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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Was Hitler a Christian? ~ December 10, 2015

Ignorance about Hitler is rampant. Ignorance about Christianity is worse.

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Is it just me, or is Hitler's name being used more frequently across the media? For example, Pat Buchanan describes how opponents of a leading presidential candidate are [comparing him to Hitler](#).

I think I know why this is happening. People are emotionally amped up from last month's terror attacks in Paris and the recent terror attack in San Bernardino. So there's an adrenalin surge pulsating through our nation, encouraging people to be explosive in their rhetoric. And because Hitler is one of history's most evil leaders, his name becomes a ready weapon of character assassination.

Controversial movie director Spike Lee doesn't like how one of the GOP presidential contenders would handle the influx of refugees and immigrants. So what did he do? [Lee compared him to Hitler](#). And then there's what Whoopi Goldberg said to co-host Candace Bure on ABC's TV show, "The View." The [Christian Post](#) shares this account as they discussed how to handle the terror attacks in Paris and influx of refugees.

Behar then shifted the conversation over to... Timothy McVeigh, the Caucasian-American terrorist who killed 168 people and wounded over 600 by detonating a truck bomb in front of a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. "Timothy McVeigh was a Christian, just saying," Behar said.

Goldberg then talked [about] Hitler, the German chancellor who instigated the Holocaust and was responsible for the killing over 5 million Jews. "There have been a lot of horrifying ... there have been a lot of monster Christians," Goldberg stated. "Hitler was a Christian."

Wow, the ignorance! First off, McVeigh disavowed Christianity. He was a self-proclaimed agnostic (see [here](#) and [here](#)). He framed his atrocities in bold unbelief when he bragged: "If I am going to hell, I'm gonna have a lot of company."

And Hitler was not a Christian, either. Hitler lied about his respect for Christianity in order to facilitate his rise to power. But once in power, he unleashed hatred for Christianity by persecuting the church. Case in point is his thirty-point program for the "National Reich Church." Here are two of his dictates against Christianity.

19. On the altars there must be nothing [i.e., no Bible] but *Mein Kampf* (to the German nation and therefore to God the most sacred book) and to the left of the altar a sword.

30. On the day of its foundation, the Christian Cross must be removed from all churches, cathedrals and chapels... and it must be superseded by the only unconquerable symbol, the swastika.

The continuing debate about Hitler is whether he was an [atheist](#) or a [pagan deist](#) (having messianic delusions about himself).

If we want to talk about a Christian who horribly sinned, let's look in the Bible. There we find King David. He was a Christian: he trusted in the prophesied Messiah-Christ who would ransom the world of sin, death and Satan. But then David engaged in adultery and committed murder in a desperate attempt to cover up his sin ([2 Samuel 11:2-26](#)).

When David did these evil things by acting against his better knowledge, he was rebelling against Christ. The term "fallen" can describe him because he had fallen from the faith and was no longer a saved child of God.

- King Saul was also a fallen Christian who turned to witchcraft; and God punished him with death on the battlefield ([1 Samuel 28:4-20](#)).
- Judas, a disciple of Jesus, was also a fallen Christian when he betrayed Jesus. God's judgment against him for his unbelief was prophesied in scripture ([Acts 1:15-22](#)).

David, too, was a fallen Christian. If David had died during the time when he refused to confess his sins and to seek the Lord's forgiveness, he would have preceded Hitler and McVeigh into hell.

But unlike King Saul and Judas, David was brought back to the faith. And through his faith in Christ's heavenly forgiveness, God strengthened David to accept the earthly punishment God pronounced, that is, the death of the son conceived in adultery. This punishment was carefully chosen by God not as a way for David to pay for his sin (because all sin is paid by Christ on our behalf per [1 John 4:10](#)), but to make it clear to the world that David was not a Christian when he committed his heinous sins. At the same time, God strengthened David with heaven's forgiveness to humbly accept the temporal, civil punishment judged against him ([2 Samuel 12:1-24](#)).

McVeigh and Hitler were not Christians. A Christian is someone who loves what the Lord loves and hates what the Lord hates ([Psalm 97:10](#) & [John 14:21-27](#)). And when such a person realizes that he's grieved his Lord by a sin, he repents of his sin and humbly seeks God's mercy... just as David formally did in [Psalm 51](#).

Because of the way Hitler's name is being bantered around in the media-- sometimes in deplorable ignorance-- it provokes two questions: What makes a Christian a Christian? And, am I a Christian (and therefore a child of God and heir of heaven)? If you have any doubts, please let us at Bethany embrace you with Christ's forgiveness and peace.

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[An Establishment Unhinged](#) by Pat Buchanan @ WND

* "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany" by William L. Shirer (p. 240). Available at Google Books.

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike

