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with Dr. Frank Turek    **PODCAST**

## The Assassination Attempt: 5 Questions We All Need to Answer

(July 16, 2024)

### **FRANK:**

On Saturday, we were millimeters away from a dead U.S. president, millimeters away from civil unrest, and maybe even millimeters away from the start of a civil war. Ladies and gentlemen, there are many questions that need to be answered. Not just questions about why security broke down and why this shooter attempted this, but questions about human nature, about theology, and about God related to this incident.

So, what I want to do in this podcast is try and answer five basic questions. The first question is this. Why did this happen? I mean, not just logistically at the site, but why do human beings in general want to murder people? And how does this confirm a central and unique teaching of Christianity? That's question one. Question two, what went wrong with security at the site? Question three, did God directly protect President Trump? Was it a miracle? Was it divine providence? How do we know?

Question four, could the leftist and media demonization of Donald Trump have motivated the shooter to do what he did? And what's the difference between informing people and inciting people? And finally, question five, how should a Christian respond to this? What is the way forward? Now we're going to address these questions today. I know I said that we were going to deal with Romans 9 and the question of predestination and free will. Obviously, events have overcome that. So, we'll cover that on a future show.

The first thing I want to mention before I get to those questions is I want you to think back to Saturday when you heard about this. I was actually outside with the grandkids when my mom called me, who is 86 years old and wasn't feeling well. She turned the TV on. She tried to call me. I didn't answer the first time. The phone wasn't near me. When I answered it the second time, she said, Trump has been shot. Shot? What do you mean, mom? Shot? Is he dead? What happened?

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She said, no. He stood up and he shook his fist. And then they escorted him off the stage. He had blood running down his face. I said, mom, mom, okay. Thank God he's okay. I'll call you back. So, immediately went inside, we all went inside and turned the TV on. And then of course, saw that video a thousand times, it seems, as to what actually completely happened. We don't have all the details, but that event is, and my mom's call is what I call an impact event. I'm never going to forget that. You're probably never going to forget that.

And as I've pointed out before, an impact event is actually an example of what the resurrection was. An impact event is something that is so dramatic that occurs in your life that it can turn your perspective 180 degrees. And although you might not remember what you had for breakfast this morning, you'll remember an impact event that happened 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago, if you're old enough. In fact, my earliest memory was when I was two years old and two days.

In fact, I was holding my grandson just a couple of days ago. He was two years old in two days. And my daughter-in-law said, how old were you when Kennedy was shot? I said, I was as old as Charlie is. I'm holding this kid. And I remember my mother crying inconsolably in front of a black and white TV on November 22, 1963. Mommy, mommy, what's the matter? I can still see my mother right now in my mind when she was 26 years old. Now she's 86, but I can see her 60 years ago when she was 26. It was an impact event. I don't remember anything before that day and very little after that day. In any event, an impact event.

If you have parents or grandparents or you're old as I am now, 62, maybe 63, 64. Anybody who's maybe older than 62 can probably remember the Kennedy day. Where were you when the second plane hit the tower? You can remember that if you're old enough. Well, I submit to you that even five or ten years from now, maybe even longer, you'll remember where you were and what happened when you heard about President Trump being shot, because it's something you don't forget.

And this is actually an apologetic for the resurrection because it answers how these scared, scattered, skeptical disciples abandoned many of their ancient religious beliefs and adopted new beliefs virtually overnight, and then became the most successful evangelical, peaceful missionary force in the history of the world. It ultimately overturned the Roman Empire. Why?

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Because they witnessed an impact event. Jesus of Nazareth, who they knew had been murdered, came back to life about 36 hours later and then did miracles over a period of 40 days with them. You're not going to forget that. You're not going to have any trouble remembering what he said and did. That's an impact event. And so was this assassination attempt. Now, the first question, why did this happen? I'm not talking about just logistically at the site.

We'll get to that. But why do human beings in general murder people? In fact, let me ask you this question. Why do we need a secret service at all to protect politicians? Why? You know why? Because of the depravity of man. Because we're evil. Because our hearts are deceitful and evil. In fact, Jeremiah 17:9 says, the heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt. Who can know it? Our hearts are corrupt. Our hearts are deceitful. Our heart wants what it wants when it wants it.

We are bent toward evil. It's easy to be bad. It's hard to be good. The reason we need a government, the reason we need police, the reason we need an army, a navy, an air force, a marine corps, the reason we need protection, the reason we need secret service is because a central teaching of the Christian worldview, a unique teaching of the Christian worldview.

Most other worldviews don't teach this, that men are bent toward evil, that we're basically evil, and it's easy to be bad and hard to be good. As James Madison, the father of our constitution, said, if men were angels, no government would be necessary. You wouldn't need a secret service. If we were angels, you wouldn't even need a government. If we were angels, we wouldn't need laws, we wouldn't need protection.

We wouldn't need police, armies, secret service, wouldn't need any of this. But we need it. Why? Because the Bible gets it right. We're bent toward evil. Now, our mutual friend Jay Warner Wallace, the cold-case homicide detective who we've had on this program many times and is a part of our ministry. Of course, he's written the book 'Cold-Case Christianity,' and he has said that whenever he finds a body that he knows has been murdered, he does not have to track down a thousand motivations as to why the guy was murdered.

He says, look, that guy was murdered for one or more of these three reasons. There was either a sex issue, a money issue, or a power issue. Sex, money, or power. Those are the three things

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that can motivate people to murder. Why? Because sex, money, and power are good things. In fact, they're so good, we'll often take shortcuts to get them, and so we will do evil. We will take shortcuts to get good things. Now, under the category of power, that entails a lot. When we say power, it could mean political authority, could mean prestige, recognition, feeling in on things, special treatment, special access, being seen as someone on the inside, as someone people want to know and emulate, to be a celebrity, to have fame, attention, to be seen as an expert, being first.

That's what people want to be. They want that power. Of course, Jesus famously said he who wants to be first will be last, and last will be first. It goes against what Jesus said. Our entire constitution as human beings, our nature goes against what Jesus wants us to be. That's why we need to be conformed to the image of Jesus. It takes work. It often takes pain and suffering to do so. But what we mean by here is what could have motivated someone to do this?

Of course, they could be simply deranged. We don't know. The guy's dead now. We don't. They're investigating him right now as we record this. I'm recording this on Monday afternoon about 5:00 P.M. Eastern time. I don't have all the details. We don't have all the details. But when somebody commits a crime, it's because there are one or more of those three motivators. A sex issue, a money issue, a power issue.

And the Bible points this out directly. In fact, John, writing in 1 John says this about the world. Do not love the world or anything in the world. By the way, this is 1 John 2, beginning at verse 15. Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world, the lust of the flesh, sex, the lust of the eyes, money and the pride of life comes not from the Father, but from the world. The world and its desires pass away. But whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Ladies and gentlemen, one day we're all going to be dead. One day Donald Trump's going to die. You're going to die. I'm going to die, unless the Lord comes sooner than that. What then? With our desires, our worldly desires, they're going to pass away. But whoever does the will of God lives forever. So, sex, money, and power are the three things that the Bible mentions as part of the world that we're not to love. We have to use those things.

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Those things are good things, and it's okay to acquire those things and use them appropriately in their proper context. But when they're put above God or above people, then they become sin. And we don't know why this guy did this. But judging from what I'm seeing of some leftists on social media who have lamented the fact that this guy missed, sex, money, and power for them is something more important, it appears, than a human being's life.

In fact, I have to say this. I know it's going to sound provocative. It's going to sound maybe even judgmental, but I think it's true from some of the people I'm reading on social media. Let me say this to you. Some of you would rather see a politician murdered so your desires for sex, money, and power can be fulfilled because you think the politician, in this case, Donald Trump, may somehow hinder your quest for sex, money, and power, your lust for sex, money, or power. You think he's in the way. Think about that.

No, I'm not saying there might not be people on the right doing this as well. But from some of the stuff I've read, some of the videos I've seen, I think I'm correct in saying that, that you would rather see someone murdered so you can get your way at the ballot box, so you could do what you want, what you think you want to do sexually, financially, or so you can get power, you can feel in on things, you can be part of the power club. Your guy in the White House is going to give you what you want. And if we have to kill the other guy? Oh, well.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is much more than just human beings disagreeing with one another. This is what is known as spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is more about a truth encounter than a power encounter. In fact, 2 Corinthians 10:5 says, we demolish arguments and take every thought captive to Christ. We're not fighting against flesh and blood. We're fighting against principalities and evil spirits.

I mean, for people to actually say that they'd rather see someone murdered so they can get what they want in the ballot box, they can get their guy in, shows you this seems to go beyond just human beings. There seems to be some spiritual activity going on here, some demonic spiritual activity. I'm not saying the people are demonic. I'm saying that there's influence going on. People are made in the image of God. They need to be treated with respect, whether we agree with them or not.

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So, how does the assassination attempt on President Trump show that essential teaching of the Christian worldview is true? Because it shows the depravity of man. That we're bent toward evil, and we'll sin to get what we want. It also, by the way, shows there's an objective standard of rightness that can only exist if God exists. I mean, why is murder wrong? Why is inciting violence wrong? You know? And we'll get to this in a few minutes.

Many in the media have called Trump Hitler, and we'll get to why. That's crazy. But why was Hitler wrong? I mean, if you're going to call Trump Hitler, you must think Hitler was wrong, right? Well, if there is no God, why was he wrong? I mean, why, according to leftists is Trump wrong? Without God, there is no right or wrong. Nothing is right or wrong. There is no objective standard. It's just your opinion.

As we said a thousand times on this show, God is the grounding of righteousness, of goodness. Without Him, there's no right. There's no wrong, there's no good, there's no evil, there's no just, there's no unjust, there's no rights. Everything is a matter of opinion. And even atheists like Richard Dawkins would agree with this. And yet people out there who are claiming that say Donald Trump is wrong on something are assuming a moral standard, when in their own worldview they have no way of justifying that moral standard because they don't even believe in God.

They don't even think there's a God. All right, second question, what went wrong with security at the site? Well, we still don't know. Obviously, there's going to be an investigation. But people who have worked in security, who have worked as secret service agents, and as snipers, and even those who don't know there was a massive breach of security to let this happen, and also not to protect Trump immediately when the shooter was discovered before he got off the first shot, because reports are coming out if they're accurate.

And again, investigation is going to happen. But there's even video of this where people are yelling and telling cops, there's a guy on the roof and apparently a cop even went up there, if the report is true, saw the guy with the gun. The shooter turned the gun on the cop and the cop went back down the ladder. Well, according to former sniper Corey Mills, who is now a congressman, that guy should have said something immediately and Trump would have been taken off the stage before a shot was ever fired, as far as we know.

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In fact, this army, former army sniper Corey Mills is now a congressman. And a couple of days ago, the day after the event, he was on Jesse Waters. I want to play this about four minute video as to what he said because it's very informative. Here it is.

**JESSE:**

Let's bring in Florida congressman and former U.S. Army sniper, Corey Mills. What kind of shot was this, Corey, from 130 yards?

**COREY:**

Look, at the end of the day, this is a shot that your basic training boot camp soldier is requested to make within their nine week period. This is one of the easiest shots. And they train all the way out until 300 or 500. And when I was doing the counter sniper, it wasn't with the United States Army. It was actually when I was with the State Department and was doing this exact thing, which is trying to look at going out with an advanced team, establishing what the perimeter is.

And then as a sniper, when you would set up, you'd put together your range sketch or your range fan cards, and that would tell you where your 100, your 200, your 300, and you'd identify the areas of threat that you would be able to mitigate. And if there's multiple targets, you understand that your elevation and windage knob wouldn't have to be messed with, especially at 160 yards.

You could literally just look, quickly glance, and know from the reference point whether it be a building, whether it be a lone tree, whether it be a parking lot, maybe it's a road. Bottom line is that this is massive negligence to the point of me speculating on what was intentional and what wasn't.

**JESSE:**

Wow. When you're doing a site survey and you're seeing this rooftop not that far away, why did it look like the counter sniper team was a little surprised?

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**COREY:**

You know, I can only speculate, and we'll have to wait until the investigation comes out that they thought local law enforcement was potentially climbing up onto the roof when they saw a dark object on a light roof. But here's the issue.

**JESSE:**

You're saying maybe they misconstrued crooks for a friendly, for local law enforcement?

**COREY:**

It's very possible. I don't want to speculate until the investigation is over. But the bottom line is that if you saw someone climbing onto a roof that you hadn't authorized any clearance on, it's got a clear line of sight. It's exactly adjacent to the shooting where the president was sitting. And you're talking about a pop shot, and you've got people yelling, and there should have been comms.

The minute that that local law enforcement, who apparently had a rifle pointed on, there should have been an emergency frequent comms channel that they could have said, we have a shooter on the roof. Shooter on the roof. Secret Service should have rushed the stage and immediately took the president and took him off and then responded with the counter sniper. The shot should not have gone off. That is the failure in itself.

You're supposed to be able to try. You know, the best security is when you go in and you're actually able to prevent an incident, not react to an incident. Even if you would have left a law enforcement officer's patrol car in that parking lot with the lights on, that could have been a deterrent. But when you have nothing that is actually showing force protection, you're encouraging this.

Look, I'm not sure about who the individuals are on the individual detailed secret service. But I can tell you, under this Biden Administration, the one thing I've seen is massive DEI hires. And I can tell you when you, when you primarily go after DEI, you end up with D.I.E.

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**JESSE:**

So, when you have these counter snipers waiting until eight rounds are fired, what accounts for that? After the first shot, you get a return fire immediately.

**COREY:**

The minute that a shot rang out, they should have already been on scope. Your spotter should have already called the distance. If you hadn't looked at your range card and you should immediately engage. There should have been no reason to have waited a single second. Now, I talked to Eric Trump after the incident. Eric and I are both gun enthusiasts. We both shoot long distance. That right there is a pop shot. But he did say, I've gone out with the CS teams, and they are one of the best.

He knows the actual service detail that's with him. They are loyal individuals who actually do care about the president. I can say that was relayed to me. But the bottom line is this is a massive security breach. This is a huge failure at negligence is at best. But we have to figure out why something within 200 yards. Think about this, Jesse, 200 yards. That means that an average rifle that holds one minute of angle would hold a two-inch grouping if you just shot it straight off the deck, meaning on a platform.

So, now you're talking about 160, which is 1.6 inches, is what its grouping capabilities are. The average head is what, six by eight? Shoulder to shoulder is 20 inches, head to waist is 40 inches. And President Trump's a very large man. This is a shot that within five minutes, I could teach you to make nine out of ten times. So, this is divine intervention.

This is the God having his protective hand and wearing Ephesians 6, the armor of God, over the president, because this right here, a millisecond or a millimeter in change, and this isn't an attempted assassination. This is an assassination of a president.

**JESSE:**

The devil was in Butler, Pennsylvania, but so was God.

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**COREY:**

Well, and I can say one more thing, if I may, which is that let us also remember that King Henry II went in and said, can no one rid me of this turbulent priest? And his knights went out and killed the Archbishop of Canterbury because they thought that was a direct order. What do you say when President Biden says it's time to put a target on Trump? That, in my opinion, is the insightful rhetoric. That's the stuff that they would have went after for the J-6 stuff. So, why don't we have our own J-13 investigation?

**JESSE:**

There needs to be a full investigation on this. Absolutely. And it needs to not be crooked like some of these other former investigations were.

**COREY:**

That's right.

**JESSE:**

Politicians. Mills, you're the best. Thank you.

**COREY:**

Thank you

**FRANK:**

Ladies and gentlemen, do you see what he said there? He said that there was an emergency frequency that he could have...

Let me put it another way. In naval aviation, in any aviation, when I flew in naval aviation, there was always a frequency called guard that you always monitored, and they still do it. It's a frequency whereby if someone has an emergency, they come on that frequency, and everybody who has a radio on hears it. Doesn't matter what frequency you're on, you hear it.

If you have your frequency and guard selected, that's the kind of thing that they have in secret service. They have a frequency that everybody there hears. They can communicate to people individually, but everybody hears it. So, if it's true, and we're still trying to get details, but if it's

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true, this cop saw this guy on the roof. He could have gone to what is the equivalent of guard and said, shooter on the roof, which would have meant immediately that the secret service would have pulled Trump off that stage and probably before any shots were fired. Why wasn't that done? We don't know.

This guy cited DEI: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Now, you did see, I'm sure, the comedy of errors. It appeared that some of these security secret service people, one couldn't even holster her weapon. Another one's playing with her sunglasses. I mean, this isn't true, obviously, of all of them. But were these DEI hires? And why was there a woman trying to shield Trump on the stage when he stood a foot higher than her? If there was a second shooter, they could have hit him in the head because she was too short in order to cover him.

Look, there should be nothing but Jack Reachers on that team. Muscular men who are as big as or bigger than the president to shield him. This is not a place for a social experiment. Now, men should be protecting women. Women shouldn't be protecting men. And this is a teaching of Christianity, by the way. Men and women are equal, in essence, only in Christianity. But Christianity also teaches the obvious truth, that men and women are also different in what they can and can't do. And men, most of the time, are stronger than women.

I mean, God forbid, if Trump had to be dragged out of there, and a woman who maybe half his weight, she couldn't have done that. Why are we playing with social programs or putting social goals in life and death situations? It's no different than United Airlines coming out and saying, we're going to have half of our cockpits diverse by, you know, such and such a date. No. Put the most qualified people in there and put the most qualified people on the president's detail as well. Stop with all this DEI nonsense. You're going to get people killed.

Now, again, that's not to say there might be some great women security guards or secret service people out there, but these people who are guarding the president need to be able to guard the president. And if their physical capabilities don't allow this to happen, they shouldn't be there. And Dan Bongino, by the way, who was on the secret service, pointed out that the head of the secret service, now a political appointee by Biden, who was a secret service agent for 27 years herself, and then went off to PepsiCo and did some security work there, and then came back. She should be fired. She should resign.

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By the way, in the navy, if you're the captain of a ship, you could be asleep in your stateroom, but if your navigator runs the ship aground, you're done. You're out. This is life and death. The same thing is true here. The same thing, by the way, happened in Afghanistan. A complete debacle. Awful. One of the worst days in U.S. history. Nobody fired. Not Millie, General Millie, not the Secretary of Defense, not any of the commanders on the ground, not Biden himself. He should have resigned.

A debacle, leaving Americans on the ground, leaving billions of weaponry in the hands of the Taliban. That shouldn't be tolerated. But there's no accountability in this administration. And, oh, by the way, the head of the secret service, she was on film just a few months ago saying she wanted at least 30% of the secret service agents to be women. This is DEI. How about 100% of the secret service agents capable of doing their job protecting the president? How about that? If I sound mad, I am, ladies and gentlemen.

Hopefully you are, too. Now, The Babylon Bee has calmed me down a little bit. They have put out a headline. 'Secret Service Beefs Up Trump Security with Squad of Blind Midgets.' Leave it to The Babylon Bee to bring us back down to earth. Elon Musk says this in a tweet. Extreme incompetence, or it was deliberate. Either way, the SS leadership must resign. All right, third question. Did God directly protect President Trump? Representative Corey Mills says so. And maybe he did.

Of course, there's no way to know if God physically intervened, like moved the bullet. Fortunately, it hit somebody else. Or maybe it was a miracle. He overpowered a natural law or just divine providence where God was working through natural events. We don't know for sure because God hasn't explicitly revealed it, but the Bible does talk about guardian angels and the power of prayer. And, ladies and gentlemen, Trump has been prayed for a lot. Certainly, this should have been much worse given the proximity of the shooter.

As Corey Mills just said, nine out of ten times, someone with minimal training would have made this shot. And Trump turned his head at just the right time. Was the shooter distracted? Why did Trump turn his head? Why? Out of eight shots, only one grazed him. We don't know, but it sure seems like at least divine providence was involved.

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Look, we know God is sovereign over the nation. Psalm 22:28 says God rules over the nations, but only He knows when He directly intervenes, either directly through a miracle, by overpowering the natural law, or by divine providence, which is pre-arranging natural events. God is, of course, sovereign over everything. He allows some things to happen that are evil.

Because if He didn't, this wouldn't be a country or this wouldn't be a world, I should say, a universe where free will did anything, where love and our moral choices wouldn't, they wouldn't make any difference if God, say, stopped us every time we tried to do evil and only allowed us to do good. Also, we need to keep in mind there's a ripple effect of everything that happens. We've talked about this on this program a lot.

In fact, I'm reminded of the passage in Genesis 20, sorry, Genesis 50, verse 20, about Joseph. You know, the whole story of Joseph in the Old Testament when he's sold into slavery by his brothers. And then through a series of events where he's treated very badly, he rises to power in Egypt. He puts a bunch of grain aside, and then his family leaves Israel to escape the famine. And when they get to Egypt, Joseph recognizes them. And he doesn't say, you dirty rats, you're going to pay for what you did to me. He says no.

What you meant for evil, God meant for good. The saving of many lives. There can be a lot of good, despite the fact, tragically, that people have been killed and hurt in this incident. But there can be some good that comes from it. What you meant, what the shooter meant for evil, God meant for good. He could bring good even from our own evil choices. And He does. That's what the ripple effect shows us. We can't see how all those ripples move forward into the future, but God can.

So, I personally think God did protect President Trump, but I can't prove that because He hasn't revealed it except to generally say that He has. Guardian angels and the power of prayer does things. God rules over the nations. Let's just continue to pray and pray for President Biden. Pray for everybody in authority, that they would be protected, that this is not going to spur on other shootings. We're commanded to pray, and we should pray for our leaders.

All right, question number four. Could the leftist and media demonization of Donald Trump have motivated the shooter? Is there a difference between informing people and inciting

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people? We don't know what motivated him. He's dead. Again, we're going to have to wait and see if they find anything that can tell us. They say he was registered as a Republican. He was only 20, but he actually donated to a progressive PAC. So, it seemed like, although maybe just registered, like his parents were registered, but his political leanings, just from one donation, appear to be leftist. We don't know.

And there is a difference between informing people and inciting people. And tragically, much of our political dialogue hasn't been informing people. It's been inciting people. Look, you can find people on the internet who will support every crazy position, but what does survey data say? Well, the New York Times not long ago did a survey and found out that 10% of Democrats said that violence was justified to keep Trump out of office and 7% of Republicans that said that violence was justified to put Trump in office.

So, there's a small group of people in both parties that appear to think that violence is okay politically, and that shouldn't be tolerated, ladies and gentlemen. Now, what was the cause of this? We have to draw a distinction between the cause and, say, conditions. The shooter is responsible because he's the cause. But the conditions that some of the rhetoric we've heard may have influenced him, that's a condition that may have influenced him to make this decision.

And there's been a lot of irresponsible rhetoric, really, from both sides of the aisle, but it seems much more coming from the left and it comes right from the top. Ladies and gentlemen, 22 hours before the assassination attempt, here's what President Biden said in a tweet. Trump has said that if he wins, he'll be a dictator on day one. And, folks, he means it. Just look at this right wing Project 2025, the blueprint for the second Trump term. I will not let that happen.

Now, this Project 2025 is apparently a list of policy proposals put out by The Heritage Foundation. Probably one of them is to protect innocent babies from being murdered. Oh, we can't let that happen. Now, when Trump says he's going to be a dictator, obviously he can't be a dictator. This is just a way to say that he's going to do what he can do to right the ship. But our society, I should say our government, doesn't allow dictators. I'll get into that in a minute.

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This is what Biden said. That's what he said 22 hours before the assassination attempt. On the 28th of June, here's what the President Biden said. Donald Trump is a genuine threat to this nation. He's a threat to our freedom. He's a threat to our democracy. He's literally a threat to everything America stands for. This is the president of the United States, ladies and gentlemen. Ladies and gentlemen, is this exaggerated rhetoric? Of course it is. Look, Biden has called Trump a threat to democracy.

First of all, we don't have a democracy. We have a republic that was specifically designed to prevent a dictator or mob rule. It separated powers. By the way, this is why we did a show several months ago about the insane charge that Speaker Mike Johnson, who is an evangelical Christian, the speaker of the House, is going to set up a theocracy. That's impossible, ladies and gentlemen. Our system won't allow it.

And yet these people are out there uttering obvious falsehoods. Obvious to us who study this, but maybe not obvious to the general public, maybe not obvious to a 20 year old who had been bullied in school and may have had some sort of animus toward President Trump to be incited. There's a difference between informing someone of the truth and inciting people to commit violence. And we have to be diligent to not incite people to do evil.

Now, Corey Mills had mentioned in the video I played earlier, you just heard the audio, obviously, that President Biden said this, and this happened on, let's see, July 7. So last Monday, just six days, five days before the shooting, here's what Biden said on a private call that was leaked, a private call to donors. Biden said, I have one job, and that's to beat Donald Trump. I'm absolutely certain I'm the best person to be able to do that.

So, we're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in the bullseye or in a bullseye. That's what Biden said. Now, I'm giving Biden the benefit of the doubt here. I don't think he's calling when he says put him in a bullseye to shoot the guy. This is a figure of speech. However, we do need to be careful. Okay? We do need to be careful. There's a lot more over the top rhetoric that has come out of the media. In fact, both The Washington Post and The New Republic, a leftist magazine, have called Trump, Hitler.

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In fact, The Washington Post, I'm sorry, The New Republic, in the July 7 edition just last week, has a very sinister picture of Trump with a little Hitler mustache, and it says, 'What American Fascism Would Look Like.' And it's all about basically how Trump is Hitler. And the Washington Post in December of last year had an opinion piece, said, yes, it's okay to compare Trump to Hitler. Don't let me stop you. This is madness, ladies and gentlemen.

Breitbart has an article. We'll put all this in the show notes just from a couple days ago. '16 Times Hollywood Celebs Fantasized About Violence Against Trump and Compared Him to Hitler.' Well, we're not, I'm not going to go through them all. I'll put it in the show notes. A response to all this actually written before the assassination attempt. This was written on July 10. So, just a couple days before the assassination attempt by Ben Rothov.

I'm going to read a portion of his article about how crazy it is to call Trump or anybody else in modern day politics, Hitler. Here's what Ben Rothov said. He said this. The assertion that Trump is a Fascist has been around for nearly a decade. But the trend of comparing Republicans to Nazis has existed long before Trump. In 2008, Madonna compared John McCain and Mike Huckabee to Adolf Hitler. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, they were the ticket in 2012, were likened to Nazis in 2012, while the Los Angeles times compared Dan Quayle, that was Bush one's vice president, to Hitler's propaganda minister.

In 1992, Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, and Barry Goldwater were called Nazis at one point or another, while Nikki Haley was once compared to Eva Braun, who was Hitler's mistress, by the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party. George W. Bush era Hitler's comparisons were particularly potent. George Soros said that Bush promotes, quote, the ideology of Nazi Germany. Let me stop right here. I can't, I can't let this go.

This is the same George Soros who is funding protesters supporting Hamas who are the new Nazis. Man, that's the most... If irony could kill you, George Soros would be dead right now. He's the guy supporting the ideology of Nazi Germany, not George W. Bush. Anyway, let me continue. George Soros said that Bush promotes the ideology of Nazi Germany, while a bitter Al Gore echoed that sentiment.

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In 2014, well after Bush had left office, a middle school teacher gave an assignment where students had to fill out a Venn Diagram comparing Bush and Hitler because both men abused their powers. Hitler comparisons are so common that *reductio ad Hitlerum*, a logical fallacy identified by political philosopher Leo Strauss, even has a Wikipedia page. Hitler comparisons are tempting to make because he is an average person's epitome of pure evil and an uncreative person's lazy but reliable analogy.

There is also a stunning lack of awareness from the new republic and the many other left wingers who draw Hitler comparisons, as they are very often the very same people spreading pro Hamas rhetoric. That is such a great point, by the way. However, that doesn't make them Hitler. It makes them stupid. Hitler was one of the most evil men who ever lived, so comparing almost any modern political figure to him is fundamentally unserious and intellectually dishonest, unquote.

That's a column again. We'll put it in the show. Notes from Ben Rothov, who writes at The Washington Examiner. On July 10, my friend Seth Dillon, the CEO of The Babylon Bee, by the way, who's a serious thinker. Just because he hosts and is the president or owner of a satire site—

First of all, you've got to be really bright to write satire. But he, in a serious way, is a very intelligent guy. Here's what he tweeted the day after the assassination attempt. After all of these people, including the Biden himself, were saying, oh, we're so glad Trump is okay. We're praying for his recovery. Here's what Seth said. If Trump were as bad as Biden and other Democrats say he is, if he were a tyrant on par with Hitler himself, then why would they be grateful to hear he's safe and doing well? Either their character, characterizations of Trump are false, or their sympathy is, unquote.

Nailed it. Yeah. Yeah. Now, I'll give Biden the benefit of the doubt that he really does care, and he wants Donald Trump to recover. He does not want his opponent to be murdered. That means that his characterizations and others that Trump is some kind of Hitler are false, although there are plenty of people who are now lamenting that this shooter missed. That's where we are, ladies and gentlemen.

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And this kind of political rhetoric is something we have to be very careful not to do ourselves, ladies and gentlemen. And to be honest, President Trump has to be careful as well, because sometimes he has crossed the line. I mean, he's called the media the enemy of the people. Now, he's actually right to a certain extent, because they rarely report the truth. I'm sure you've seen the propaganda they put out immediately after the story broke. They didn't even mention assassination. I think one CNN headline said that Trump is rushed off the stage, didn't even mention the assassination.

In fact, it said that Trump fell, so they had to drag him off the stage. I mean, there is something to be said about how bad the media is, but maybe we need to come up with another way than calling them the enemy of the people, because we don't want to incite anybody to take a shot at a journalist. That wouldn't be right. And we should never want that. We should want to argue against their position, not attack them personally. So finally, the fifth question. How should a Christian respond to this? What's the way forward? Don't do the same thing you're complaining about. Don't demonize people.

Don't go above and beyond reality to try and say, so and so is Hitler, or so and so is so bad. And by the way, as we talked about last week on the program we did with Sean McDowell, how to break the stalemate. You don't know how people have come to their political conclusions or their religious conclusions. I'm sure in their minds they think they're right. And maybe they are right on some things and you're wrong about them. And be humble enough to say, hey, can you tell me why you think this is true? Can you tell me why you're supporting this position or this candidate?

Let them tell their story. That's how we can move forward, not to just demonize people and call them the enemy. If we're going to love our enemies, we at least have to talk to them, ladies and gentlemen. We at least have to give them the benefit of the doubt in some areas and ask them to explain why they believe what they believe. You may not agree with it after that. Fine, then oppose their positions, oppose their candidates, but don't treat them with disrespect. Don't demonize them.

And of course, this is what the Scriptures say. Romans, chapter 12, verse 19 and following says this, do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, it is

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mine to avenge. I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not overcome, or do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Now, here's the interesting thing, ladies and gentlemen.

Don't stop reading just because there's a chapter break. Because if you keep reading into Romans chapter 13, here's what it says. Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

By the way, the shooter brought judgment on himself, because the authority immediately, or the authority, is the government. In this case, the secret service. They shot him between the eyes. Rightfully so. In a fallen world, sometimes force is going to be necessary. Anyway, let me continue. Verse three of Romans 12. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Let me stop right here.

This is a general principle. It's not always true. There are rulers out there that do hold terror for people who are doing good. Just look at the governments of North Korea or Tehran, Iran, Iran or China, or some of these dictatorships. But this is a general principle. A good government is not going to hold terror for those who do right. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what's right and you will be commended.

Again, general principles, not always true principle. It's like a Proverb. And there are times when you don't obey your government. We've been through those exceptions on this program. I don't have time to dive into them now. But here's what verse four says, and here's the key. Romans 13:4, for the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid. For rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath, to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

The number one job, in other words, ladies and gentlemen, of government, is to protect innocent people from evil. That's why we have police, secret service, armies, navies, the whole deal. That's why we have a government, because people are evil. Again, if men were angels, no

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government would be necessary. Yet, when evil people do evil in government, we need to oppose them in a civilly disobedient way, but not to demonize them. And so, what happened on Saturday was a breakdown in our government, and that's why people should resign, and we need new leadership. That should have never happened. There should have been nobody within shooting distance of a former president, a candidate for president. That should not have happened. And people need to be held accountable.

But unfortunately, in the Biden Administration, at least as history shows, no one's ever held accountable. We're going to have to do it at the voting booth. Ladies and gentlemen, government is instituted to protect innocent people from evil. Proverbs 20:26 says this, a wise king scatters the wicked and drives them and drives a threshing wheel over them. Using an agriculture analogy here, we're not to take personal vengeance, ladies and gentlemen. Punishment is the role of government.

So, let the government deal with this. But you have the ability in this country to make sure the government is held accountable because the government's supposed to report to you. You're supposed to put the government in place, and they're to report to you. So, if you don't like the current government, then vote them out. And remember, inform, don't incite, don't demonize people. All people are made in the image of God. You can oppose their ideas, and you should oppose their ideas if they're evil. You should oppose their positions if they're evil without demonizing them.

All right, now, last thing, ladies and gentlemen. My wife noticed this. I just want to take you to Luke 22 for a second. Luke 22 is an account of Jesus being betrayed by Judas. Here's what it says in verse 47. While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus asked him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

When Jesus followers saw what was going to happen, they said, Lord, should we strike with our swords? And one of them, it happened to be Peter, we know from another account, struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, no more of this. And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Now this passage is, of course, teaching an historical event of what happened to Jesus and how Jesus healed this man.

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But I thought it was an interesting event that is sort of a metaphor for our nation. Our former president was hit in the ear. The part of his ear was blown off, by the way, by a bullet. Only Jesus, however, can heal us. Only Jesus can heal our land. Only Jesus could heal the high priest's servant's ear, and only Jesus can heal our land. It's not just about laws. It's not just putting people in the right political positions. All that is important. We get it.

But look, Israel had all the right laws, ladies and gentlemen, but they behaved terribly, and they were judged, exiled and killed, even by God, who allowed other countries to come in and kill them. So, having all the right laws isn't completely the answer. Politics, while important, is not the ultimate answer. You can have great laws, and when people don't obey them, it's not going to matter.

This is why John Adams famously said that our constitution was made only for religious and moral people. It is inadequate to govern any other kind of people. I'm paraphrasing. People don't govern themselves if people aren't born again, if people don't want to follow the truth, instead they want to just seek their own sex, money, and power and are going to shriek when somebody wants to restrict them in those areas because what they're doing is harmful to themselves and harmful to others, then it doesn't matter what laws you put in.

They're not going to comply, and the country is ultimately going to be judged. So, ladies and gentlemen, pray for President Trump and his family. Pray for all our leaders. Pray for President Biden and his family. Vice President Harris, all the leaders of the Senate and the Congress and our state and local representatives. We're commanded to vote, or should say, we're commanded to pray, and we should vote. As we'll cover in a future show, we should be voting the platform. We should be voting for the policies that the candidates support.

We don't have to endorse candidates, but we do have to endorse policies that line up with natural law and biblical values. And as I say, we'll unpack that on a future show. So, pray as if everything depended on God, but work as if everything depended on you. And thank God this was not far worse, ladies and gentlemen. Given what the experts say, it should have been far worse. President Donald J. Trump should be dead right now and the country would be in turmoil. Thankfully, he's not.

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Let's pray that he recovers completely and that he does what's right in this convention and that people vote biblically in the next election. And most importantly, our politicians follow You and not follow their own sex, money, and power desires. They become Christians and follow You. By the way, ladies and gentlemen, I do need to mention one thing before we go. The live stream we had scheduled for the 18th is now rescheduled to the 23rd.

I think most people are going to want to see whether you are interested in politics or not. You're going to want to see President Trump's address. I hear he's changing his address to be much more unifying at the Republican National Convention this Thursday on the 18th. I also want to see that before we comment on it. So, a livestream with Scott Klusendorf on how to convince people to be pro-life is going to be, we hope, the 23rd. That's what we're searching for right now, a date, but we'll make it public, or it could be a day later. We're looking into it.

But just keep an eye on our YouTube channel. You'll see it. In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, pray. Reach out to people who don't agree with you politically. Try and come together. Ask questions, try and learn from one another. Treat everyone with respect. Everyone's made in the image of God. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. And Lord willing, we will see you here again this coming Friday. God bless.

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