

Standing Like Messiah In the Face of Hate
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{Title slide} Shabbat shalom, brothers and sisters. I pray for the peace and joy of Messiah Yeshua to fully possess you today on the Sabbath, which is the LORD's Day—a day God has commanded us to set apart for Him each and every week. Yeshua is the LORD of the Sabbath, which was made to be a blessing for all people, and today we come in to worship Him, to rest with Him and enjoy the healing touch of His Holy Spirit, to learn from Him and His Holy Word, and to share His love with our brothers and sisters who are also called by His name. When we leave here later today, I pray that we will all continue to set this day apart for God—for our own good and to prepare ourselves for the six days of work in the week ahead of us—and there is a lot of work to be done. We need this day more than any other; it is for our refreshing, for our blessing, for strengthening ourselves in the Mercy and Truth of the Father, and for sharing the company of those we love. I pray for your surrender to God today, so that you can be ready to face the challenges of the world tomorrow—and there are so many challenges. — Many of you know that what I've just explained reflects the Word of God, but what you may not know is that these words also reflect the faith of Charlie Kirk, an outspoken man of God and Sabbath keeper who boldly proclaimed the Truths of our faith and its application in the world around us whenever and wherever he had the opportunity, even unto the day of his assassination this past week. He is a model for us to follow in the modern age. Now, I'm not one who often changes my planned course of action when events happen around us in the world, especially not on such short notice, but I have been convicted by this week's events to momentarily pause our sermon series and bring you a message of hope and encouragement in light of what's going on in the world around us. I pray this message emboldens you—and maybe even convicts you—to increase your faithful walk with God during these trying times. I've called today's message, "Standing Like Messiah In the Face of Hate," and I pray it inspires all who call upon the name of Yeshua with the needed resolve to love the LORD and His Word until the end of our own path here on the earth. I pray this message drives us into a mission focus, much like Charlie exemplified, because we

can no longer watch the world fall into depravity all around us. We have to answer the call of God on our lives just like Charlie did, but in our own way. We cannot be frightened away from this calling by the cowardly shooter who took the life of our brother far earlier than any of us would have desired. Rather, Charlie's death ought to prompt our call to peaceful action and restraint-in-force while we continue to speak and live by the Truth of God's Word, and not just here on Shabbat, but openly—whenever and wherever the LORD calls us to do so. It is time for us to prayerfully turn up the volume of our faith against the face of evil in the world with even more clarity of thought and speech than ever before. Our calling to serve Yeshua, even unto the death, is a spiritual battle for the hearts, minds and souls of the lost, and it is a war to preserve the souls of the redeemed. We're fighting against the forces of wickedness in the spiritual realm that hate God and everything that is good in this world, and it is a battle we cannot afford to surrender, and nor should we. Today's message is a call to multiply the faith and righteousness of Yeshua in these days ahead, which will honor all of the saints who have already served the LORD even unto the death.

{Next slide—same slide} I want to give you a little context for today's message before I move on, because I think it's important for you to know what drove me to switch gears like this. Earlier this week as I was contemplating certain matters at my desk and deep in thought, my wife Jen came into my office and gave me the news: "Charlie Kirk was shot." Now, I want you to know; I am certainly familiar with the organization, Turning Point USA, and I had been supportive of the little I knew about it, but because I have largely disengaged myself from politics over the past several years to devote myself to study of the Word and to service of the LORD through this church, I didn't know that Charlie Kirk was the organization's founder. I also saw the occasional Facebook meme that showed Charlie on college campuses with his "Change My Mind" setup, and I thought highly of that approach, but I never really looked into who was behind the effort and I didn't know his name. My wife was clearly upset, and so I looked into the shooting and who this man was. I put two-and-two together and started to appreciate the significance of the moment. At that time, I had to run out the door and take my son to his karate class, and on my way to the car, I picked up a resource book that had just arrived at my house from Amazon. Now, I brought this new Greek-English Lexicon with me, thinking I'd peruse it while my son was in class. I got him there, got him situated, and I sat down. In the first few moments, I felt the urge to pray for Charlie and his family, and I did that asking for his life to be spared, and for God's will to be done. I contemplated the severity of the small amount of news I had learned on the way over. When I finished praying, I flipped open the resource book with the intent to learn how to use it. Remarkably, I opened the book to a page in the middle, and my eyes were

drawn right to a Greek word at the center of the page. When I scanned the word's English translation, I read the word "widowed." I was crushed at that moment and I began to cry—for Charlie, for his wife, for his children, and for those who had been inspired by him. Do you understand that this was all just coming together for me at that moment? Now, I don't recommend opening up books randomly to get messages from God, but I can't discount this as a coincidence. I do believe the LORD was opening my eyes to what was happening, and He was calling on me to change my focus for today. It wasn't until after I left the studio that I learned that Charlie was dead, and that's when the rest of my week changed course and I considered nothing else from that point on. I spent hours and hours watching his speeches, his television appearances, and an interview that a brother in the church shared with me, and by the end of this review, I learned something very important: Charlie wasn't just a man who had mildly similar political views with me; He was a bold, visible and successful force for good in our country who had put his faith in Yeshua the Messiah first before anything else and spoke the Truth of God's Word no matter what the consequences. And now we all know the consequences. More so, I learned that Charlie was a man who was knit together with me in my soul, and I mean that in the sense of Jonathan and David in 1st Samuel 18:1, and I realized with awe that he was immeasurably more visible and effective in his 13 years of ministry than I have been my whole life. This man was a giant of the faith, working with the same Holy Spirit and the same Truth that flows through me, and hopefully all of you, and I knew as I was meditating on the moment that Charlie's death was going to change everything. It has to.

{Next slide} Charlie Kirk was a man who kindly and gently spoke the Truth in the face of evil, and he did this in the same model that the Apostle Paul followed and wrote about in Scripture; he did it in the same model as Peter, as James, and as John. He followed the same model that Yeshua gave us Himself. In fact, what I learned about Charlie Kirk in the past few days reminded me of what Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians 11:1, where we read: "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Messiah." Now, don't pick up your stones to throw at me, yet. I'm not saying Charlie Kirk taught at the same level as the Apostle Paul, but what I am saying is this: Charlie Kirk was absolutely imitating the Apostle Paul as He had imitated Messiah Yeshua. — — When we read Scripture today, even when inspired by the Holy Spirit, it can be difficult for us to empathize with the First Century world and what the Jewish followers of Yeshua were up against in their synagogues and in the Greco-Roman society around them. While there were a lot of similarities in the Roman Empire of Yeshua's day with today's world, there were also a lot of differences. It's sometimes hard to picture where we might have fit in, and I do contemplate that often. But Charlie Kirk followed the model of Paul in today's world,

and just a few days ago he was alive on this planet doing the things that Scripture instructs us to do in the way that God instructed him to do it. Now, that being said, please understand that I do not know all the depths of this man's life, and so you'll forgive me for missing any details that don't line up—and we all fall short of the glory of God—not one of us is perfect except Yeshua. But from what I've seen of Charlie Kirk, this man presented a clear act that we ought to follow in the modern age. I'm not saying we should copy his exact methods or even his style of ministry, unless God directs us in that way, but I am saying that we each should move out and engage in the spiritual battle of our time like he did, in the way that God calls each of us to engage, with the same uncompromising and faithful commitment to the Truth with Love that he exhibited. Like the Apostle Paul, whose head was cut off because he would not stop spreading the Truth, Charlie defended the Truth even to his last breath, when a bullet punctured his neck, and though we may not have to follow this trajectory, we have to be willing to do so. The evil one cannot bear the Truth, and when men speak the Truth boldly without compromise he seeks to steal it away, to kill the one bearing it, and to destroy everything and everyone around it. But what the devil does not seem to appreciate is that he has been defeated in the final battle and our Messiah Yeshua is already victorious, and so is everyone who trusts in Him. By destroying what is righteous and good, Satan turns his own evil efforts against himself. Good triumphs over evil and light covers the darkness. God always wins. The LORD, in fact, works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). As a martyr of the faith, perhaps the first of many in our time, Charlie will live on in the legacy of his work and inspire many to follow him. God willing, he will also be among those “good and faithful servants” of Messiah Yeshua waiting “under the altar” for the resurrection of the dead into everlasting life (Revelation 6:9-11)—but this judgment belongs to the LORD. Still, in this we can be certain: Just as the evil one could not stop the message of Truth that the Apostle Paul taught by chopping off his head, he also cannot stop the message of Truth that Charlie taught by gunning him down, and nor will he stop the message of Truth that we bring forward now. Charlie's death reminds us of Moses's exhortation in Psalm 90:12, which is this: “teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” We do not know the day or the manner of our death. We do not know the day Messiah is returning to raise the dead into His kingdom. We only know that we're here today on the Sabbath, in the aftermath of a tragedy trying to make sense of it, and studying the wisdom that comes from God is the only way that we can properly do that.

{Next slide} In an interview called “Man Rampant” that aired the day after Kirk's assassination this week, Kirk explained his method of bringing honest and kind debate

to college campuses around the country, where he faced many opponents who hated what he had to say, and I think we should start here. He was humble in his approach, and he acknowledged his methods were not perfect, but he persisted in enduring obedience and showed us what that really looks like. In response to a question about his approach, he said: "Look, I fail at this all the time. I try to be better at it than not, which is 'how do I have love and truth on a college campus, have an open mic for kids that need to hear it?' And The honest truth is I try to do as Jesus did in the public square, which is to show mercy where appropriate, but also have uncompromising Truth standards. And so, the old way of doing things on campuses, and this is where it's so wrong—and I can't believe, for a short period of time I used to believe it and then I dismissed it—which is that 'OK, kids are liberal; therefore we have to present a more liberal message to them and water down our beliefs. In reality, what they enjoy more than anything else is the most provocative Truth claim that you can say..." In other words, watered-down truth, self-help messages and Ted talks do not change anyone's lives or make them better. If anything, such compromising messages always enable evil and make room for discord and decay to flourish. The human soul craves God's Truth, but we who know it have to be willing to go out there and teach it, otherwise it won't be known.

{Next slide} Kirk was unapologetically pro-life, anti-abortion, pro-marriage, opposed to divorce, against homosexuality, and he was especially vigilant against the demonically twisted craze that is entrapping so many of our nation's youth in the bondage of transgenderism, to name just a few hot button issues, and He was not afraid to explain the rationale for his trust in these positions. The Truth of God's Word teaches us about all the issues of "life and godliness," and it is not ambiguous. Kirk made sure to explain how his positions came from His faith in the Holy Word of God, and as noted a moment ago, he brought God's "uncompromising Truth standards" alongside the mercy of God through faith in Yeshua. I could do an entire sermon series on each of these points, and perhaps someday we will, but for now I want you to see just a few ways that God has addressed these matters. Don't let anyone tell you things aren't black and white, which is to say, good and evil. Reality in our time encompasses everything that is standing with God, and everything standing against Him, and we have to be willing to say this and stand by our position that sides with the LORD. In Psalm 139, among other places, we read in verses 13-14: "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." If the LORD knows us before we are born, as He is forming us in our mother's womb, then assuredly we are alive as his human creations in the womb, and we can trust that God

has a plan for each of our lives to work all things together for good. Each of us matters to God, and He desires all of us to come to Him. To take the life of an unborn child is to murder a human with all of the potential that God intended. Who are we to rebel against the lives that God has made? Life does not belong to us and it is not ours to snuff out, for all created things belong to God, and God has made this clear. As it pertains to abortion, in the Ten Commandments, we read quite plainly in Exodus 20:13: “You shall not murder.” We don’t even have the right to take our own lives, let alone the lives of another. We read in Psalm 24:1-3, “The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” To murder innocent blood, to intentionally take the lives of another for any reason, and even to take one’s own life—all of these things are opposed to the Word of God.

{Next slide} Additionally, the Word of God explains that marriage is between one man and one woman, and also that God opposes divorce, “for,” according to Malachi 2:16, “the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence...” It is “treachery” for a man and woman to willfully pursue this course of action. In Mark 10:6-9, Yeshua explained that even “from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.” He explained: “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Within the context of this passage, we can discern first that God’s plan has always been for one man to marry one woman and for them to remain married for life, for this is what is good according to His design. While men and women later sinned by seeking the desires of their own hearts, God never designed this union to fall apart. Divorce is a “treachery” that causes violence on the earth. The practice causes more evil in society than most other things, not the least of which is the stability of a loving home for children. Implied in the Word of God is how a husband and wife, who become one flesh, ought to work for the benefit of one another and the glory of God. Any variation of this design is sin. The passage also teaches that there is no such thing as “homosexual marriage,” and just to make sure we don’t wiggle around this idea, God explained in Leviticus 18:22: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.” There’s really no ambiguity in this. We ought to obey, and then we shall have peace. Additionally, it’s also clear that God made us male and female, which is not to say we are both, but rather one or the other. We don’t get to choose which sex we are born into. And to make sure we don’t get this wrong, the LORD explained in Deuteronomy 22:5, “A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.” In other passages, the LORD explains that men

should wear beards and not cut them off, for this also differentiates the sexes and helps us to live according to what is good for us—that which brings blessing. Today, society has become so corrupt that we don't just see crossdressers in the supermarket, but men and women who attempt to surgically change their sex. It isn't even possible. It's true, mentally-ill doctors have been cutting off or adding body parts surgically, and even administering hormones that change the appearance of their victims, but these abominations can never change a person's sex and they will leave the person's body, mind and spirit scarred and suffering for life. God does not want this for anyone. Joy and peace come only from living according to the Word of God, and anything else will lead to misery for everyone involved. In one last point I want to make in this section, it's critical to note that those who cause innocent children to suffer on account of the perversion of transgenderism or even pedophilia are in for a very difficult path forward—though there is room for mercy. Yeshua Himself said in Matthew 18:6, “whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Life on planet earth after sins of this nature will never be the same. Sin has consequences. Sadly, it was this last point that likely led to Charlie Kirk's murder. In the interview I mentioned earlier, he said this: “Transgenderism is where [people] get pathologically upset, and I am uncompromising on that.” He was speaking about the incidence of transgender violence the moment before he was shot.

{Next slide} Our duty as followers of Yeshua is to speak the Truth plainly, because the world needs to know the difference between right and wrong, and we have been called by Yeshua to explain how God defines the holy and profane. Only God, who created all things, can explain what is True. That being said, in speaking the Truth, our purpose should not be to condemn people in their sins, but rather to explain the need for them to repent, and that means for them to turn back toward God for their own good and the good of everyone around them. This was the example of Charlie Kirk, who followed the example of Paul, who followed the example of Yeshua. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:17-25, where we read: “This I say, therefore, and testify in the LORD, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Messiah, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Yeshua: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was

created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another." The LORD Yeshua Himself defined Truth in His prayer for His followers in John 17:17, where we read: "Sanctify them by Your Truth. Your Word is Truth." This echoes the words of Psalm 119 and so many other references.

{Next slide} And then we find agreement in Michah 6:8, where we read: "[God] has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? The Word of God explains what is right and wrong, starting with the Ten Commandments, but really explaining every aspect of life we might imagine throughout the whole 66 books. It isn't just a work of art, it is a love letter from God to His people explaining how they can have the best life humanly possible, and thereafter, life everlasting with Him. It is this Word that explains how to "do justly" and "walk humbly with [our] God." To do right is also to do "good," and we ought to know that the Creator of all things is good and all of His righteous ways are good, and they always result in blessing. There is no darkness in God at all. He is pure goodness—pure holiness. Our own ways that oppose God's Word lead to suffering and death, but God doesn't want that for us and He has told us how to avoid it. This is why we also ought to "love mercy," for, as Peter explains in 2nd Peter 3:8-9, "The LORD is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Judgment is coming to the world, but the LORD delays it, because He wants His people to go out and teach His Word to whomever will listen, to gather in as many of His people who will turn to Him—who will humble themselves before Him. We know that Yeshua came into the world preaching "repent and hear the good news," and the good news is the mercy God offers through Yeshua. Atonement has come through Messiah's death and resurrection on the cross. But to obtain this grace, we have to surrender our lives to His will, which again, He has designed for our good and our blessing. Peter explained it this way in a speech he gave in Jerusalem, according to Acts 3:18-19. We read: "those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Messiah would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the LORD..." When we find ourselves reeling from the consequences of our sins against the Word of God, the only solution is surrender to the will of God so that we can do things His way and enjoy true hope for our lives. We read in 1st John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." These concepts are straightforward for those of us who know the LORD, but they are nearly impossible to grasp for those

who are trapped in the passing pleasures of their own will. Still, Yeshua sends those of us out who know Him to teach those who don't, and this is the appropriate mercy for those who are willing to repent. It is this love of others that ought to drive us out into the world on the other six days of the week to teach those who are of the world, so that God might through us call them out of the world.

{Next slide} Our culture today is inherently toxic, and our nation has lost its way, even while many privately hold onto their faith. For too long people have professed faith in Jesus, but have failed to live the way He showed us to live, and they certainly have not stood up for their faith in the public square. Because of this, those who oppose the Truth of God's Word have taken over the narrative and pushed the faithful into the shadows. We cannot accept this reality, for Yeshua told us explicitly not to put His light under a basket, but rather we ought to set up the light of Truth on a lamp stand so that it shines throughout the whole house (Matthew 5:15). Another lesson from Charlie's story is that doing the LORD's will in this way sometimes comes with a cost, and we have to be ready to pay it. In his "Man Rampant" interview, Charlie explained today's problem like this: "We have thrown reason out the window and the current constitution of the postmodernist view is that the the worst thing that you can be in America is a white Anglo-Saxon Christian heterosexual male of which I am one. Right? Because you're looking at like the chief villain and the only way you can atone for that is by becoming a liberal or transitioning to become a woman, and men are the problem. Men are the cancer. They're a tumor that must be removed. And it has created mass cultural chaos." Without any question, this is the chaos of evil that led to Charlie's murder, which he eerily predicted in this very same interview. He asked rhetorically: "What am I supposed to do? Stop existing? And they'll say—basically some of them will be like 'yes.' — I mean, you think I'm kidding." Today we know that he was not kidding. He was exactly right, but his position did not come from ignorance. And while his sex, marital status, and race certainly didn't help his cause, the main problem, from the world's perspective, was Charlie's faith. Charlie didn't die for anything other than his unapologetic Christian faith. The Truth of God's Word is the only thing that the world cannot tolerate, because it forces people to change, and people don't want to change.

{Next slide} But change they must, if they want to be saved, and God has called us as His followers to bring this change into the world. The idea that Christianity is this religion where everyone who says they believe in Jesus will be saved, and all they have to do is show up to church once in a while and listen to a pep talk from their pastor is leading the whole world to hell. This is not the faith that Yeshua taught us.

The Word of God is divisive. It is not meant to bring peace to those who want to sin and do what is evil; it's meant to convict all men and women to repentance so that they turn to walk righteously and humbly with our God. Yeshua said we would suffer persecution, even death, on account of teaching this Truth, and Charlie Kirk experienced this first hand. The true faith causes division, not peace, and we need to embrace this understanding if we're to truly follow Yeshua. But don't take my word for it. In Matthew 10:34-36, Yeshua Himself said: "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' The one loving father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me, and the one loving son or daughter above Me is not worthy of Me." What does he mean by this? Does the LORD desire that we disown our family members to join a cult? By no means! What He means is that God's Word, which is "the sword of the Spirit," will be so divisive that it will reach into every household and divide family members, some will be saved by it and others will be slain by it. In Luke 12, verses 51-53, Yeshua is recorded saying this more plainly. We read: "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." When we legitimately follow Yeshua, there is going to be division because the world does not want to follow God's way, and this division is going to go far beyond the boundaries of our own family structures.

{Next slide} In Luke 21, verses 8-19, the LORD warned His followers: "Take heed that you not be deceived." He then explained that many false prophets would rise up after him and lead many astray, but we should not go after them. We have to watch for this, because these are men and women in our own churches who will try to pacify the faithful. These wolves in sheep's clothing will rise up from among us, Paul explained to the elders of Ephesus. Back to Yeshua in Luke 21, for He explained next what true followers have been up against since the beginning of time: "Then He said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate

beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.” In other words, the saints of God must endure in our faith in God's Word. We should expect tribulation in this world, we should expect conflicts within our families, and as the Last Days approach, we should expect that even our family members will hand us over to be killed. True followers of Yeshua will be hated by everyone who is of the world, but we can rest assured that our enduring faith will help our lives persist into God's coming Kingdom.

{Next slide} And this is why, in James 1:2-4, the Apostle explained: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” In other words, if by following Yeshua we become divisive just as Messiah was divisive, then we should expect the same persecution and even death that He suffered for the Truth of His Word, and we should not just be willing but eager to endure through it for the end result is life everlasting. In Matthew 10:24-28, the LORD explained: “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” When we are truly speaking the truth of God's Word so that everyone can hear it, we are going to be rejected by those who don't want to hear it. We may even be murdered, even assassinated, for doing what God taught us to do. We cannot be frightened by this, but encouraged. We cannot fear what men and women might do to us for speaking the Truth. We must fear God, and therefore do what He has commanded us to do, for the LORD Himself is going to make everything right. He will bring everyone to justice, those who do good to everlasting life, and those who do evil to everlasting judgment. We have to pick a side. There's no sitting out in this war.

{Next slide} In Revelation 21, the risen Yeshua provided a clear testimony to all of His people about what we can expect if we endure in doing and teaching the Word of God. In verses 5-8, we read: “He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things

new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Forget the horrible sins, some of which we covered earlier. Did you catch that the “cowardly” and “unbelieving” will not inherit eternal life? This is important to grasp. It’s not enough for us to have our own personal faith, we must spread our faith to others and boldly proclaim it in public so that all with ears to hear can be saved. So many people want to follow their own religion or their own faith or their own tradition to their own heaven. I want you to think about this logically for a moment, because the end of this is logical. If everyone can seek their own version of an afterlife, then isn’t their own heaven a place of loneliness and despair? Isn’t it a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, just like God said? The cowards who don’t join Yeshua in boldly proclaiming the Word of Truth will not enter into the inheritance of the LORD, for they will have gone another way. We must speak the Truth of God’s Word to those who don’t know it, for this is what God commanded us to do. Paul himself explained in 1st Corinthians 6:9-11, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the LORD Yeshua and by the Spirit of our God.” In Romans 1, He said that those who “approve of those who practice” the sins listed in that chapter are due for the same destruction as the sinners themselves. The LORD warns us repeatedly not to fall into deception; not to fall into sin; and not to affirm those who are sinning. To follow Yeshua, we have to teach what He taught and live how He lived, and we have to also be willing to suffer and die like He suffered and died.

{Next slide} Now I want you to remember that Yeshua said in John 15:13 that the greatest act of love of all is for a person to lay down his life for his friends, and of course He was speaking of His own death for the atonement of our sins. But as we’ve been discussing, He was also calling us to follow Him along His Way. True love is self-sacrifice for the Truth of God’s Word, it is obedience to the commandments of God because we love Yeshua and the grace that He has given us as a free gift. How could we not teach the righteousness of God and the salvation in Messiah? How could we not try to reach every soul that is out there, especially those friends and family

members around us who are now divided by His Word? All of these are souls the LORD does not want to lose to the enemy, and He has called upon us to go out and reach them. If we surrender to God's will in this way, we can rest assured that Paul's exhortation in Romans 8:31-39 applies to us. And that's where we read: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Messiah who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Messiah? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Messiah Yeshua our LORD." The evidence of true faith is all here. We don't walk in the faith worried about what might happen to us in this life; we walk in the faith worried about displeasing the God who loves us, because we love Him. For we ourselves are the only ones who can separate us from the love of God. Our choice is simple: We ought to love our wives, our husbands, our children, our parents, our neighbors and yes, even our enemies, because we love God first and what He has commanded us to do. We ought to live by and teach His Word to all with ears to hear, because we choose Him first.

{Next slide} And that leads us to perhaps the most difficult part of our faith. It may be easy at this point in our lives to walk up to our family members we've known all our lives and even our friends and speak the Truth to them, maybe not—I know folks who have been disowned for their faith, but today this is not universal. The more difficult path is to walk up to our enemies who want to harm or even kill us and teach them about the Truth of God's Word. This is what our brother Charlie Kirk did day after day, week after week, and this is also what cost him his life. He gave up his life not just for his friends, but also his enemies, and so did the LORD. The goal of this kind of outreach is always to convert the enemy to a follower who humbles themselves before the LORD. Paul wrote in Romans 12:14-21, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." How could our own opinion be of any value, when it is God's Word alone that is Truth. The purpose in

doing any work for the LORD is to bring His blessing upon all people by showcasing it throughout our lives—with our words, our demeanor, and our actions. Everything we do we ought to do heartily for the LORD. And when we are persecuted, and when our Christian brothers and sisters are killed, and when we see all of the horrors of tribulation around us, we ought to remember these words, as Paul continues: “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the LORD. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” By bringing the Truth with gentleness, patience, kindness and ultimately sacrificial love for the ones who hate us, not in church where we worship, but out in the world where worldly people live, we showcase the faith in everything we say and do. Our church is a place of refuge from the world—it is where we come to be refreshed—it is where we come to encourage and exhort one another to follow after Yeshua. The battleground should never be in this fellowship. Our role is to go out into the world and be watchmen for God Most High, as Paul explained in 1st Corinthians 16:13-14, “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.” By the grace of God, perhaps some of the people we encounter will come to repentance.

{Next slide} I have to think that if our brother Charlie Kirk had any presence of mind in his final moments, he might have prayed something similar to what Yeshua prayed from the cross that He died on, as recorded in Luke 23:34, where we read: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” Likewise, as Stephen was being stoned to death for his testimony concerning the Truth of Yeshua’s identity and the Way of God, he called out, according to Acts 7:60, “LORD, do not charge them with this sin.” The examples that have been laid out for us showcase, as Paul explained in 2nd Corinthians 10:3-6, “though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Messiah, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” We aren’t fighting physical battles in this world, for “those who live by the sword will die by the sword.” We aren’t retaliating against horrific murders of our beloved brothers and sisters with guns or bullets of our own. Our warfare is spiritual. We’re not fighting the people who will be increasingly shooting real bullets at us with ballistics, but with our prayers and our exhortations even to our very last breath.

{Next slide} I'm hearing many people say that Charlie Kirk's approach for civil debate didn't work; that we need to work to destroy those who destroyed him, but I disagree and I believe God's Word also disagrees with this idea. Remember, "Vengeance is mine, and I shall repay," says the LORD. I'm not saying that Charlie's murderer should not face civil justice. He absolutely should as the law allows, and the murderer's family should pay restitution to Charlie's family, also. But as this horribly misguided and deceived man walks toward whatever the end of the civil justice process happens to be, I pray that he comes to realize the error of his choices, not out of sorrow for the consequences he is about to face, but out of sorrow for his sin against God, against Charlie and against Charlie's family. It is my prayer that through this tragedy, both this man and many others who celebrated Charlie's death will come to understand the light of Messiah Yeshua, which fully exposes the error of their ways. But more than this, I also pray that myriads of people are emboldened to go out and share the Truth like Charlie did, and also in new and interesting ways that Charlie didn't. I pray that a revival comes from this tragedy, just as the whole church was born first through the death and resurrection of Yeshua, and then through the death of the Saints. The lie cannot cover up thousands of years of saints willing to die for the same Truth, and so help us God face death even today to make sure many hear the Truth forevermore. Our objective should be to turn up the volume of the Truth that Charlie brought to the table and to bring it front and center onto the national and even the global stage. We must not have any "fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them," Paul wrote to the Ephesians in chapter 5, verses 11-13. He continued: "It is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." Further, he wrote in Romans 13:12, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." We can't be afraid to speak against what is evil, and to call it evil. We do not condemn men and women doing these things, but rather the things that they are doing. We pray for their redemption through the confession of their sins and for their forgiveness through their faith in Messiah Yeshua and their repentance before God. The enemies of all flesh are the demons who have no hope and are due for certain destruction, but we can turn their attacks into victories for Yeshua when we stand in the light of Truth and do not cower in the darkness they bring. How many lost souls can we help pull out of the fire before Judgment Day arrives? How many can we teach the Way of Christ? In the meantime, we ought to listen to Paul's counsel in 1st Corinthians 4:1-5, where we read: "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Messiah and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But

with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the LORD. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the LORD comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."

{Next slide} Let our number one goal in this life be to serve the LORD with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, with total love and devotion, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us even love our enemies in the flesh who do not know their right from their left. But let us not love them by affirming and agreeing with evil, but by discrediting and renouncing what is opposed to the will of God. Our agreements ought to be with the Word of God alone, for it is the only Truth that we can live by. In his letter to the Philippians from prison, where he was confined for teaching the Truth, Paul wrote one of the most beautiful prayers for the Christian walk that Scripture records, and I believe he also writes to us through these words. In Chapter 1, verses 9-14, we read: "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Messiah, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Messiah Yeshua, to the glory and praise of God. But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Messiah; and most of the brethren in the LORD, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." No matter what happens to us in this life, we ought to be preaching the Truth of Messiah Yeshua. With boldness, not fear, we ought to serve God in every circumstance, knowing that everything we do for Him will bear eternal fruit.

{Next slide} Continuing in verses 19-23, we read: "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Messiah Yeshua, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Messiah will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Messiah, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Messiah, which is far better." And so this is the hope and prayer I have for the life of Charlie Kirk also, that like the Apostle Paul, his life glorified God, and in his death, He further glorifies God and inherits eternal life. Let his life be a beacon of hope for us,

rather than a discouragement. Let us learn from his modern example that the Word of God is True and it is worth both living and dying for, because this life is not our final destination. We await something better, which is to be with Messiah Yeshua forever.

{Next slide} In his “Man Rampant” interview shared live with the world on 9/11 just a few days ago, the day after Charlie’s death, our brother said in true affirmation of the path we also ought to walk: “Look, Jesus is always number one in my life. That’s very important. I will bring what I know to be true into the political domain. And I believe we as Christians are called to be counselors to the king, you know, to be counselor to the politician as Daniel was or Mordecai that ... I can influence for moral and righteous or good purposes....” I pray that we too can be counselors to the presidents and governors and representatives in our governments, the teachers in our schools, the employers in our workplaces, and even the clients we serve in our businesses. As we go through the grocery or department stores, as we walk down the street, and as we gather in our churches, let us be counselors that teach all things according to the Word of God! Charlie was working on a book about the Sabbath in the days leading up to his death. I’m not sure the state of it, but I pray it is released to the world as a final witness to the Truth that he represented in his life. While calling out sin is certainly part of the work that we must do in this life, we also ought to point out the righteous path forward, which Charlie also did. And so I’m going to close with this quote from the same interview, where Charlie said: “The seventh day is designed for worshiping God who created the heavens and the earth. ... It literally is for that purpose.” He asked: “If I walk into your home on the Sabbath, can I tell? Or does it look like every other day?” He exhorted: “Holy means separate in Hebrew and we’re supposed to keep the Sabbath day holy.” I couldn’t agree more, and I think doing this very thing is one of the ways that we will prepare ourselves to endure in these last days. I honestly don’t know how we’ll survive without it. And so, with that, let us pray in Messiah Yeshua’s name for peace and restraint-in-force as well as boldness and strength in our resolve to continue to speak the Truth of God’s Word. Let Charlie’s death remind us of our calling to endure in our faith until the end, just like he did. Let his assassination not drive us to hatred or violence of our own, because that is the path of death. Pray for love to reign in our hearts for everyone involved, and for all who know the LORD to stand stronger for His righteous instruction, His Mercy and Truth—even forgiveness. Let us pray for many to turn further into their faith in Yeshua as a response to this tragedy! Finally, let us pray for Mr. Kirk’s wife, children and family, for their comfort, peace, and resolve. May the LORD be with us all! Shabbat shalom.