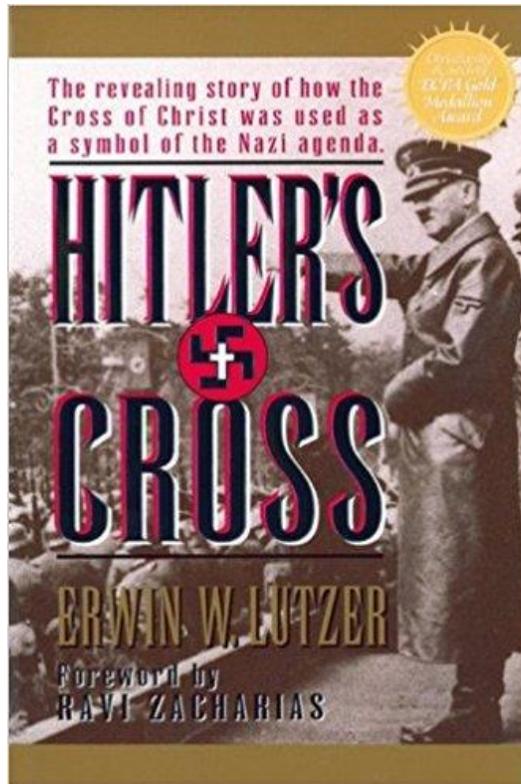


Hijacking of Christianity: Don't blame Jesus Christ or Christianity When Christians embraced Hitler



This is a historical look at what happens when Christians fail in Christ's mandate to be "salt" and "light" to their generation. It examines what happens when Christians side with the socio-economic-politico (SEP) influences of their age rather than with Christ and His standards--and thus become, as Christ warned, "good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men," Matt. 5:13.

This study examines ten socio-economic-politico (SEP) hijackings and consequent trappings of Christianity: (1) by Rome/Constantine (313), (2) by the crusades (1100-1300), (3) by the inquisitions (1231-1834), (4) by colonialism/imperialism (1400-1800), (5) by the antebellum South in America (1650-1863), (6) by reconstruction (1863-1877), (7) by Jim Crow South (1877-1960), (8) by Nazi Germany (1930-1940), (9) by consumer/prosperity Gospel (1950-2018), and (10) by modern political Christianity on the Right and the Left (1950-2018).

The essential issue in each one of these hijackings comes down to the believer's allegiance. The believer either chooses Christ and His values as outlined in the Sermon on the Mount and reiterated in the Epistles, or aligns himself with the SEP of the world for social, economic, or political gain. The harshest language and depictions in the Bible are directed at Christians who choose the world over Christ. Those who idolize money, national, and material benefit over the spiritual values of love, grace, and humility of Christ are depicted in very striking language

throughout the Word of God. Christians who live for material gain, regardless if they do it with the backing of God (“in the name of Christ) or not, are called idolaters (Col. 3:5), adulterers (James 4:4), and great whores (Rev. 17:1).

It is because language in itself cannot properly capture the disgusting state of a believer who is in bed with the world for financial gain, that Scripture uses the image of a great whore. Note God’s attitude, depiction, and activity of the great whore of mammonism:

Rev. 17:1-4, Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication."

Revelation 18:3, "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

Revelation 18:11-13, "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 "merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 "and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men"

Note God’s command for believers to come out of her:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."

The last few articles have touched on how Christians trafficked in the “bodies and souls of men” (Rev. 18:13) in antebellum South for socio-economic-politico reasons, which they attempted to cover up through Christian and Biblical language. They used the Bible to conceal their idols of money, racism, and way of life—all of which is radically antithetical to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

In the next few articles, I would like to touch on the period of history (#8 above) of Nazi Germany. I would like to begin with a few excerpts out of an excellent resource (written by an evangelical pastor of Moody Church, see https://www.amazon.com/Hitlers-Cross-Revealin.../ref=sr_1_2...) on how Christians chose Hitler over Christ because of socio-economic-politico values:

Six million Jews dead. The monstrosity of Adolph Hitler's "Third Reich" remains a stunning chapter in the pages of history. Although the power by which he hypnotized an entire nation is legendary, one question in particular begs an answer: Where was the church of Christ? Seduced by the Satanic majesty of The Fuhrer, church leaders throughout Germany allowed the Swastika a prominent place alongside the Christian cross in their sanctuaries. Nationalistic pride replaces the call of God to purity, and with few exceptions, the German church looked away while Adolph Hitler implemented his "Final Solution" to his Jewish problem.

With a thicket of swastika flags surrounding the altar of the Magedburg Cathedral, the dean, Dr. Martin, declared in 1933, 'Whoever reviles this symbol of ours is reviling Germany . . . the swastika flags around the altar radiate hope; hope that that day is a last about the dawn.

Adoration for Hitler poured forth from pulpits of Germany. Pastor Siegfried Leffler proclaimed, "In the pitch-black night of church history, Hilter became, as it were, the wonderful transparency of our time, the window of our age, through which light fell on the history of Christianity. Through him, we were able to see the Savior in the history of the Germans.

On August 30, 1933, Pastor Leutherser gushed, "Christ has come to us through Hitler . . . through his honesty, his faith, and his idealism, the Redeemer found us . . . We know today the Savior has come . . . we have one task, be German, not Christian.

And so it was that the land that gave us Luther and Bach now gave the world Hitler and Wagner. The church was called by God to stand against the evils of the Nazi regime came to embrace it.

Today pictures of this "holy union" startle us, but in Hitler's day being a good Christian involved being a good German nationalist. God and country were practically one and the same.

When the churchmen awoke from their spiritual and political slumbers, they discovered too late that they had been deceived. Early on only a few understood that Hitler was to be repudiated rather than revered, but their voices were drowned with shouts of victory and celebration.

(The above quotes are from pages 101-102 of the attached resource).

Thank God that there are always a few Christians, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who put Christ before the world's socio-economic-politico harlot during this time of unspeakable evil, but there is always a cost in true discipleship. It always comes down to values: Christ or the world. We cannot serve both; it is impossible to serve God and Mammon, Matt. 6:24.