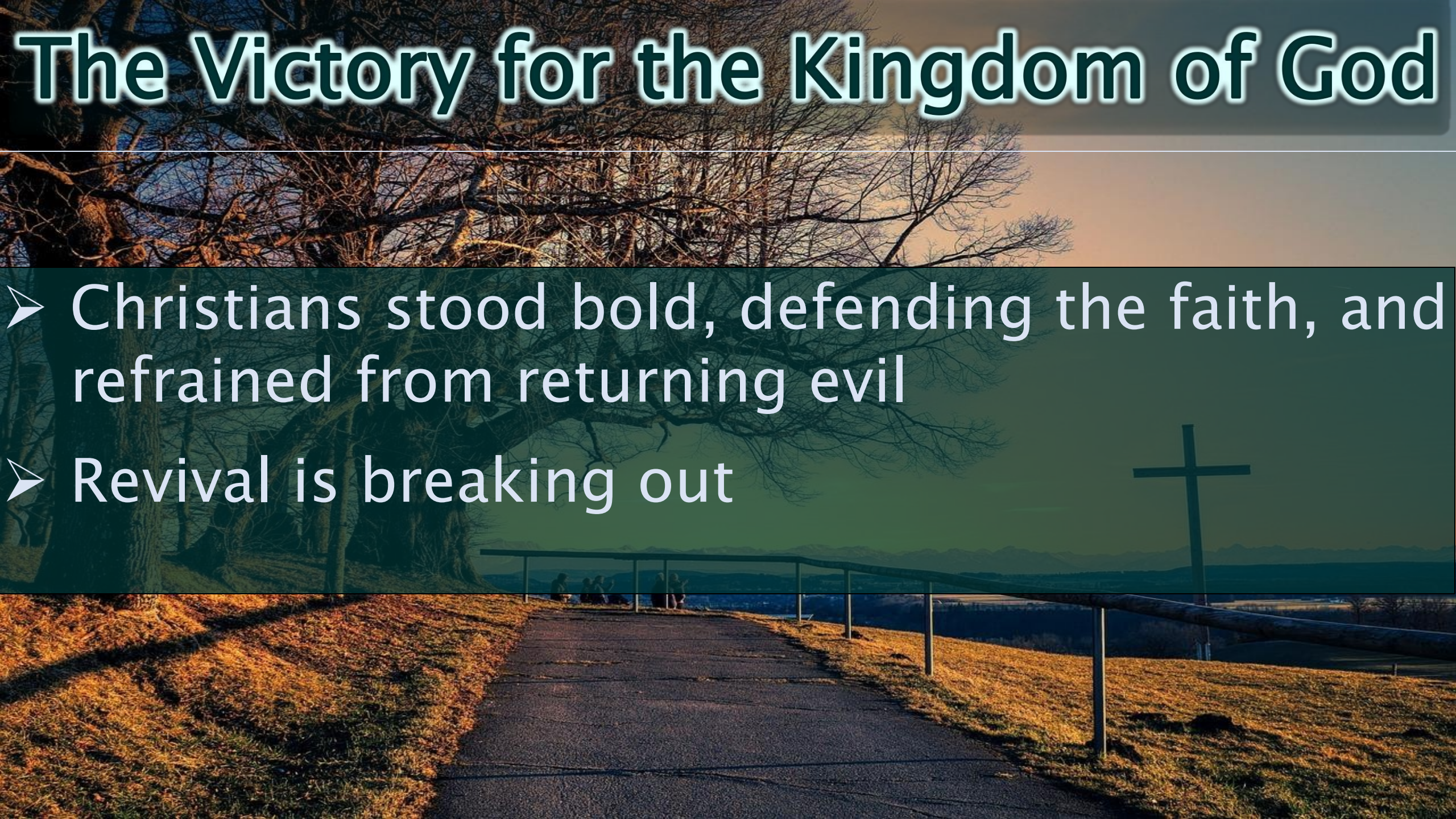
Gaslighting Refuted

Bacchanalia was banned by Pagan Rome long before Christians had a voice, who then proceeded to ban the Olympics.



The Victory for the Kingdom of God

- Christians stood bold, defending the faith, and refrained from returning evil
- Revival is breaking out



The Victory for the Kingdom of God

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/fSZ6ztX92w6zGLPi/>



0:10 / 0:20

Gracie Bearden
a day ago · 🌐

CHRISTIANS FLOOD THE STREETS OF PARIS TO WORSHIP JESUS!
IT'S HAPPENING !!! 🙌🙏🙏🙏

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/fSZ6ztX92w6zGLPi/>

The Victory for the Kingdom of God

Mat 16:17–18 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar–Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (18) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

The Blessedness of Persecution

1 Pe 4:12–14 “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; (13) **but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy...

Anointing Accompanies Persecution

1 Pe 4:12-14 "... (14) If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified."

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