

Vicarious Sacrifice: Eucharist; The Appearance to the Disciples Including Thomas: the Problem of Anthropocentric Philosophies & the Attack on “Free Exercise”: Supreme Court Decisions Flip the Bill of Rights to Apply to the States; Allows the “Establishment Clause” to Suppress the “Free Exercise” & “Freedom of Speech” Clauses by Means of the 14th Amendment; These are the “Difficult Times” Prophesied by Paul in 2 Tim 3:1–5, 7, 12; *Prómachoi* Are to Close Ranks in Defense of Truth, Eph 4:25

- For over a century now, there has been a concerted effort by proponents of Progressivism to undermine the “free- exercise clause” of the Constitution’s First Amendment.
- To accomplish this, the strategy has been to broaden the parameters of the “establishment clause.”
- By doing this, free exercise has become consistently more constrained. First, there was the prohibition of prayers in schools; rules against mentions of God or biblical passages in commencement addresses, no wearing of Christian symbols at work, forbidding chaplains in the military from concluding prayers in Jesus’ name, and many other restrains on “free exercise.”
- Each of these is in fact the “abridging of free speech,” another freedom codified in the First Amendment.
- Simultaneously with this, the “free-speech clause” has been broadened to allow almost any display of deviant sex in media and the expression of such in music, screenplays, and concerts.
- This inversion of thought promotes the Luciferian objective of muzzling the communication of truth while advancing and aggrandizing the lie.
- And each of these objectives is advanced by appealing to the same Constitutional source: freedom of speech for Christianity is suppressed by means of restricting “free exercise” while freedom of speech for the lie is expanded.
- This process allows anthropocentric philosophies to abound while truth is suppressed.
- But take heart. God knew of this in eternity past and has informed us of its appearance in human history:

2 Timothy 3:1 - Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

v. 2 - For men will be loves of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3 - unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

v. 4 - treacherous, reckless, conceited, loves of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

v. 5 - holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

v. 7 - Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

v. 12 - Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

v. 13 - But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- Knowing these things, we are to pursue truth in order to stand fast in the conflict:

Ephesians 4:25 - Therefore, having laid aside the lie, each one of you speak the truth with your fellow believer for we are fellow members of the royal family.

- The next event in our Lord's post-resurrection appearances is His meeting with the seven disciples at the Sea of Galilee in John 20, a passage we have already studied briefly; verses 15-17.