

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH by John Carter

I originally thought I'd title this article, KEEPING THE FAITH. But that was until I read Franklin Graham's talk to the NRB: *"... There's a storm coming, and we've all got to be prepared...every demon from hell has been turned loose in our culture today...the world has deteriorated so quickly, we cannot be deceived and we can't be fooled. We need to get ready and prepared...We're living in a cancel culture, and big corporations want to destroy Christian organizations...If you're going to proclaim the gospel, they're going to try to shut you up...We cannot back up, we can't retreat, don't apologize for the gospel...just declare it, just preach it..."* *

The son of Billy got it right - it's plain, unapologetic, truthful, and totally appropriate. While guaranteed to offend many who believe the Truth is what you want it to be, it resonates with those of us who still believe that Truth IS Truth and not someone's private property. Sorry to Oprah who remarked to Prince Harry, "Tell me your truth."

I also still believe that marriage is between one man and one woman, and that the Ten Commandments are totally relevant. In fact, if I were in charge of things, I would nail them up inside every class room, starting in San Francisco where a great city has gone to hell, thanks to drugs, permissiveness, homelessness, and lawlessness. I notice that our Gay friends have their flags and signs everywhere, so what's so radical about putting up the Ten Commandments? It seems to this old pilgrim that freedom of speech has become very restricted, it often is guaranteed only to the Liberals, Socialists, Atheists, and people who seem to hate their country. Doesn't it strike you as paradoxical that the people who are demanding their rights are the first ones to deny you yours? They believe in freedom of speech, but only for themselves.

Today with no apologies I am "CONTENDING for the Faith", to quote the book of Jude:

"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. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 3,4 NKJV

It's almost scary when you read about the demons in Revelation 9:1-3.

"Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power."

During the end times the door to the Bottomless Pit is opened. Planet Earth becomes the battle field of demons. Scorpions and locusts are symbols of fallen angels who are on a mission to deceive and destroy. They are among us now.

Then there are the Riders from Hell:

"And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm." Revelation 9:17-19 NKJV

Don't try to take this literally. Revelation is describing evil spirits whose power is in their mouths, and whose sting is in their tails. They preach lawless ideas and when people accept their Satanic teachings, it's all over. The sting comes from where you least expect it. It's like the Eastern Brown snake in Australia who strikes you when you think it's just a shadow in the grass.

We have arrived at the time when the door to hell has been opened. The smoke from the great furnace is right now filling the air around us. Franklin Graham is right. What would his father say if he were preaching today?

So beware of lying teachers, preachers, and politicians who in their hearts hate the Word of God, who come to you smiling while waiting to give you the fatal and final shot of venom. It's time to CONTEND for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. This is fighting talk.

The Ukrainians are now contending for their mother land. They are contending against the Russians. They are defending their land. They are fighting for what they hold sacred. They are not rolling over. They are fighting, bleeding, and dying. They are contending. It's time for Christian soldiers to do some contending. Do I hear an AMEN?

* Orlando, Florida, May 22, 2023, as reported by FOX NEWS.



Franklin Graham