

# THE FAR-RIGHT TRINITY

## TMW VESPERS

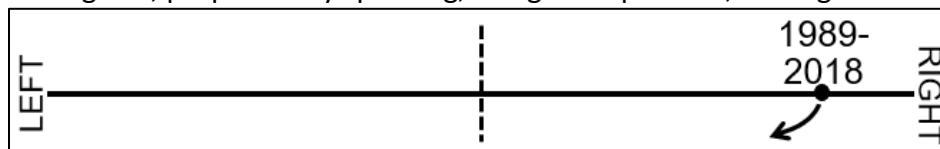
APRIL 1, 2022

ELDER TESS LAMBERT

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuYM\\_l8JDXc&list=PL6-Mv8H520RncgAIBdn\\_u3bAlt\\_kGZZhH&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuYM_l8JDXc&list=PL6-Mv8H520RncgAIBdn_u3bAlt_kGZZhH&index=7)

The last two times we've met it's been a little bit of challenge. We really needed to get over that kind of hump of breaking down libertarianism as a political concept, and that didn't enable a lot of discussion, just so that we could railroad that through to where we were all on the same page on what libertarianism is in theory and hopefully what we can also see how it is in practice. Because the two don't... one looks much nicer than or the theory looks much nicer than the reality. So, we have spent quite a bit of time in the last couple of classes doing that. The last class, I think were fairly heavy. Maybe the last two. Just to remind us why we're only doing this, because you asked a question, Brendon.

Brendon, you asked, how do we sift the left-wing, and with that we started to ask why we were left-wing in the first place. Rachel, you put us over here (right-wing) as a movement from 1989 to 2018. No one has argued with that. So, why did we change in 2018? We know that 2018 is the Midnight Cry (MC), and we walk in the light of the MC all the way to the Second Advent. We also know that when people leave this movement the light behind them goes out; and we know that light is, prophetically speaking, using line upon line, that light is the light of the MC.



What is it about 2018 that people who leave the path constantly conflict with? We said in the last two classes every single fight that this Movement has really had since 2018, has centered on two streams of information; has centered on left-wing v. right-wing. So, when people come into conflict, and we've had these shakings and these disagreements, it still comes down to 2018. And when they leave the Movement and the light behind them goes out, what does that mean to how they would now view the MC, not necessarily me or some prophetic message but the core, some external prophetic concept, like saying that Russia is the King of the South.

But, getting to the heart of the MC, the heart of two streams of information, what is the light that they're walking in that they no longer have? To understand that we need to really understand what the MC means to us, what it was designed to teach us? It is two streams of information. It's two sides of a political debate, whether we call that 2016 or really all the way along our reform line.

We went from discussing what's wrong with the left-wing (and we're going to come back and discuss the left-wing again), to discussing the right-wing, and why we needed to shift from the

right-wing to left-wing. What does that even mean for us? If we aren't able to define it, what's the point of shifting?

Then we began to get to the beating heart of what the right-wing stands for, and what the left-wing stands for. Then going deeper into the problems of the right-wing, seeing their stance for freedom, seeing the left-wing's stance on equality. We began to broaden the right-wing and see it encompass, not necessarily the traditional white Christian conservative base, but I would suggest a much more dangerous and powerful base in 2022 in a post-Christian world. And with that, we started to break down libertarianism.

Libertarian is a political party. Technically, it's not that powerful, but as a mindset and as a world view, it is much more common than we might suppose. In our last class, we were breaking down libertarianism. I tried to sell it to you in its most beautiful, positive concept; freedom for all. I did collect a couple of photos. I'm not able to share screen. But even if you looked it up for yourself, look up libertarianism and their banners. It's all about freedom. It's kind of like what we did when we looked at our United Australia Party, far-right party in Australia today, and just how thickly they lay on the message of freedom and how it's under threat from the left, from the woke leftists.

After selling it all to you, then I tried to then kind of pop that bubble. It's a beautiful message about freedom for all, and then what that looks like in reality. And just to give a taste of what it looks like in reality, just a taste, we took their prominent heroes, and asked their prominent heroes what they think of the Civil Rights Act. And, if they can't get the Civil Rights Act of 1964 correctly, then you could only imagine what they would do with gender politics today. With anything today that seems to trample on individual freedom, especially the freedom to discriminate. So, we built up a beautiful bubble and then we tried to pop it.

Since then, we've obviously had the camp meeting, but there were also the two articles that I shared and asked you all to read so you could give your thoughts on. Just the first article, does anyone have any thoughts they want to share on the first article? This was *Huffington Post*, 'Why Libertarians and Rand Paul are Wrong about the Civil Rights Act.' They go into some detail here, and they pick apart the Libertarian issue with the Civil Rights Act and show just how problematic it is. I don't think Rand Paul really wanted to explicitly state how deep his opposition to the Civil Rights Act would go, and what this article is showing if he disagrees with this one part, then how much does he disagree with all these other elements that have come in not just in 1964 but in over the years to try and bring about some form of racial equality in the US.

Does anyone have anything that they want to share on that Huffington Post article? Was it enlightening? Was it helpful? Did it clarify things for you? Greg.

Mrs. Bennet - The article was so normal.

Elder Tess – Mrs. Bennet, what were you saying?

Mrs. Bennet – Just how normal it was in today’s society.

Elder Tess – What’s normal?

Mrs. Bennet – What’s normal? Just the responses that came from the guy and how she valued what the guy said, Max.

Elder Tess – Oh, you’re going to the VOX article.

Mrs. Bennet – Yes.

Elder Tess – The normality ...

Mrs. Bennet – Yeah, just the normality of it all. And, it was shocking.

Elder Tess – That is such an important point. I might address the Huffington Post article at the moment, but then if we come back to VOX, I’ll ask you again to enlarge on that thought because I think it’s important. That is one of the key reasons I wanted people to read what is a long article, and really just this person talking about his beliefs; but as we read it, we see the normality that is given to these quite bigoted views. Greg. You were going to comment on the Huffington Post article.

Greg – [Breaking up badly] Yeah, I thought that libertarian articles helped me understand libertarianism. So, [inaudible] I like [inaudible] I don’t like, but it brought to mind the contradiction between what they believe [inaudible] certain things are despicable.

Elder Tess – Can I stop you for a second? You’re cutting out a lot, so I’m picking up the bits that I get that are broken, and I’m going to repeat that back. You said that this article helped you see the contradictions between what they say and what that looks like in practice. The kind of beautiful message, but then they are forced into a position where they’re supporting what, and you used the word despicable types of discrimination. Is that what you were, do you want to keep going? I just wanted, before you got any further, and I started to forget, I wanted to repeat so we could pick up. But we need to work on your audio. Sorry.

Greg – Hopefully, you can hear me clearer. But what you just said is just what I was thinking. I found a lot of contradiction between what they say is despicable, and what they really hate; yet they seem to be the proponent of what they hate.

Elder Tess – Yes. To not see a need for government intervention on the social level, I think it does become an issue as to whether or not they actually see the problem as a significant one in the first place. I agree. Were you done or were there something else?

Greg – No. That’s all. The second article that we’re not discussing, we’ll discuss later.

Elder Tess – Sure. Thank you, Greg. Ray. [Your comments] don't have to center just on the article; but we're talking about... It should center on the article, but the context is this libertarian issue they have. Sorry, continue.

Ray – No, that's fine. So, something that sort of stuck out to me was this attitude they had. It was referred to that slavery would sort of wither out and die eventually anyway, without the government intervening because, the Christian proponents of it were inherently moral so they would eventually get over it and stop doing slavery. And, I just think that tolerance betrays the hypocrisy of the whole thing. How long are you prepared to tolerate something that you say you think is evil, but will eventually look after itself? To me, that's not good enough.

Elder Tess – I agree. But they have (to play devil's advocate) this idea that those who choose equality over freedom will lose both. I think that is a right-wing famous quote, that if you do not prioritize freedom over equality, you'll find that the society is incapable of either. I don't agree with that phrase, that you have to lose freedom to prioritize the equality of those who have been and continue to be oppressed by society.

Ray – Before I joined the Movement or as I joined the Movement, I was watching a lot of Ben Shapiro, and it was reminding me a lot of the arguments he had. That's the exact base I pulled these days. Oh, it was reminding me a lot of the arguments he used to put out about the minimum wage. He's like, no; the government shouldn't have minimum wage; as companies earn more, they'll pay their employees more, because they'll see the value of it. But it doesn't happen. You look at the statistics, and it just doesn't happen. So, it was giving me a few flashbacks, and what was from the past. Previous dispensation.

Elder Tess – Yes. It is very much that idea that freedom will solve society's problems. And I think a very quick search (because he is one that I haven't researched when it comes to libertarianism), seems to me that he is, he does have, libertarian leanings. Even if that is not their political party affiliation, this is the undercurrent of thinking for much of the far-right today, which is what we're trying to dig out. Is that all, Ray? Just let me know when you're done, so I don't interrupt.

Ray – Yeah. I'm done.

Elder Tess – Sure. Josephine.

Josephine – Was it Rachel Maddow that interviewed Rand Paul? Is that the article you're talking about?

Elder Tess – Yes.

Josephine - He had to be cornered to come out with his... She had to ask him a kind of very direct, appointed, question for him to be able to come out with his belief, shall I say about libertarian and the far-right. The libertarians are very alt-right, very, very extreme in their beliefs, which means that they could be quite dangerous when they get into power. Is that

because of the way they believe, because of their ideology? Am I asking a proper question, or am I just making it up in my mind?

Elder Tess – Just to comment on what you said before, Rachel Maddow had to corner him to get him to state his true position on key portions of the Civil Rights Act. It's 2022. It's not politically safe in 2022 to criticize the Civil Rights Act. But in 2022, you talk about the Equal Rights Amendments for women or expanding hate crime to include gender-based violence, and that's a different story. They would be much more comfortable openly stating opposition to those things, then their more concurrent attempts to change legislation and thinking. Yes, he had to be cornered, because it's not something that people politically want to be able to be quoted as saying criticism of the Civil Rights Act.

We're going to discuss more libertarianism as it impacts politics, because we have heavily focused in the past as a Movement talking about, especially older conservative Christian republicans. And, if you look at even the far-right today, if you look at the most outrageous members of the Republican Party today, many of them are not the Mitt Romneys. They're not even the older generation. What is coming up, and becoming much more active, vocal, and aggressive over the last, I would say twelve years, is slightly different demographic. We are in a post-Christian world, and while we continue to target Evangelicals, and Evangelical influence over Trump and the Republican Party, if we only see that, we forget that we are talking to a bubble, and that it is a post-Christian world. Therefore, it's a post-Christian US.

We're going to continue to talk more about that influence on politics, and how dangerous libertarianism becomes once it channels people through into the far-right. But what I want us to understand really clearly is, if you go to their website, if you hear them state their party platform, it is beautiful. They can sell it like nothing else. "I'll disagree with what you say but, I'll defend to the death your right to say it." "He who chooses equality over freedom loses both." They have phrases, and they have arguments that sound beautiful. They have an entire political system that sounds beautiful, until you start seeing it in practice, and start pushing them into a corner on some of these civil rights issues.

So, I'll say yes, talking about the political danger of it, but a tentative yes, because that's kind of where our discussion is going to continue to be about for a little while longer. Is that all, Josephine?

Josephine – Yes. Thank you very much. I will start to think along those lines, but you just clarified it; made it so much clearer.

Elder Tess – Sure. I really want to make sure in this class that everyone has an opportunity to voice their thoughts, even just if you're repeating back things that we've already said in your own words so it becomes clearer for you, if you want to do that; so, it's, hopefully a more interactive class. To quote back from something we quoted at the last class, from current affairs, why libertarians oppose civil rights, and they explain it that from a legal perspective, discrimination should be permitted in any society that honors freedom of association.

So, libertarian will support an individual right to discriminate based on race or gender or whether or not someone is homosexual. At the same time, they will support gay marriage. They will oppose the union of church and state. Do we get how important that is for us to see; a libertarian will oppose the union of church and state? Does that complicate your picture at all? To see a libertarian will oppose church and state?

Josephine – Yeah. That kind of makes you start to think about all what's coming in the next lecture.

Elder Tess – We're in a post-church world, aren't we? So, when we talk about the union of church and state as it fought for its existence in 1888, even under Billy Graham, we're in 2022. What does the union of church and state at the Sunday Law (SL) look like today? All I'm doing is making our picture as complicated as possible, so hopefully we can have any discussion issues arise now in a time when we can dig through them together. Brendon.

Brendon – I'm not sure whether I'm answering your question here. It was more a question when you brought up the church and state comment. So, from a libertarian point of view they would oppose that union, because they see church enforcing morality on people, and they don't like [that], they want the freedom to do what they want. So, is that where they're coming from? Or is it more complicated than that?

Elder Tess – Libertarianism, like their economic policies gets muddy once you start seeing it in practice. So, what does a libertarian do when a trans-woman wants to play a female sport, wants to compete along with women? What does a libertarian then do? Is it trans-rights or is it protecting the freedom of...? So, it gets a little bit muddy and a little bit complicated. Outside of those situations, what is the church going to enforce that a libertarian would support? Libertarians are all about supporting gay marriage, for example. I'll keep going back to that one, because it's the easiest one to see, but what really is a church going to enforce that an atheistic libertarian would have no problem with? I think there's an answer to that question, but I don't want to give it now. Ray.

Ray – When you said, I think my question is kind of similar to Brendon, when you said that they opposed church and state, I was like does that make the whole moral majority thing really messy; because where do they stand on... because the moral majority came about to stop the government taking away the tax-exempt status from the religious schools and universities and things like that. Where would a libertarian stand on that issue? They don't like the government sort of enforcing those things on individuals and organizations, but at the same time they're not going to be happy about Christians lobbying politics. Is that sort of the whole point of this discussion? It gets super messy?

Elder Tess – I think the problem is almost all of us come from a Christian history. And then, we came from that Christian history into a Christian movement, and then we started fighting with other Christians who had left Adventist Christianity into this Movement, and their long history with Protestantism. So, we have Christian, Christian, Christian, Christian, and Christian. 2018, we start fighting with FFA, the Christian wing of this Movement that came from Adventism

which has been drinking the wine of apostate Protestantism, which has got a historical connection to Catholicism. And then from 2019 to 2021, we're fighting with people who are having the same legacy issues of thinking in that republican, conservative, Christian, moral majority type of mindset.

And, it has been from 2018 to 2021 a kind of bubble, and what I'm saying is that if we step back and actually look at the left-wing and the right-wing, let's pop our bubble for a moment and stop speaking as Christians considering that we're going to Adventism to other Christians and actually look at the right-wing. Because it isn't a Christian world anymore. And, the main threat inside the US are not the Evangelicals. They are a threat, and they are there. And, Donald Trump knows that he needs their segment of the vote to win. So, we're right to point that out. We're right to point out how Donald Trump speaks to today's moral majority, to see how Donald Trump speaks to Jerry Falwell, son of Jerry Falwell Sr.

Trump needs that Evangelical vote, but he needs more than that Evangelical vote, however big a percentage of his base is. There is something much more prehistoric; something much more deep that Trump is appealing to than just Evangelicals. So, we're popping our bubble for a moment, and we need to have that bubble popped as we approach the Sunday Law. First of all, so we can help the world make sense to the Adventists, who we are meant to be speaking to, and also so we can prepare to do our work at the Sunday Law for many of the people in the world who don't exist in our Christian bubble. Does that make sense? Moli.

Moli – I just wanted to ask a question. How I read the things, it looked like, even though, like the leaders of the politicians, they sort of have this fear of how the slaves sort of inferior to the White, and they start making up laws and getting involved in their... I mean just to sort of put them down. I could see that they sort of scared, but it sort of reminds me what happened in ancient Israel. In Egypt when the people were ready to come. You know the pharaoh, they could see that these people are growing up in numbers, and they're getting stronger, and they sort of have the same attitude towards the... Was that the same or? What I'm saying with internally, the mindset about the Movement, we still have the mindset of the Apis Bull; but looking at this one, even the people in the government and normal fields, they have that mindset as well.

Elder Tess – Without answering your question directly, because I think we are going to as we go through the article and some other articles that I want us to go into. Then, the feeling of being threatened is very real, because Masterpiece Bake Shop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, this man, he just wants to be able to run his own business how he believes is right, which means you don't sell cakes to a gay couple. And this side, Civil Rights Commission, and I've underlined civil rights so we connected to the civil rights movement, and we know what civil rights is all about. Civil rights are about equality, part of that being government enforced equality, social equality. Then, if this fellow (cake shop owner) loses, and the gay couple wins, who's the victim? Who becomes the victim if the civil rights commission wins and the gay couple wins? This fellow is a victim, isn't he? Then, isn't it this side (Masterpiece Bake Shop) that's under threat? So, you could put anyone here (Masterpiece Bake Shop). You could put

white male Christian here. Or, you could put a South Sudanese male member, leadership, male board member, and we put a female in charge of their ministry. All of a sudden, who becomes the victim? Who becomes under threat? Who loses their freedom?

Masterpiece Cakeshop ..... FREEDOM	vs.	Colorado <u>C.R.</u> Commission ..... EQUALITY
---	-----	---

It becomes a story about perpetrators and victims, and it muddies the water. Because if you believe that freedom is so precious, even freedom to discriminate, and you believe that if freedom is so much under threat, and this person (bake shop) he loses, it's going to bring about a feeling of victimhood, but also a feeling that you are under threat, that your rights and your freedoms are under threat. It's not reasonable but it is there, and we'll get more into that when we go into our second article. Moli, did you say something?

Moli – I said, wasn't the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment written to sort that out? Just to solve that problem?

Elder Tess – Yes, but I'll defer to Elder Parminder for the thoughts on the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. He's much more knowledgeable in that one than me. I might go to Marie, and then we're going to move on to our second article. Marie.

Marie – You asked the question, who was Trump appealing to? So, I was just thinking well he, and you said it was much more than just the right-wing, the republicans. It was much, much more than republicans. So, I was thinking atheists and maybe fundamentalists. That was all I was going to say.

## *Reddit*

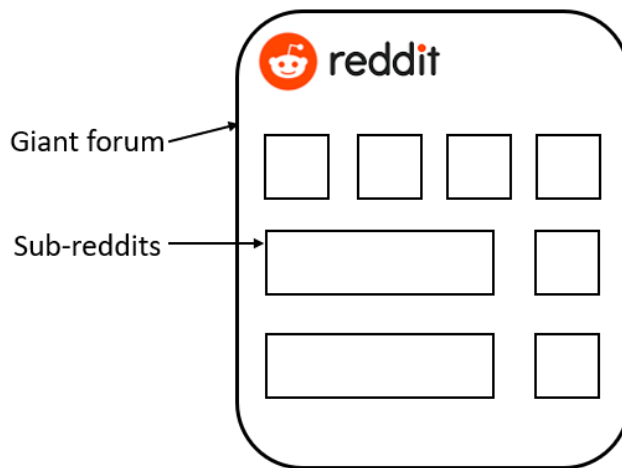
Elder Tess – We're going to say more about atheism in a moment. It does become important. Before we head into our second article, there was a part in this article that is quite insightful. It helps unlock some of the puzzles that we've been building. But it becomes really important in this, to understand the significance of this faction of the right-wing, to understand how Reddit operates as a platform. So, some of you on the local fellowship heard Rachel speak about Gamergate.

When she spoke about Gamergate, she asked the question, how many of us know what Twitter is and knows how Twitter works. And, quite a few of us didn't know what Twitter even was, let alone how it operated. So, before we go into this article, Rachel is going to explain for us what Reddit is and how Reddit operates. As we go through, you'll see why it's important for us to know that. I'm going to go quiet for a little while, and we're going to change screen, and Rachel is going to come on. Are you there Rachel? Are you ready?



Rachel – Can everyone hear me ok? So, I'm going to talk to you about Reddit in a very simple way. So, the best way that reading a lot of information I guess is easy to just break it down. So basically, as we know social media there are a lot of social media platforms out there, from Facebook to Twitter, Instagram, etc. And Reddit is another online platform and people basically use it the same way to share and gather information. But there are some differences.

If you put it in the simplest terms, Reddit is a giant forum; and in that giant forum we have these smaller forums, and so, this giant forum we call as the website. It's called Reddit, and the little ones, we're going to call them sub-Reddit. We're going to come back to the sub-Reddit. So, if we just did a little compare and contrast a social media, maybe we will look at Facebook, and we'll look at Reddit.



So, Facebook; the way that Facebook is set up is really is about the individual, about using their personal information such as birthdays, relationship statuses, and your age. It's very, they use the website to grow relationships with other people. And, there's a difference between Facebook and Reddit. Facebook is sharing information. It's about people you know, sharing things you really don't care about, but Reddit is different.

Reddit is about sharing things you really care about to people that you don't know. This is the difference between Facebook and Reddit. Reddit values contribution to the community over the individuals. What it does is it creates [sub-Reddits or communities]. So, these sub-Reddits, another word for these sub-Reddits are communities. So, if you think of the Reddit values the contribution to the community over individuals. This is how I sort of remember it.

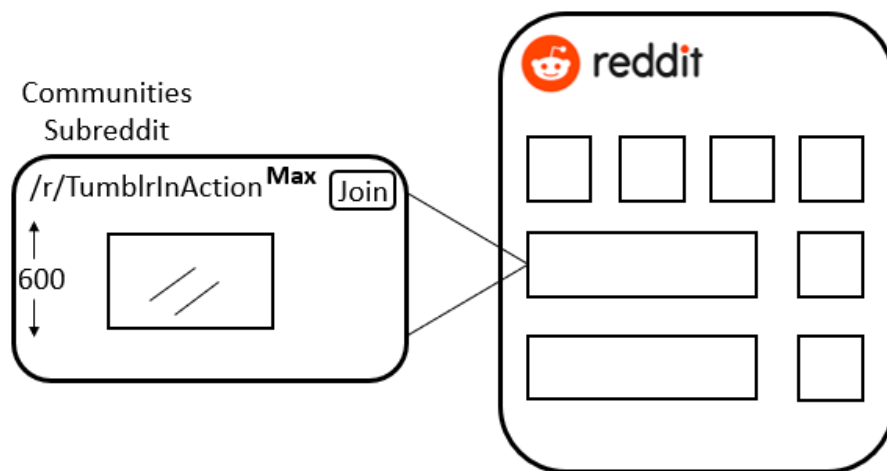
The idea is to create value as part of this community that exists in these sub-Reddits, and then to grow that community. So, in other words, Reddit isn't about you; it's about the collective. So, let's look at the sub-Reddits. I'm going to zoom in and have a bit more of a look at the sub-Reddits. We're going to zoom in.

If we think of these sub-Reddits, and by the way, sub-Reddit means, you see a way of saying, "I read it." That's what Reddit means. So, we have these sub-Reddits, or we can call them communities. On these sub-Reddits, people can write texts or share videos or do movies,

memes. And how it works is, we read that article from VOX. And, the guy's name was Max. I guess it wasn't his real name. But there were a few sections was talking about Reddit.

Basically, how this works... I'm just going to use Max as one of the examples. So, his community that he was a part of... I don't know if you saw this in the article, but you might go back and have a look. So, they might use their names, but they can have a user's name. We're just calling that Max for now. So, on this sub-Reddit, you can join this community, and the way it works is, on the side of the sub-Reddit, you have these arrows. And the way it works is that it's the community that drives the content. It's not administrators. It's actually driven by the community.

So, if somebody reads or watches something on these sub-Reddits, they can up-vote it, which means they can up-vote it or down-vote it. It's based on whether they like it or not. So, if it gets a lot of up-votes, it moves up through the rankings, the Reddit rankings, so that more people can see it. The ultimate goal, I guess, is to come on the main big forum, the website, the main one that you see if you open Reddit. Also, you can down-vote it, and then it just pretty much disappears from the viewers' site.




This is how it works through the sub-Reddit, and it eventually will go on here. So, there might be 600 people that have voted the forum up, and then it will appear on the main website. As I said, it's the community that votes on the concept. And also, a few things about Reddit, it does thrive on being anonymous. Pretty much, anything goes. Since 2017, they have changed a lot of things, since Charlottesville. Reddit was used a lot through there.

There's about 130K different sub-Reddits. So, that's 130K different communities that you can join, and I'm sure it's increasing from there. I guess Reddit's really popular, because it's a space that people can find common ground and join these communities. In 2001 [2021?], it's really hard to do, to get statistics, because it's anonymous, their age, who they are; it's quite hard. So, they do surveys; and they can draw the information that way; but there's one done in 2001 [2021?]. We're just going to have a look at some of the stats from there.

[I believe Rachel was referring to the June 10, 2021 survey done, found on '[Advanced-television.com](https://www.advanced-television.com)']

So, Reddit was created in 2005. In 2001 [2021?], the survey was conducted. That's the way they gathered the information. And, Reddit was ranked in the whole world; it was ranked the 19<sup>th</sup> most visited website. In the US, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> most visited website. They have also a mobile app that you can use on your phone, and that's actually one of the most popular apps in the US. I'm not too sure much about what that [app] looks like on the phone, but basically, a lot of people use the app more than on their laptop.

Overall, Reddit usage per month, there are 430 million active users per month. What we want to have a look at is who uses Reddit. So, 36% of the users are between the ages of 18 and 29. Maybe we'll do the math; so, if we have a look at this per month, correct me if my math is wrong, per month 154,800,000 users are between the ages of 18 and 29. And then, another thing we want to have a look at really quickly is that 63.2% identify as being male. So, if we did the math on that one, we're talking about 271,760,000 as being males.

	World Wide	- 19 <sup>th</sup> visited website
	US	- 7 <sup>th</sup> visited website
	Reddit Users per month	- 430,000,000
	36% Age 18-29	- 154,800,000
	63 % Male	- 271,760,000

And, the last little bit was, so the highest users of Reddit are in America. The second highest views are actually in Australia. That was surprising. That was a very basic overlook of Reddit. Has anyone got any questions? Raymond, you have your hand up?

Raymond – I don't know if you found this in your research, but, when you said that users can vote on content, either good or bad, I don't know if it was commented on at all in what you looked at, but does that encourage more extreme content because people want, obviously the community, to either like or dislike their stuff, and be visible.

Rachel – It does get a bit complicated, how the up-vote and the down-vote work. It can actually go on the date that it's actually presented as well, that has effect. If it's more than three days old, it can actually go down the rankings really quite quickly as well. So, I did mention it, quickly like Charlottesville, the community that was doing that, because what they can do, they can link it. It's kind of a little bit like Twitter with a hashtag. You can link all these as well. If you're looking for a certain thing, you can actually find it from Google as well. So, I'm not sure if I answered your question. Sorry.

Raymond – That’s Ok.

Rachel – Ask me again.

Raymond – The question was, does that voting system encourage people to post more extreme things to get more votes and more visibility?

Rachel – I guess that depends if that’s what the community is about, then that’s how it’s driven by that community. If that’s what they like, then it’s going to get up-voted. The more numbers it gets, then it will file through, and then get more viewers. The idea is to get more people joining and more viewers. Does that answer your question?

Raymond – Yeah. Thank you.

Rachel – Greg.

Greg – So, basically, that doesn’t mean it has to be accurate or factual. It just has to be popular.

Rachel – Yeah. And, there is actually on the main Reddit page, links like what’s hot and what’s popular as well. So, it’s very changing sort of platform. It’s not a, it doesn’t stay stagnant at all. If you get on there and have a look at Reddit, and then you might take a snippet that others can actually share a snippet, and then you go back a few hours long, that’s what you think. It’s always changing. Josephine.

Josephine – the people that write, do their names come up so that you know it’s a specific person writing for the community, or is it the community’s name that comes up when it goes into the big page or the small page.

Rachel – Sorry, Josephine. I couldn’t hear that. I don’t have the best audio.

Josephine – Then he people that write the article that get up-loaded, their names appear there, and when it’s up-loaded on to the forum, is that the community’s name that comes up or the person as well as the community?

Rachel – So, you have a person that has a user’s name, but this is the community. This is the one that Max is in, from that article that Elder Tess posted. So, that’s their community. You can join that community, and then you can write posts and send photos, and be a part of that community.

Josephine – Thank you.

Rachel – James. Did you want to ask something?

James – No, not really ask so much as a comment, because I sort of use it sometimes. Usually, when I make comments on certain videos and stuff like that, people can give rewards and stuff like that, and usually the rewards cost some money to give out. So, it’s kind of involved.

Rachel – Yeah. They can get karma rewards. It's quite complicated, so I was hoping to just simplify it. It can be complicated. It's really community driven. They do have monitors, moderators. It's not the administrators that actually have a lot to do with it. So, they've got people that actually go through posts. So, now it's a lot more, not lot more regulated, but there are things that are there. There are more rules to what you can put on compared to before 2017. This was just an example, but it could be, there was one that went through that would, for Donald Trump, say they had asked that for Reddit, and then they'd have Trump, something about Trump on here. So, everyone that would be sharing on the sub-Reddit, would be either for that community, and that's how it just gets driven by people pushing that concept. Are there any more questions? Brendon.

Brendon – Just to clarify, this is anonymous, isn't it?

Rachel – Yes. That's correct. I might not have said it.

Brendon – No. You did say it. I'm just clarifying. **So, I'm just trying to get to why this is important. So, I'm just trying to understand myself. So, what we're seeing here is a group of people who are anonymous, who are actually driving content that gets their passions stoked. As a result of that you've got a community of like-minded people feeding off each other, I guess in an isolation bubble in their own sub-Reddit.** Is that basically what's happening here? No matter what, regardless of the topic, and obviously the topic we're talking about is feminism, sexism.

Rachel – Yeah. Absolutely. You're right, Brendon.

Brendon – **It's getting to the, I guess these people, because they're anonymous, their inhibitions are dropped because they're anonymous. And, they're just speaking from their soul. And, they're just going yep, yep, yep, and it's getting to the beating heart of what that community is after in that little sub-Reddit.** Is that basically what's happening?

Rachel – Yeah. There are people on there that actually want to do nice things on this forum, but there a lot of things that are questionable, absolutely.

Brendon – I guess we're focusing on a very specific thing with our study. But, you're right. It could be any topic about anything. It could be positive or negative. It's whatever that community, it's whatever is driving that group. It forces a like-minded group of people together in whatever topic. Thank you, Rachel.

Rachel – When we talked about Twitter, remember how we talked about the hashtag, how people can connect in that same way. So, the community can act the same way. That was my brief summary. Any more questions?

Elder Tess – Thank you, Rachel. Could you turn your board over again for me?

Rachel – Are you correcting my math?

Elder Tess – Not at all. I trust your math implicitly. I just wanted to emphasize those numbers a little bit more. Thank you for explaining that to us. There's no use for us to discuss a data taken from Reddit if we don't understand what Reddit is, where that data comes from. And, what you have is the 7<sup>th</sup> most visited website in the US. I'll just list the top eight: Google, YouTube, Facebook, Amazon, Yahoo, Wikipedia, Reddit, and the eighth is Pornhub. That shows how commonly used this platform is, and perhaps many of us have never heard of it and have never been on it.

So, it sounds when we say such a percentage of people on Reddit, of such groups on Reddit, believe or say the following, it doesn't really hold much significance for us if we think that Reddit is some two-bit forum with 15 people on it that no one has ever heard of. So, you've explained to us how it works, and you've explained to us how prolifically it's used, and also 63.2% is a sizable majority of those users, almost two thirds of users are male. Thank you, Rachel. Would you mind taking a couple of photos, one of each side of your board, and we'll put it up on our forum? I'll come back to you if people have more questions on that.

So, we wanted to explain Reddit before we went into our second VOX article. Reddit, like Facebook, and like Twitter, it's just a platform; it's just a mechanical system of nuts and bolts and gears. It's a mechanical platform where living, individual people are able to come together and express their views like we are today. If I was to join Reddit, which I'm not, if I was to join Reddit, I might look for groups that I believe in. I'm not going to try to go into a group that is against or hostile to my belief system. No one is going to do that unless they want to make trouble, which I don't find fun.

So, I'm going to find groups that fit with my world views, groups of people that I can be comfortable around and feel safe to express my views with. What Reddit has been is a platform for especially men's rights forums. So, when heavily male user base, when men get together on forums to support and promote men's rights, obviously with the idea that men's rights or men's freedoms are under threat by the left-wing, they particularly head to Reddit to form those men's rights communities.

## *VOX Article*

When we spoke about the VOX article, and we shared that article, and you read it, does anyone picked up why we are explaining Reddit in the context of that article? There was a couple of key paragraphs in that article I wanted us to zoom in on. Greg.

Greg – In the article it was explaining about how they were going to forums such as Reddit, and they were speaking with people who were like-minded. And obviously, in the article it also showed that there were a few women who tried to put their opinions in, but I'm assuming now seeing those stats because it's 63% males, and young males probably, that the women were made to feel really bad or kicked out of the forum.

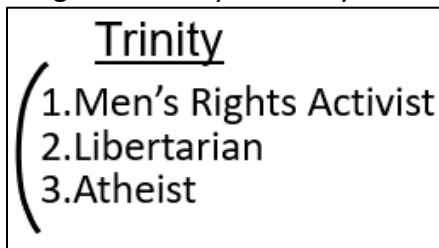
Elder Tess – Yes. The context of this article is a particularly one man, Max. And, what is Max? You get to the point in that article, he’s a libertarian, but he’s more than a libertarian. There are a few things that Max is. It’s called the “Trinity.”

Greg – It’s MRA or men’s, I can’t remember the R and the A.

Elder Tess – Men’s Rights. One, two, and three, what is the famous trinity? Men’s Rights Activist. In other words, men’s rights are under threat from women in the left. What’s two and three in this all-too-common trinity? Brendon.

Brendon – Libertarian and Atheist.

Elder Tess – Libertarian and Atheist. When we talk about the far-right today in the context of gender, but really in the context of anything, when we talk about the far-right, this is the most dangerous trinity that they see in action.



“There are some things Max is proud to be. He is an outspoken atheist and an active libertarian. The contours are the same: a proactive anticlericalism and a distaste for regulatory apparatus couched in a vague sense that this distaste constitutes a moral stance.”


So, he will see feminism with that kind of government enforced morality, very similar to how he will see religion. There is this government, God; it’s all a bit of a con, and it all takes away from people’s freedom. It’s all the regulatory apparatus, and it’s all a type of conspiracy theory because he will see religion, Christianity, as a conspiracy theory. He is atheist. He also sees discrimination against women as a type of conspiracy theory. Wage gap? What wage gap? Discrimination? What discrimination. Women have power. Women are care-givers. Being a care-giver carries with it a type of power.

What they’re seeing is that this trinity of atheism, with libertarianism, with this belief that men’s rights are under threat, and the opposition to feminism is a very common trinity. And, to prove that, they go to Reddit.

*“A survey taken last year of the Men’s Rights sub-Reddit found that 94 percent of the men on these sub-Reddits identifies ‘atheist’ or ‘religiously indifferent.’”*

That’s why I wanted you to see Reddit is not a small community to survey. If you go to Reddit where you would find about one in three men in the US are active on, and you go to men’s rights sub-Reddit, you’re going to find that 94% are not Christians. They are not anything; they

are atheists. 84% are strongly conservative. But, when they are strongly conservative, they do not lean republican. Because they're atheist, they're not looking for church and state. They're leaning libertarian. They are leaning towards libertarianism.

Subreddits →	94% Atheist
	84% Strongly Conservative /Leaning Libertarian

*“94% of their membership identifies as ‘atheist’ or ‘religiously indifferent’.” “84% identified as ‘strongly conservative,’ with particular policy preferences along a libertarian, not traditional, bent.”*

So, they're not after traditional values in the religious kind of sense.

*“For those of us hailing from the nominal left, these associations have at times felt unnatural: right-wingers using the rhetoric of social justice to argue for the traditional status of men, all the while eschewing, in a way more typical of the left, the patriarchal religious institutions that have classically underpinned these values. When Max speaks about one ideology [men’s rights], he can hardly help bringing in the others [libertarianism and atheism]; for him, they are all related, distinct expressions of the same worldview.”*

<p><u>Trinity</u></p> <p>1. Men’s Rights Activist</p> <p>2. Libertarian</p> <p>3. Atheist</p>
---

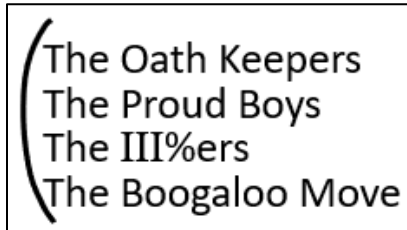
And then, it goes into his concept of religion. He calls religion one of the biggest threats to society. He says that feminism, statism, all of that, while not being explicitly about God, is the same kind of religious impulse. He calls it all, feminism, like religion, a type of big lie, a type of indoctrination that we receive through life.

So, that’s why we wanted to understand Reddit. We have to see the significance of these online forums, that this is not a small, obscure part of the internet. This is a fair reflection of the right-wing of the US, when you go into these sub-Reddit forums. So, sure, that traditional values, conservative with the traditional bent, Evangelical church/state union, portion of the right-wing supported Donald Trump and continues to, is a threat today. That’s kind of an older generation. What we’re seeing is the younger generation; because when you go into this kind of portion of the far-right, you’re also dealing with the younger audience.

So, I want to give a little bit more background into the far-right, both the leaders and also the groups that they are part of or the groups they lead. We might have to finish that next week. But I wanted to discuss the Oath Keepers, of course the Proud Boys (we have already started discussing the Proud Boys), The Three Percenters (I’ll use their logo); and the Boogaloo



movement (it's less of a really well-formed group than the above three). Particularly, the first three are properly organized far-right militia groups in the US today, and they haven't been around forever. They particularly, most of them, you can tie their roots back to, pretty much, 2009; the election of Barak Obama, but also the wider context of that history.



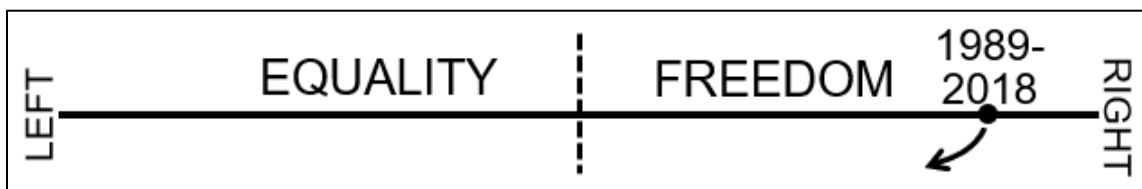
Do we have any thoughts or questions on that second article that we went to, because that was the main point of that article? I wanted us to see, like you said Mrs. Bennet, just how common that thinking was. Rachel, you carried us through the history of 2014, Gamergate. We see these leaders, those who are most outspoken in 2014; but they have a degree of voice and power, because the millions underneath them who, perhaps not with outspoken violent fervor or perhaps not a 100% supporting everything that they say, but supporting of the ideology that those men were espousing in 2014. Marie.

Marie – One thing that stood out to me, the phrase, “they’ve lost their place,” made me realize that conservative Adventism, when they’re talking about the headship and the males, I’ve often heard them say how they’ve lost their place and it’s all because of women taking on different roles. So, I thought that was interesting, where that’s actually coming from and the connection there.

Elder Tess – Yes. They have that feeling of being threatened, but it’s not coming from a religious position or religious perspective. They are atheists and they still strongly feel this group threat.

Marie – And I think it’s interesting that the Adventists are connecting with them in that way. It’s sort of like bridging that connection there. So, it seems to me.

Elder Tess – Yes. It’s all connected to the same idea. We’re discussing the right-wing, which stands for freedom. And when we drew that out, we saw that Evangelicals today and the Republican Party, they stand for freedom over equality, but not in its most pure sense. We’re going into its most pure sense, which is why, if this (the right-wing) is freedom over equality, and this (the left-wing) is equality over freedom, the more you espouse freedom over equality, the further on the right political spectrum you’re going to get, aren’t you? The more pure your belief in absolute freedom is going to become.



And, the more pure you believe in freedom, the more you're going to oppose any attempts to promote social equality; the more you're going to see the promotions of equality as a threat, a threat to you. That's why you're going to find someone like Enrique Tario, not white, opposing Black Lives Matter (BLM), while saying that he is not racist. Why? What then is threatening him? What is making him so angry and so upset, that he is burning flags, attacking historical churches, and being found before Jan. 6 in the capitol with a weapons stash? What makes someone do that except for the feeling of being extremely threatened; your rights and liberty being threatened?

You might think that as you get further and further into the right-wing, you're going to get further into religious fundamentalism. In 2022, that's not really the case. So, we went to Reddit to see that. I'm going to quote (and I won't give the whole article, because I actually don't agree with a lot of the things he says), but I'm going to quote a male atheist. He says, quoting a male atheist,

*"By neglecting to address its darker currents, online atheism has perhaps unknowingly planted the seeds for the alt-right harvest. Three years ago, Reddit's atheism sub-form, perhaps the largest community of atheists on the internet, was found to be the website's third most bigoted, meaning not just to tolerate of overt displays of bigotry but actively support of them. Last year, the daily beast revealed that the study's most bigoted Reddit sub-forum called the "Red Pill" was founded by Robert Fisher, a republican state lawmaker who is also an atheist."*

So, we need to see, when we look at the news, and we see the far-right, when we see the Proud Boys, when we see the Oath Keepers, when we see the Three Percenters, when we see the Boogaloo movement, and we look at Jan. 6, a lot of this is new. There's always been that kind of stream in society, but the activation of that stream, how mainstream it has become, how violent and visible and political it has become, is really only since about 2009 to today. I think at least the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters trace their beginning to 2009. But, the entire kind of the militia movement in the US would tie it back to about that time period. Josephine.

Josephine – I've thought about the equality and the freedom when they conflict. I might be taking us a little bit back to your camp meeting we just had. I wonder, is that all right or should I just leave it?

Elder Tess – No, by all means.

Josephine – I first read the Adventist quote you had there, I think it's back in 1986, and I read it in an Adventist church, and I was quite surprised that, that was a really big deal that Christ died not because of the wounds or the treatment (He did); what broke His heart, that's what I mean, and not because of that but because of the sin. Now, I had wondered then as to what exactly the sin was, but I never got the idea. But, as I went through it with you in your lecture, it, and the way you presented it, how it broke Christ's heart, it was so embedded in my mind how bad that, how the familiarity with sin, and how hard to eradicate that sin from the lives of humanity

that has taken a whole Eden to Eden to do that. And, it really made an impact on my mind, and the conflict between freedom and equality, and how you mentioned about force, the big government has to apply force sometimes, and maybe pressure, like strong pressure, extreme pressure, in order to have equality. I don't know just, it just had an impact that it never had on me before, just realizing what you just mentioned.

Quote Josephine Mentioned – The Present Truth (UK) February 4, 1886, paragraph 1.

*“It was not the dread of death which caused the inexpressible agony of Jesus. To believe this would be to place him beneath the martyrs in courage and endurance; for many of those who have died for their faith, yielded to torture and death, rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake. Christ was the prince of sufferers; but it was not bodily anguish that filled him with horror and despair; it was a sense of the malignity of sin, a knowledge that man had become so familiar with sin that he did not realize its enormity, that it was so deeply rooted in the human heart as to be well-nigh impossible to eradicate. It was the guilt of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon him as man's substitute, that broke the heart of the Son of God. Every pang that he endured upon the cross, the blood-drops that flowed from his head, his hands, and feet, the agony that racked his frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled his soul at the hiding of his Father's face, speak to man, saying, ‘It is for love of thee that the Son of God consents to have these heinous crimes laid upon him; for thee he spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise and immortal life. He who stilled the angry waves by his word, and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble, and disease flee from his touch, who opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the dead to life, - offers himself upon the cross as the all-sufficient sacrifice for man.’”*  
{PrT February 4, 1886, par. 1}

Elder Tess – Were you done?

Josephine – Yes. Thank you.

Elder Tess – What we have seen for 6000 years is nothing more than a political election. Going right back to heaven, God has a political party. And, Satan says, I'm starting my own. You have a political party. I'm going to have a political party. And now, let's get all the angels to vote. Two-thirds of the angels vote one way, and one-third of the angels vote another way. God says, ok Adam and Eve, it's your turn to vote. I'm going to set up a simple system of voting, and you can decide what government you want; what political party you want to support. They voted, on behalf of this earth, to support Lucifer's political party. And, ever since then, all through the history from Eden to the cross, it's just been a fight, it's been one election campaign.

Generation after generation of God just asking people to vote. Decide which government you want. That has been the story from Eden to the cross. It's the story at the cross. Christ is on the cross. He's in Gethsemane first. His heart breaks there. He can see what happens when people choose Satan's political side. People only choose Satan's side because he makes it look beautiful. He makes it look fair, logical, reasonable, and beautiful. It's a reasonable right, isn't

it? It's the "red pill." It's the side that hasn't bought into the con that is Christianity, the con that is feminism; the side that is thinking for themselves. Christ sees that, and it breaks His heart. But, ever since then, today and especially at the Sunday Law, all it is, the entire great controversy, is an election campaign. Satan is selling his political platform, and Christ is selling His political platform. That's the significance of 2018. That's what we're calling out two streams of information to be.

You can see it externally. We go to 2016. It's not a perfect parable, but you have two streams, two political systems. And, you know that you have to be able to see the great controversy in 2016, because 2016 is going to lead you to the Sunday Law. The Sunday Law, you know you see the great controversy at the Sunday Law. And you know that the Sunday Law is about politics. So, you have to be able to see the great controversy in politics in the United States. If you can't see it now in the politics in the US, how can you possibly see the great controversy in the US at the Sunday Law? The Sunday Law is, has always been about a political issue, whether that was about slavery or whether that was about the enforcement about Sunday. It's always about a political issue. It's always got two sides fighting for or against it in congress.

So, if there's going to be a side for and against the Sunday Law at the Sunday Law, then you're going to have two sides; one against the Sunday Law who must represent in whatever poor fashion they do, God's political party, and if you're going to have another side fight for the Sunday Law, then, in whatever poor fashion they do, they're fighting for Satan's political party. It's all about politics. I don't know why people, Adventists, think they can understand the great controversy, they can understand the Sunday Law, and somehow, they can do all of that without understanding or taking any external position on politics today. If they think the Sunday Law could come at any time, then wouldn't they need to understand politics today?

It's all about an election campaign. And, we, a lot of people, vote at the Sunday Law, because that's when they have to make a decision about what political party they want; but they're choosing between two different ethos. They're choosing between left-wing ethos and right-wing ethos. When we talk about the right-wing, historically, we've always gone here and seen evangelicals, seen church and state because we go back to the reformation, and we see the failings of Calvin and John Knox; how they supported church and state; how that moved to the US through the first and second great awakenings. Then we see that traced through history. But when we get to now and it's a post-Christian world, we end up in a dangerous position if we keep thinking that it's republican Christians who are the clearest representatives of, it sounds harsh but it's not, of Lucifer's political party. They're not the clearest representatives, because it's in a post-Christian world.

We need to understand right-wing as it exists over here [on the right], where you might have the Mitt Romney, and then you'll get a Ted Cruz, and you'll get everything on this political spectrum (right-wing) that will say, however nicely they'll say it, freedom has to trump equality or else we'll lose both. We care about equality, but if we don't prioritize freedom then the country will cease to be a republic and everything will die. But I want us to move beyond that kind of right-wing that gets mocked when you go online and you see videos of republican

senators asking Mark Zuckerberg, so you like Twitter? My grandkids are on Twitter. And, it all gets mocked. These older generation republicans, heavily a Christian kind of leaning, they're not America's future. America's future is post-Christian. That's the right-wing that we're seeing rise up today, that we've seen rising up since 2009.

It's not the growing Evangelical power base in the US that is propelling us toward the Sunday Law. It's not. What's propelling us towards the Sunday Law is, what particularly started around 2009, a more activist and militant right-wing. And, this is heavily millennials, which is somewhere in their 20's to about their 40's, heavily millennials, and with that younger base, very concerned about the rights of men in the face of feminism and LGBT civil rights; they are the libertarians and atheists. There are couple of questions. I will close, if you could, if you wouldn't mind holding them until next week. But there was just a couple of, there was just one quote that I wanted to go to if I can try and find it. I just wanted to go to one of these groups, the Three Percenters.

Mark Pitcavidge is an expert on militias at the anti-defamation league, and he said when you look at these militias, they are basically three things: Libertarians, plus guns, plus conspiracy theories. It's not republicanism. It's not Christianity. Arm the libertarians, and then you give them conspiracy theories, and that's where you get the far-right today. That's where you get the Unite the Right rallies. We'll come back to this breakdown and analysis of the right-wing next week.

## *Closing Prayer*

If you kneel with me, we'll close in prayer.

Dear Lord, it can seem dry covering all these political issues. I pray that we will see the great controversy in it. May we see our history as this election campaign, where you're pleading with us to choose your government; your government, your political platform over Satan's government, and over his political platform. May we choose yours. May we see it as it is even if some of it involves the cross, even if some of it does not appeal to us in the way that Satan's does. May we vote for you. May we choose you. Not just in feelings and emotions, but with thorough understanding of the principles upon which your government is built, understanding our freedoms but also where you limit our freedoms, where you become involved in day-to-day aspects of our lives, where you choose to restrict us.

May we accept that restriction when we understand why you do that, how you do that, and why you do that. We put all of this into your hands and pray that you continue to enlighten us. Continue to guide your people. Continue to prepare us for the Sunday Law. For all those who are struggling, Lord, for all those who are seeing the appealing messages coming from right-wing streams, even within the Movement, I pray that they'll wake up, that the light behind them of two streams of information, the Midnight Cry that shines their path, that it doesn't go out. May it not go out on ours. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.