

The Great Controversy Series
GREAT CONTROVERSY'S CORE MESSAGE

Introduction

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

In general what is the definition of the “great controversy”?

Dictionary.com defines “Controversy”

1. a prolonged public dispute, debate, or contention; disputation concerning a matter of opinion.
2. contention, strife, or argument.

“Great” adjective: of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above the normal or average.

Great Controversy: Very intense strife or conflict between two opposing views.

Today there is all out spiritual war between good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan, God’s people and Satan, life and death!

What is the urgent message to all the inhabitants of the earth about the all out intense spiritual war?

Revelation 12:12

12 ... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The great controversy started in heaven when Lucifer rebelled and was kicked out with the other 1/3 of rebellious angels.

At the end of time who does Satan have ALL out war against?

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

What started the great controversy on this earth?

IT WAS LOVE IN ACTION!

After Satan usurped this earth from Adam and Eve through their disobedience and rebellion God activated his plan of redemption to get back what Satan stole, fallen man! This was done out of love!!!

When was the official start of the Great Controversy?

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between thee [snake] and the woman [God’s true church], and between thy seed [Satan’s children] and her seed [God’s children]; it shall bruise [crush/gape] thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Plan revealed! Great Controversy officially starts with the prophecy of the success of God’s redemption and salvation plan for fallen humanity.

Why did God get in the midst of this Great Controversy?

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Why so urgent?

Jas_1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Rom_6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

What is sin?

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

How does Jesus win the Great Controversy?

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What is our main problem? SIN SIN SIN is DEATH DEATH DEATH

Jesus' plan SAVES US from SIN and ETERNAL DEATH.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Jesus is coming back for those who believe and abide in Him and He abides in us to keep us from sin

1 John 3:6-9

6 Whosoever **abideth in him [Jesus] sinneth not**: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is **born of God doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Remember G.R.A.C.E – Gift of righteous by abiding in Christ Everyday

Jesus says with confidence that the promise will be fulfilled... DO YOU BELIEVE?

John 14:1-3

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for

you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

How are we to now and who gives us the power to live godly without sin?

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Will there be any sin in heaven?

Revelation 22:14-15

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Galatians 5:16-21

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3-6

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

THE WORD

Out of His Great Love for us, Jesus, the Word, left us the “WORD” so we can live BY the WORD and live with the WORD eternally!!

God’s Book = The Word reveals the Great Controversy and how to have total victory from sin in Jesus Christ

The Holy Bible our Christian instruction manual. It is our standard of TRUTH.

Since Jesus is the way, the TRUTH, and the life, His WORD is TRUTH.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Amo_3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

What did Jesus use to teach His disciples Himself?

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44-45

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

The Bible reveals the purpose and truth of Jesus and the exposes the plans and ways of Satan. That is the reason why Satan hates the Bible with a passion!

How does Jesus summarize the GREAT CONTROVERSY?

John 10:10-11

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Instead of being destroyed by Satan you can be apart of fulfilling the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 through the grace of Jesus!

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

“Bruise” (Greek) - to crush completely, that is, to shatter - break (in pieces), broken to shivers (+ -hearted), bruise.

Who is hell originally made for?

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Hell was not made for us! It was made to get rid of Satan, his demons and SIN forever. Only those who HOLD on to sin will be destroyed!

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

God has given a provision for ALL to be saved. He wants ALL to be saved!

1 Timothy 2:3-4

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

What is the main CORE message of the GREAT CONTROVERSY?

Old Testament

Eze 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

New Testament

Mar_1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Act_3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Controversy (Hebrew): contest, contend, **PLEADING**, or strife.

Micah 6:2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

From God's prospective the GREAT CONTROVERSY is a GREAT PLEADING to turn from sin and turn to Jesus and be converted to be saved!

This is the core message of the great controversy needs to be spread to ALL the world!

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Who has Jesus given us to share the everlasting gospel with supernatural power to ALL the world?

Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Example of the Holy Ghost power in ACTION

Acts 2:1-11

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.
 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.
 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?
 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,
 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

In the LAST days God will pour out His spirit in a mightier way to finish the work!

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

How do you receive the power of the Holy Ghost?

Acts 2:37-38

- 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For those who are in sin the Holy Spirit convicts them to turn from sin and lead them to TRUTH!

For those who are abiding in Christ the Holy Spirit gives them power to stay in Christ, but also supernatural power to spread the everlasting gospel to ALL the world. He will bring things back to your remembrance.

Remember the Holy Spirit is a spirit of Truth that will never contradict the WORD of God. God word is the standard.

Joh_16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

“The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear His gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the Spirit. But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power. He comes down "having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12. He will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders." 2 Thessalonians 2:9. For six thousand years that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict. And in this time of peril

the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, "without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days. (GC Introduction p. ix)

The purpose of the "Great Controversy" book study

It is not so much the object of this book to present new truths concerning the struggles of former times, as to bring out facts and principles which have a bearing on coming events. Yet viewed as a part of the controversy between the forces of light and darkness, all these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them a light is cast upon the future, illumining the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." (GC Introduction p. xii)

Prophetic Updates

End-time storm is brewing!

Beast and Image of the Beast

- 1) Set up international law via Paris Agreement on climate change
- 2) Complete destruction of the First Amendment of the US Constitution

Reminder: First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Bannon says he's a Leninist: that could explain the White House's new tactics

[Victor Sebestyen](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/06/lenin-white-house-steve-bannon>

Trump's top political adviser says he wants to destroy the state, like the Bolshevik leader, and some of his ideas certainly echo the Russian revolutionary

Stephen Bannon, President Trump's chief political strategist and, after Trump, [the most powerful man in Washington](#), once declared proudly: ["I am a Leninist."](#)

When his Bolshevik party mounted a successful coup and Lenin made himself, in effect, dictator of Russia, one of his first acts was to censor the press, which he called "a weapon no less dangerous than bombs or guns aimed at us ... Why should we place it in our enemies' hands?"

Three days after Donald Trump's inauguration Bannon told the New York Times: "The media should be embarrassed and humiliated and [keep its mouth shut](#) and just listen ... I want you to quote this. The media here is the opposition party. They do not understand this country."

[Donald J. Trump \(Tweet\)](#)

[✓ @realDonaldTrump](#)

"The FAKE NEWS media (failing [@nytimes](#), [@NBCNews](#), [@ABC](#), [@CBS](#), [@CNN](#)) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!"

[Donald J. Trump Verified account @realDonaldTrump](#) 11h11 hours ago

FAKE NEWS media knowingly doesn't tell the truth. A great danger to our country. The failing [@nytimes](#) has become a joke. Likewise [@CNN](#). Sad!

[Donald J. Trump](#) Verified account [@realDonaldTrump](#) Feb 18

Don't believe the main stream (fake news) media. The White House is running VERY WELL. I inherited a MESS and am in the process of fixing it.

[Donald J. Trump](#) Verified account [@realDonaldTrump](#) Feb 17

The FAKE NEWS media (failing [@nytimes](#), [@NBCNews](#), [@ABC](#), [@CBS](#), [@CNN](#)) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

[Donald J. Trump](#) Verified account [@realDonaldTrump](#) Feb 15

The fake news media is going crazy with their conspiracy theories and blind hatred. [@MSNBC](#) & [@CNN](#) are unwatchable. [@foxandfriends](#) is great!

CNN, New York Times, other media barred from White House briefing By [Paul Farhi](#) February 24 at 8:29 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/cnn-new-york-times-other-media-barred-from-white-house-briefing/2017/02/24/4c22f542-fad5-11e6-be05-1a3817ac21a5_story.html?utm_term=.4fa6f816fd93

The White House blocked a number of news organizations from attending an informal briefing Friday, a rare and surprising move that came amid President Trump's escalating war against the media.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer banned reporters from CNN, the New York Times, Politico, the Los Angeles Times and BuzzFeed from attending a "gaggle," a non-televised briefing, but gave access to a number of other reporters, including those representing conservative outlets.

The unusual ban came the same day that Trump, appearing at an annual gathering of conservatives, launched another round of complaints about the news media. Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Trump called reporters "dishonest" and "fake" and denounced the use of anonymous sources in reports about his administration.

Sunday February 19, 2017 – Meet The Press interview

JOHN MCCAIN: I was certainly referring to the threats that we are now facing with the stated goals of this administration, which would upset the last 70 years of a new world order which was established after World War II... And I'm afraid that it's under assault from a variety of forces including, by the way, the Russians.

CHUCK TODD: Do you think the president agrees with you about the world order or not?

MCCAIN: I think many of his statements have been contradictory. Some of them have indicated that.

(On the National Security Council)

MCCAIN: There has never been a political advisor as a permanent member of the National Security Council. And in Mr. Bannon's role as both political advisor and member of the National Security Council, I'm very worried about. Former Secretary of Defense Gates has said he's deeply concerned. So has Leon Panetta and many others who view the National Security Council as apolitical and should not be influenced by any political influences.

(On the president's tweet about the "fake news media")

MCCAIN: A fundamental part of that new world order was a free press. I hate the press. I hate you especially. But the fact is we need you. We need a free press. We must have it. It's vital. If you want to preserve- I'm very serious now- if you want to preserve democracy as we know it, you have to have a free and many times adversarial press. And without it, I am afraid that we would lose so much of our individual liberties over time. That's how dictators get started.

TODD: That's how dictators get started, with tweets like that?

MCCAIN: No. They get started by suppressing free press. In other words, a consolidation of power when you look at history, the first thing that dictators do is shut down the press. And I'm not saying that President Trump is trying to be a dictator. I'm just saying we need to learn the lessons of history.

How Pope Francis can become the global voice against President Trump

<http://theweek.com/articles/679848/how-pope-francis-become-global-voice-against-president-trump>

The movement that propelled Donald Trump into the White House is not isolated to the United States. It is a global phenomenon. All over the West, a populist backlash is brewing against the elites of society. And that backlash all too often takes the shape of authoritarianism and ethnonationalism.

Which is why we desperately need a world leader who can articulate a vision of what's true, good, and beautiful, and can serve as an alternative to Trumpism. And there's a man who's made for the role: Pope Francis.