



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015



# THE SIN OF SILENCE

*A Study in the Confessing Church of Jesus Christ*



## The Aryan Paragraph

A cultural event or a socio-political occurrence that works to separate out the wheat from the tares, and the sheep from the goats

## The Authentic and the Counterfeit

... By their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**Matthew 7:20-23**

## The Twos

- Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:32-33)
- Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:30)

## The Story of Two Churches in China

The Three Self Church and the Chinese House Church

## Caged or Free?

Remember: It's hunting season for wild birds in China

# Every Believer Must Make a Choice

And if you think about it, the bird cage seems so reasonable

## Just Sign Right Here and You Will Be Good to Go!

- I submit myself as a believer to the governance of the Communist Party in China (hereafter referred to as The Party), to be a good citizen, agreeable, and helpful to prosper the government and its agenda  
*(NOTE: Three Self churches report to the Three Self Patriotic Movement, which reports to the State Administration for Religious Affairs, which is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party)*
- I understand that since The Party is the one who decides how many people can be baptized per year in the church, I agree to not ever baptize unless given permission by the Party
- I understand that, since The Party is the one who decides who can preach in the Church, no one who is unauthorized by The Party can ever preach in the Church
- I understand that, since The Party is the one that decides what can be preached in the Church, no message can be preached without first gaining the stamp of approval from The Party
- I understand that since The Party is being so generous with Christianity as to allow it to continue functioning under their benevolent supervision, that only the attributes of Christianity that benefit The Party ought to be emphasized in the teaching and instruction of the Church—ideas that prosper the development of good citizens and not ones that prosper counter-revolutionaries
- I agree to not ever teach or preach on the subjects of “resurrection” or on the “second coming of Jesus Christ” - nor will I allow others to preach on these subjects unmolested
- I agree to not ever teach or preach against other religions that deny that Jesus is God. I recognize that if I begin to use my belief as a war machine against others that I will lose the right to enjoy such freedoms as I now share, thanks to the Party
- I agree to not ever say or infer that the atheist communist heroes of the Party who have died went to hell when they died (for it is a well established fact that all good communists go to heaven)
- I agree to never speak, teach, or preach against the practice of abortion

- I agree to never gather for Christian worship, teaching, or preaching outside of the official Three Self church "meeting points"
- I understand that teachers and preachers authorized within the Three Self Church system are not allowed to ever preach or teach outside their assigned location
- I understand that evangelizing or giving out tracts is forbidden by The Party
- I understand that importing Bibles is forbidden, even if they are given away for free
- I understand that printing Bibles is forbidden, even if they are given away for free
- I understand that to be a Christian negates my ability to ever hold a government office, a teaching position, a military position, or a police position - for these must always remain secular roles in a healthy China
- And, I understand that children cannot be Christians nor can teenagers be Christians
- I, the undersigned, agree to each of these above-mentioned terms of religious freedom, and recognize that to violate any of the above terms constitutes a removal of all religious freedom and a crime against The Party.

## Two Churches - Two Agendas

- The Church that exists in order to subsist, but can only survive one more generation
- And the Church that exists for the proclamation of a Kingdom, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel

## There Are Always Two

- The Church that just tries to survive
- The Church that defies, and as a result, thrives

## There Are Always Two

- The Church that goes silent
- The Church that confesses

# The Confessing Church

The Only Real Church is the Church that Does Something

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Mat 10:1) . . . These twelve Jesus sent out (Mat 10:5) . . . (Jesus said to them) "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues (Mat 10:16-17) . . . And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved (Mat 10:22) . . . do not fear them (Mat 10:26) . . . Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops (Mat 10:27) . . . Do not fear (Mat 10:31) . . . **whoever confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **But whoever denies Me before men**, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven (Mat 10:32-33) . . . He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me (Mat 10:37-40) . . . And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward (Mat 10:42)."

## The Anatomy of Confession

Homo + Logos = Confession

Homologeō - Hah-mah-lah-gay-oh

A verbal declaration of your thorough alignment and agreement with The Word of God in Text and in Person

... **whoever confesses Me before men**, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. **But whoever denies Me before men**, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 10:32-33**

## The Aryan Paragraph

A cultural event or a socio-political occurrence that works to separate out the wheat from the tares, and the sheep from the goats

## Aryan

Noble, Unmixed, of the Pure-bloodline, NOT Jewish

## The Story of the Aryan Paragraph and the Confessing Church

1931 - 1945 (14 years of proving)

## The Players in the Story

Adolf Hitler - The Aryan

The Jewish People - The Attacked

The German Church - The Silent

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - The Confessing

## America 1931

Introducing our hero, Dietrich

A twenty-five year old, German theology student, named Dietrich Bonhoeffer first visits the United States for seminary studies in New York. This young man notices something in America that bothers him. There are many churches in New York that have veered liberal in their slant, having left preaching the Centrality of Jesus Christ and making

Christianity merely a social gospel. And yet, these same liberal churches seem to be overlooking the most obvious social crisis in the entire country, which lies right beneath their noses. And that is the treatment of the African Americans.

Bonhoeffer is shocked by the complete lack of response on the part of the American Church to this travesty. For he witnesses the African American being treated as less-than-human. How could this be? In a nation that talks so much about brotherhood, peace, and love - how could such a massive social contradiction exist with hardly a whisper of concern in response?

Bonhoeffer attends Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, an African-American church and he is greatly impacted. He witnesses something marvelous there in and amongst these worshippers of Christ. He hears bold Christ-centered preaching that both convicts the hearer and moves them to real action. This church does not turn a blind eye to the plight of the African-Americans, but rather, gives everything they have to fight against this bigotry and racism, doing it as an outflow of the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

It's 1931, still two years prior to the rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany. And at this time, Bonhoeffer remarks that this disturbing issue of racial prejudice in America is not present in Germany.

## Germany in 1933

- January 1933 - Adolf Hitler ascends to power in Germany
- April 7, 1933 - Hitler and the Nazi regime institute "The Law on the Reconstruction of the Professional Civil Service" in Germany
- April 7, 1933 - The third paragraph of this new "Law" is known as the Aryan Paragraph - stipulating the removal of Jews from government positions and legal positions in the German government
- April 25, 1933 - The Law against the Overcrowding of German Schools and Universities - essentially removing all Jews from all positions of educational oversight and influence in German schools
- May 10, 1933 - Books considered un-German, including those by Jewish authors, were destroyed in a nationwide book burning
- June 30, 1933 - These laws were again broadened to entail that even marriage to a "non-Aryan" sufficed for exclusion from careers in government, law, and education.



- July 1933 - September 15, 1935 - Due to intense Nazi pressure and Gestapo enforcement, nearly every business, organization, group, and order within the German society effectively had barred the involvement and patronage of Jews. The Jews were barred from the public health system, lost their honorary public offices, were driven from editorial offices and all theater positions as writers, directors, musicians, and actors, and were excluded from all agricultural work as well as medical work. To be a Jew was to be an outcast, removed from normal commerce and community
- September 16, 1935 - The Nuremberg Laws are instituted to officially protect “German Blood” and “German Honor” - to do whatever it takes to remove this Jewish threat to their pure blood-line from their nation.
- September 16, 1935 - December 1941 - Six years of hell for the Jews was to commence only the beginnings of something even worse. In these six years of social hell, socializing of any form with Jews stopped in Germany, shopping in any Jewish stores ceased, causing a complete financial breakdown of the previously rather wealthy Jewish community. Most Jews, if enjoying any employment at all, were only able to function in menial jobs for paltry pay. Getting out of Germany and emigrating to another country also became an ever-increasing problem for the Jews. To leave required the Jews to pay a tax of near 90% of their wealth upon departing Germany. And added to this, by 1938 there were almost no countries on earth willing to receive these Jewish emigrants. In December of 1941, in the midst of World War II, Hitler declared that since Europe had no reasonable means by which to deport these Jews, they would all need to be exterminated. The total number of Jews murdered during the resulting Holocaust is estimated at 5.5 to 6 million people.

## The Story of the Confessing Church

- January 1933 - The concern. Who is this Hitler guy and what is he really about?
- April 1933 - The Aryan paragraph sparks the great debate in and amongst the Church. Bonhoeffer begins to plead with the German pastors to stand up against this evil, to not submit to Hitler’s move to control the Church of Jesus Christ.
- April 1933 - May 1934 - out of 65,000,000 Germans, 45,000,000 considered themselves Protestant Christians. Out of these 45,000,000 Protestant Christians in Germany, only a scant 150,000 were willing to stand up against the Nazi Regime and help the Jews. Out of every 100 Christians, 97 of them turned a blind eye to what Hitler was doing. Out of every 100 Christians in Germany in 1934, only 3 were willing to stand up and declare the Aryan Paragraph as wrong.
- May 1934 - The Barman Declaration of Faith - The Founding of the Confessing Church in Germany
  - 18,000 Protestant Pastors in Germany in 1934

- 3,000 vehemently opposed “The Confessors” and stood vigorously with Hitler
- 3,000 vehemently opposed Hitler and the Aryan Agenda and stood vigorously with Jesus Christ
- 12,000 sat neutral, unwilling to take a side, unwilling to say anything for or against, unwilling to confess
- August 1937 - The Confessing Church was declared illegal
- January 1938 - Bonhoeffer is banned from Berlin and the Nazis begin burning down churches
- June 1939 - Bonhoeffer returns to America to take a Seminary teaching position, avoiding the military call-up issued by the Germans
- June 1939 - Bonhoeffer writes a letter to Reinhold Niebuhr:

*I have had time to think and to pray about my situation and that of my nation and to have God's will for me clarified. I have come to the conclusion that I have made a mistake in coming to America. I must live through this difficult period of our national history with the Christian people of Germany. I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people.*

- June/July 1939 (only twenty-six days after he arrived in New York to teach) - Bonhoeffer returns to Germany
- September 1, 1939 - World War II begins when Germany invades Poland
- October 1940 - The Gestapo banned Bonhoeffer from speaking in public, and soon after he was forbidden to publish his writings
- April 1943 - Bonhoeffer arrested by the Gestapo, incarcerated in Tegel prison in Berlin for two years
- April 9, 1945 - Taken to Flossenbürg concentration camp, marched naked to the gallows, and executed for high treason. Bonhoeffer was 39 years old. His final words were, “This is the end. For me, the beginning of life.”
- April 30, 1945 - Hitler dies - the mastermind's career ends, the war essentially ends

## A Pop-Quiz

- Are we the Three Self Church? Are we caged or free birds?

- Are we more concerned about survival or confession?
- Is there an Aryan Paragraph in our generation that we are not speaking out about?
- Are we standing with the Hated Jew?

## Turn up the Pipe-Organ Volume

We Really Don't Want to Hear The Screams

- It is considered “judgmental”, “uncouth”, and “inappropriate” to ever speak ill of Abortion
- It is considered “hateful”, “incorrect”, and *soon* “criminal” to refer to homosexuality as a sin
- It is considered “ignorant”, “anti-intellectual”, and “academically disruptive” to oppose the reigning ideas of Darwinian evolution
- The butchery of Christians in Syria and Iraq by ISIS forces is considered merely “issues of the Middle East”, “unfortunate”, and “someone else’s business” to 97 out of every 100 Christians in America right now. It’s something to repress, attempt to forget, and block out.
- The Supreme Court is deciding on the issue of redefining “marriage” in this country to include those of the same sex. Would this constitute a reason for Christians to confess the Truth of God’s Word?
- Countless little lives are currently hanging by a thread, caught in the machinery of governmental foster care in this country. There are more children in need of help than help is being offered by Christian families. There are more homosexual couples adopting right now in America than Christian families adopting.

## The 12,000 Muzzled Pastors

Is this us?

## But, Eric, How Are We To Stop This?

After all, what can little ‘ol me do to stop the Satanic Train on its way to Auschwitz Concentration Camp

# The Key Moment in History

When it is obvious that something must be done and that a shrug and a blind eye are deemed the grossest sin

## Arriving at the Key Moment

Are we prepared to boldly stand and even to boldly die?

## 1st Samuel 17

The Pattern of Action for the Confessing Church

## The Players

- Saul and the Soldiers of Israel - Church #1
- Goliath - The Aryan Paragraph
- David - Church #2

## Evil Makes its Move on the Church

1Sa 17:1-2 - Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle . . . and Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.

## It's Gigantic and Powerful

1Sa 17:4-7 - And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

## This Gigantic Threat Defies The Armies of the Living God

1Sa 17:8-10 - Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be

our servants and serve us.” And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”

## Church #1 is Proven Weak. It’s Ill-Equipped - Hushed By this Threat and Unable to Properly Respond

1Sa 17:11 - When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

## Church #2 is Called Forth to the Battle

1Sa 17:17-18, 20 - Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them” . . . So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.

## Church #2 Sees the Need, Hears the Boasts

1Sa 17:22-23 - And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.

## Church #2 Recognizes that Something Must Be Done

1Sa 17:24 - And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

## Church #1 Opposes the Courage of Church #2

1Sa 17:26, 28-30 - Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” . . . Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?” Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.

## Though Opposed, Church #2 Stands on Behalf of God and Church #1

1Sa 17:32 - Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

## Church #1 Doesn't Believe Church #2 Can Make a Difference

1Sa 17:33 - And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

## But, Church #2 Has Been Made Ready by God

1Sa 17:34-37 - But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

## Church #2 Approaches the Battle in Apparent Weakness

1Sa 17:40 - Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

## The Gigantic Threat Mocks Church #2

1Sa 17:43-44 - So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

## Church #2 Confesses in the Power and Authority of the Almighty

1Sa 17:45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

## Church #2 Doesn't Hesitate Against This Gigantic Opponent, But Sprints Towards It

1Sa 17:48 - So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

## We Must Do Something!

*I want each of us in this room to decide today a first step.  
If you call yourself a Christian I exhort you to do something.*

## If We Be Anything, We Must Be a Praying and a Confessing Church

## Remember, Oh Church of Jesus Christ, Remember This . . .

The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed . . . He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

**Psalm 2:2,4**

## Let's Get Practical

Get out the pen in your soul and start checking boxes

- This Monday Night - Prayer and Confession Time
- Nika - Let's do something for this precious little munchkin
- The Vulnerable One - Is it possible that our church, even your very family, is supposed to say "yes" to this little girl?
- The Band of Rescuers - what about it?
- Radically change your schedule, if necessary, to begin to fervently pray, and pray as if a billion souls hang in the balance. For they do.