

Devotion



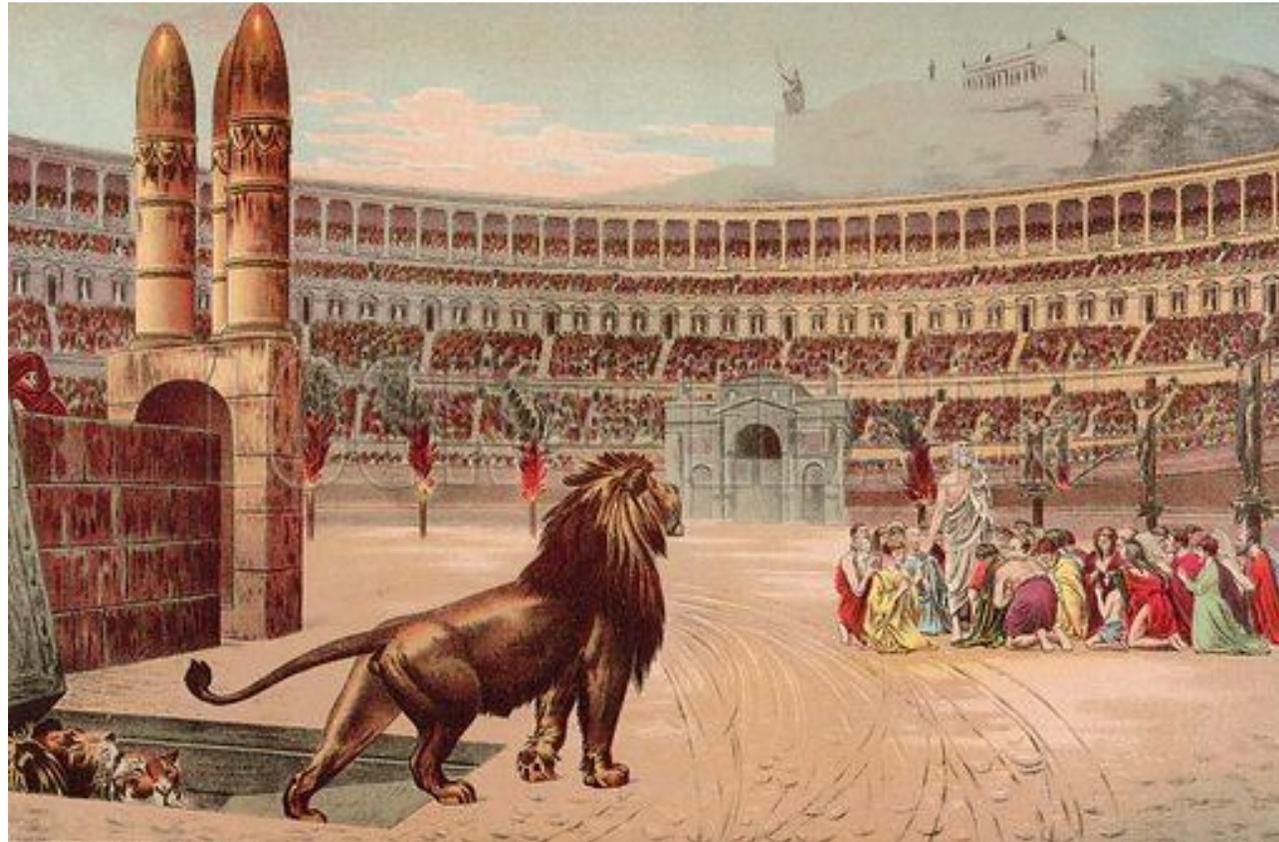
Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. **¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.** ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Devotion

- This text is often referred to as the Great Confession by Peter and verse 18 is important for my devotion is morning.
- I read this verse at seminary on many occasions but it did not make much impact on my life until I learnt about the history of the church from its formative years in the first century through to the 21st century.
- The church has never existed without challenges

Roman Persecution 1st-4th Centuries



Dark Ages

5th-10th Centuries



Middle Ages

11th -13th Centuries

What did Medieval People think made them ill?



One person
people turned
to were
medieval
doctors...

Renaissance (Humanist Period)

13th-15th Centuries



God = State
Faith = Tolerance
Sin = Discrimination



Jesus = Ideal Citizen

Blasphemy = Hate Speech

Equal before God = Equal before the State

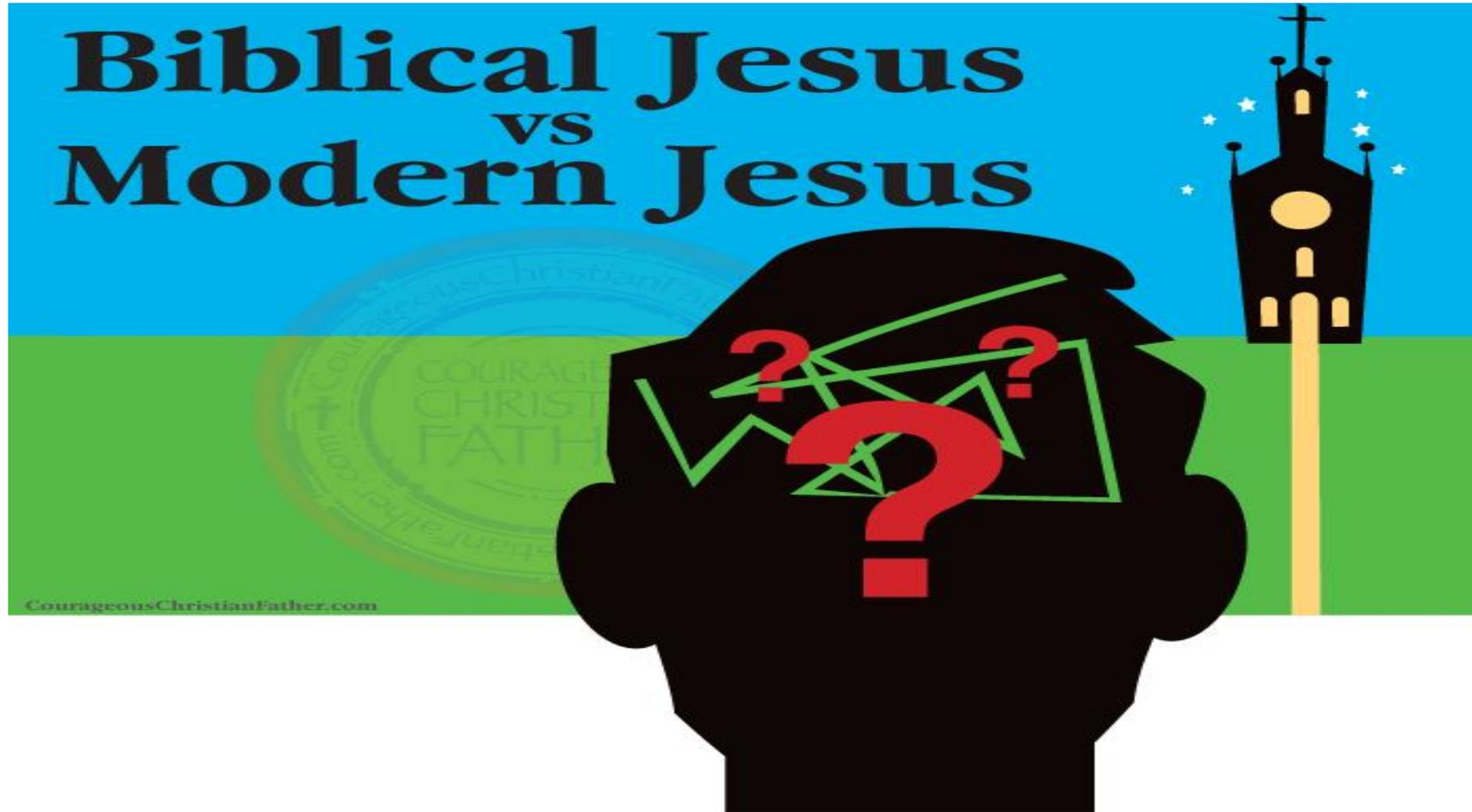
Future Heaven = Future Egalitarian Utopia

Proselytize the World = Make the world safe for Democracy

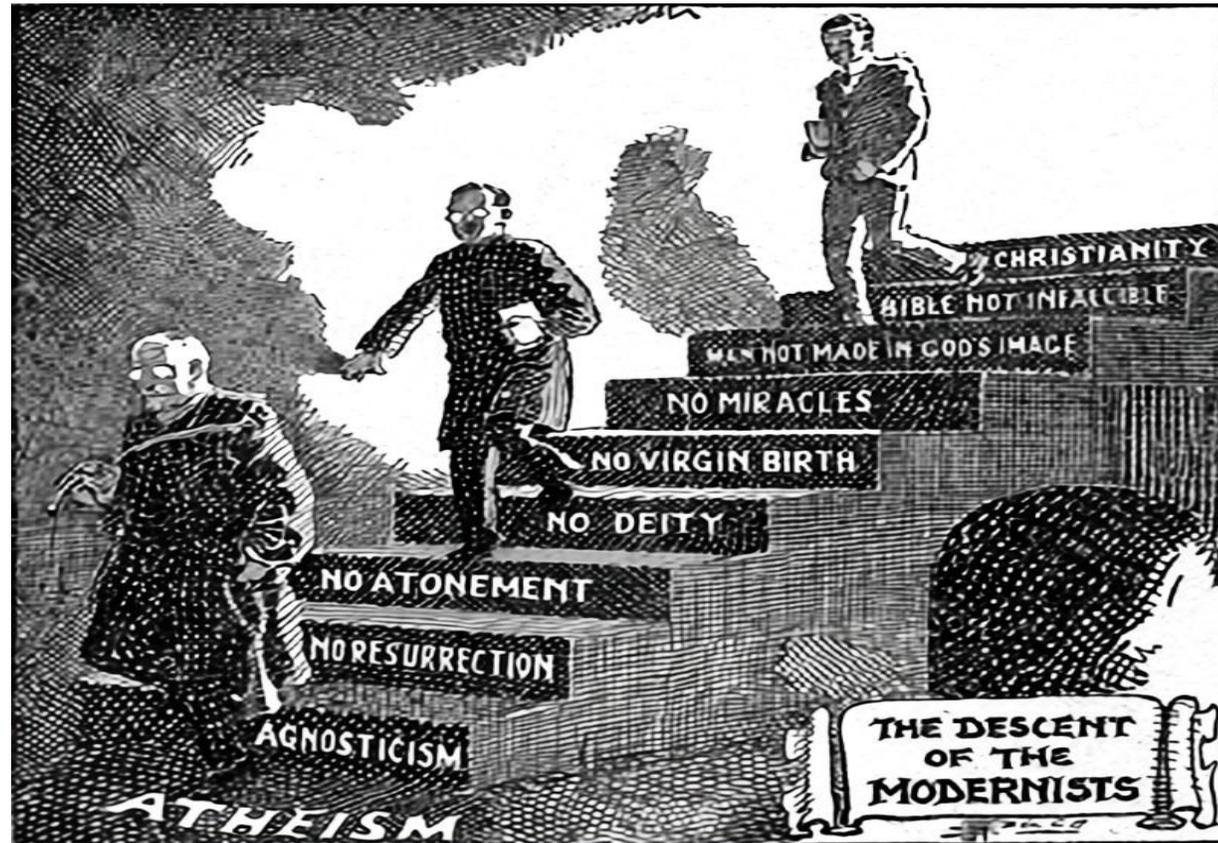
Enlightenment Period 16th-18th Centuries



Modern Period 19th-20th Centuries



Postmodern Period 20th century-Present



Devotion

- In all these epochs the church has faced challenges of different shapes and sizes.
- However, the church has survived and navigate it's way into new economic, political, and socio-cultural situations, why?
- First, it belong to Christ.
- Second, its built on the solid rocks of the apostles

Deserts

- We are having this vision reflection day during the forty days of fasting and prayer in wilderness.
- On Sunday I preached about desserts and let me draw your attention back to the spiritual benefits of a dessert.

Spiritual Benefits of a desert

1. It strengthens and grow our faith.
2. It helps us develop perseverance.
3. It shows us how God works in our circumstances.
4. It helps us see ourselves as His beloved child.
5. It helps us to know God better and become spiritually mature.
6. It is a creative place where we learn His purpose for our lives.

Oasis in the Desert

Our Future



Prayer

Heavenly Father, we read in Your Word that, where there is no vision the people perish but blessed is the one that heeds instruction. Father forgive us for seeking after our own limited, human vision rather than seeking after Your godly and eternal vision. Forgive us for seeking to place our trust in our own limited view of what we consider is important in our lives and the world in which we live, rather than seeking after the purer perspective of Your eternal plans, for only when we have come to an understanding of Your purposes for the world, can we in honesty and in humility seek for godly wisdom and a godly vision. Amen

<https://prayerist.com/prayer/vision>