



BIBLE NUGGETS

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Grace
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Ominous Warning From History

**The Evangelical Church Was Virtually Silent During The Third Reich
(Genocide occurs when warning signs are ignored – and we are unwilling to take action)**

The vast majority of the 12,000 Protestant pastors in the Nazi-controlled church reminded silent in the face of tyranny. Although Hitler was not very pious, 97% of Germans who identified as Christian, mostly convinced themselves that he was. Nazi Germany became a "Police State." The Soviet Union became a "Military State."

The Background to Tyranny:

The population of Germany in 1933 was around 60 million. Almost all Germans were professed Christians, belonging either to the Roman Catholic Church (20 million members), or the Protestant Church (40 million members). The Jewish community in Germany in 1933 was less than **1%** of the total population of the country, but in the end, the Jews would blame for all of Germany's problems.

Christian Fascism?

Even before the 1933 Nazi takeover of Germany's government, several groups calling themselves German Christians were working to bring Germany's Protestant churches into alignment with fascism. The German confessing church saw an attempt to compel pastors to pledge allegiance to Hitler. Most of them offered no protest about the fate of the Jewish people.

Thanksgiving Services?

On February 3, 1933, four days after Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany, Pastor Joachim Hossenfelder led a service of Thanksgiving at the Mariankirche in Berlin. He used 1Cor. 15:57 as his sermon text: "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." On March 20, 1933, Protestant church leader Otto Dibelius preached at a service in Nikoakirche in Berlin. His sermon text was taken from Romans 8:31, "IF God be for us, who can be against us." Afterward, Hermann Goring joyfully shook his hand. Both Hitler and Goring saw great advantages in exploiting the lack of discernment with the professing Christian church. The same holds true today. The growing number in ChrisIslam (Christians and Islamic services), and Black Lives Matter banners in churches is proof of this.

Wide Spread Anti-Semitism:

The racialized Anti-Jewish Nazi ideology converged with Anti-Semitism was historically widespread throughout Europe at the time and had deep roots in a heretical interpretation of the Scriptures, its application, and history. For all too many professing German Christians, this heresy seemed to support their prejudices. The attitudes and actions of German Catholics and Protestants during the Nazi era were shaped not only by these heretical beliefs, but by other factors as well:

- . The Treaty of Versailles
- . The longing for Nationalism
- . Anti-Communism
- . Losing World War One and paying reparations
- . The Weimar Republic's economic and social policies

Positive Christianity:

Most professing Christians welcomed the rise of Nazism in 1933. They were also influenced greatly by "Positive Christianity". In article 24 of the 1920 Nazi Party Platform, which read: "We demand the freedom of all religious confessions in the state, insofar as they do not jeopardize the state's existence or conflict with the manners and moral sentiments of the German race. The Party as such upholds the point of view of "Positive Christianity" without tying itself confessional to any one confession. Interpretation: particularly to confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to God and salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Jewish Materialism Outlawed:

Article 24 "also combats the Jewish-materialistic spirit at home and abroad and is convinced that a permanent recovery of our people can only be achieved from within on the basis of the common good before the individual good." Many professing Christians in Germany read this as an affirmation of their Christian values. However, once the Nazis came to power, this "Positive Christianity" group sought the creation of a national "Reich Church" and they supported a "Nazified" version of Christianity.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer & Martin Niemoller:

There were a few who stood against Hitler such as theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed for criticizing Hitler and his regime, and Pastor Martin Niemoller, spent seven years in concentration camps for opposing the dictator.

Believing Lies Can Cause Deaths:

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities." - Voltaire (Armenian, Darfur, Congo, The Holocaust, Bangladesh, Bosnian, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, Uganda, and the worse genocide of the last 100 years - the 60-70 million innocent babies slain by means of legal abortions.

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