

I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

Shepherds for Sale with Megan Basham

(July 26, 2024)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, is your pastor for sale? Are megachurch pastors for sale? Have you heard some positions about cultural and political issues at church that seem a little bit off, that may even contradict the Bible? In fact, there are some very prominent leaders who call themselves evangelicals who say that clear biblical teachings on life, on marriage, on sexuality and gender are unclear. They're very nuanced.

While these same people are claiming that their positions on debatable issues such as climate change, immigration, and vaccines are gospel, and if you don't agree with them, you're not loving your neighbor. Ladies and gentlemen, where does this come from? Well, my guest today has documented that leftist billionaire money is being used to influence what you hear from the pulpit. This money may also be influencing the curriculum your church is using and also influencing organizations that call themselves evangelical.

My guest is a real reporter. She actually checks into things, ladies and gentlemen. Her name is Megan Basham. She's a reporter for The Daily Wire. That's Ben Shapiro's organization. And she was on the show last year to give us a preview of what we're going to talk about today. I'm telling you, Megan's new book will be a better seller. It will shock the evangelical world and beyond because she's blowing the lid off corruption and she's showing that people are straying from the word of God, perhaps for money, for power, or some combination thereof.

The new book is called 'Shepherds for Sale: How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda.' So, you're going to want to pull up a chair as Megan blows the lid off this. And ladies and gentlemen, we're going to name names like the Apostle Paul did in the Bible. So, here we go. The great Megan Basham is our guest. Megan, how are you?

MEGAN:

Thank you. That may be the best introduction I've had so far on this press tour for this book. So, thank you, Frank. I'm very grateful to be here.

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FRANK:

Well, it is a great book. Before we get into it, give us a little background of where you came from and how you wound up as a reporter for The Daily Wire. How did this happen?

MEGAN:

Well, you know, like so many of what I expect will be your listeners, my whole world has really revolved around my faith. My children have always been in a Christian school. I worked in Christian media. And then of course, we're very involved in our church. And so, with all of those things, I could not be more involved in the evangelical cultural landscape. And so, a few years ago I started to see some things that set off alarm bells. I started to hear things related to critical race theory.

I heard pastors talking about white privilege and how we needed to repent of that, and how the work of pursuing equity goes on and on. I got an email from my children's director at our church who was counseling us on how to talk to our kids about their white privilege. So, these things started to set off alarm bells. And then Covid happened. And I think, like for so many people, that was the point when the alarm bell started screaming. The way that so many churches and pastors handled the debatable issues of COVID in really legalistic ways, of insisting that if you as a Christian wanted to hesitate about getting vaccinated.

For example, maybe you were a young woman who was in your childbearing years trying to have children, and you weren't sure that you wanted to take this experimental vaccine. We saw churches fire women on their staff who weren't willing to do that. We saw ministry leaders say that those women and other people who, for various reasons, maybe didn't want to get the vaccine, that they weren't loving their neighbor and weren't being obedient to Jesus. So, all of these things were so disturbing to me. And I can tell you that I dealt with it a little bit at the evangelical magazine that I was at.

Some of those staff, our Slack channels became like a war zone because any suggestion that maybe we would cover what was happening with COVID in a way that departed from that official narrative was extremely upsetting to them, and they would suggest that it was

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irresponsible to include some of the alternative medical voices who were offering other perspectives. Thankfully, that magazine righted the ship.

Those very woke staffers left and went to Christianity Today. But in the meantime, while that was going on, I happened to do an interview with Andrew Klavan at The Daily Wire. What they were doing over there and the freedom they had to talk about these things was so appealing to me. I just, on a whim, said, gosh, do you think you guys could have anything for me? And I gave him my resume. And next thing you know, there I was.

And I had this new freedom to write about these issues in a way that I think it was harder to do when I was inside the evangelical tent. And as my husband said, I could not write about them because I was so pent up with so much knowledge of what I had seen and so many disturbing feelings about what was going on, that I was just gunning to get some of those things down on paper.

FRANK:

Yeah, the interesting thing about The Daily Wire is they have people from almost every conservative perspective. Of course, they have Ben Shapiro being an orthodox Jew. They have, I think Andrew Klavan, if I'm not mistaken, is a messianic Jew. Right? He believes in Jesus. And then you've got Matt Walsh, who's Catholic, Michael Knowles, who's Catholic.

And they have you, who's an evangelical Protestant. Right? And so, they're covering the gambit of conservative thought. And in this book, Megan, you don't pull any punches. You're naming names, and we're going to name names here as well.

MEGAN:

That's journalistic. You have to do that.

FRANK:

And you've tried to interview every one of these people. You got to some of them and not others. But let's start with the money connection. Can you kind of give us an overview of where money is coming from to influence evangelicals to move left?

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MEGAN:

Yeah. Just to give you a really quick background, I would say this started about ten years ago. Foundations like George Soros's Open Society realized that they were having trouble getting their policy preferences advanced because of that evangelical firewall. And so, one of the things I show in the book are the memos that they were sending to each other saying, okay, how do we harness the power of religious life? Because we're not successful combating it. It's not going to go away.

So, how do we get these people on board with our agenda for things like, and I'm going to use some of their terms here, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, climate change initiatives, immigration policies that would open the border, and other things like that. And so, that really started to become a conversation among those groups. Your George Soros', your Rockefeller Foundations in the early 2000's to mid 2013ish.

And so, at that point, they started giving money to a variety of evangelical groups, or they helped create evangelical front groups. To give you one example, right around 2013, a left leaning secular NGO called the National Immigration Forum partnered with the National Association of Evangelicals, the left leaning "Christian magazine" Sojourners, to establish the evangelical immigration table.

So, that became a Christian front group whose purpose is to move evangelicals on border policy. And I always want to tell people that when you hear about groups like this, they're not doing things that, you know, most Christians would certainly agree with, like spreading the Gospel to immigrants regardless of how they got here or seeing to their material needs. Their purpose is very explicitly political. They are trying to get legislation passed.

FRANK:

And that legislation will lead to a situation where you have so many immigrants coming in this country that they can vote the country further and further left. That's their goal. And as you quote in the book, Megan, again, the book is called 'Shepherds for Sale', ladies and gentlemen. George Soros basically has said that borders are antiquated. We don't want borders. They want a complete one world kind of situation.

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And that is going to be problematic, as you point out in the book, and we'll get to it right after the break, that God has actually established borders and thinks that countries and walls are good things for a reason. We're going to talk to much more with Megan Basham on her brand new book, 'Shepherds for Sale: How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda.' Names will be named because you need to know who the wolves are out there, ladies and gentlemen, back in just two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you're listening to this on Friday, July 26, I'm scheduled to speak in Palm Beach at the Believer's Summit put on by TPUSA just about 45 minutes before President Trump speaks. Me and a few other speakers will be leading just before President Trump. And I'm going to be talking about why Christianity is true. So, if you're anywhere near Palm Beach and want to attend this seminar, which, by the way, this conference, not a seminar, it's going on for three days. Go to our website CrossExamined.org and look up the details or go to TPUSA.com and you will see it there. And it's not just me.

In fact, my guest today, Megan Basham, is going to be speaking down there at that conference on Sunday. Also, obviously, Charlie Kirk will be there. Pastor Rob McCoy, Seth Gruber, Allie Stuckey, you'll have James Lindsey there. You'll have other apologists, Cliff and Stuart Knechtle. They're great folks. Seth Dillon of The Babylon Bee, they're all going to be down at this amazing conference. So, check all that out on our website. And if you're near Palm Beach, would love to see you.

Also want to mention for you maniacs up there, you guys that live in Maine, I'm going to be up there with Erwin Lutzer and a couple of other speakers this coming Monday and Tuesday. Monday we're going to be in Bangor, Maine. And on Tuesday we're going to be in Portland, Maine. All the details on our website, CrossExamined.org. Just look at events or Frank Turek calendar. You will see it there.

All right. Let me go back to Megan, who was blowing the lid off what appears to be corruption inside the evangelical church. The new book is called 'Shepherds for Sale: How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda.' Megan, I'm going to throw out a name to you, and maybe you can fill in some details about this name. This man claims to be an evangelical. His name is Russell Moore. Who is he?

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MEGAN:

So, Russell Moore is the former head of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is the political lobbying arm of the country's largest Protestant denomination. He was, I would say, pushed out of that organization for his progressive politicking and ended up as the Editor and Chief at Christianity Today. So, when I think about him, I think of him very much as a political operator.

If you ever watch the show House of Cards, I've kind of likened him to Frank Underwood because he has many, many media contacts. He uses those media contacts frequently. You will see positive stories, I would say extremely slanted stories in his favor in outlets like the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the New York Times, heavily politically connected. And when he was the head of the ERLC, one of the things he did was get the organization very deeply involved with one of those groups I was just talking about, the Evangelical Immigration Table.

And you saw him frequently with President Obama. There were pressers and some reporting that Obama actually waited until the Evangelical Immigration Table released one of its public letters and did some of its PR work on behalf of, at that time, which was the Gang of Eight bill, if you remember that. That was John McCain and Chuck Schumer's bill that would have allowed illegal immigrants to obtain legal status by paying a fine of up to \$1,000.

So, potentially less than \$1,000. So, a very low bar to cross to be able to jump the line and get legal status in the United States after having come here illegally. So, he's just an extremely political guy. And as he was working on those activities, he was also extremely critical of President Trump when 2016 came around, became very well known as a never Trump critic in the media.

And so, he has been held out as kind of by the left wing secular media, the voice of evangelical's conscience. In fact, the New York Times called him an evangelical dissenter trying to save evangelicalism from itself. So, you know, he's somebody who, I think the secular left media would like to be the spokesperson of evangelical Christians. Evangelical Christians don't feel so good about that.

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FRANK:

Now, you document in the book how Russell Moore, who is now the, I think the editor of Christianity Today, which has gone far left, would talk about how Christians should get the vaccine if I'm not mistaken. And if not, you're not loving your neighbor. And of course, we should be for all sorts of immigration. And of course, Christians can debate what level of immigration we should have. But open borders, obviously, is not a compassionate position, because we have drug traffickers, we have sex traffickers, we have terrorists coming across the border.

There's been 88,000 children in our country who are now missing. Most of them have been sex trafficked. So, it is not a compassionate thing to have an open border. Yet, Russell Moore and others who claim to be evangelicals seem to be advocating for all of these positions. However, you point out in the book, Megan, this was very telling, of when Roe v. Wade was overturned. What did Russell Moore do?

MEGAN:

Right. And it's important to remember at that moment, I don't think he had yet been promoted to Editor and Chief of Christianity Today. He was just its public theologian. So, you would expect the public theologian of evangelicalism's flagship magazine to comment on the Dobbs decision. But in fact, he was absolutely silent for several weeks. And what we can now assume is that it was because of President Trump.

He had been such a prominent never Trumper that it would have been very awkward to give any credit to that particular president for keeping his promise to appoint justices who would overturn Roe. And I'm so glad that you brought up what happened with COVID because that has really been Russell Moore's role in evangelicalism, representing the interests of the powerful to the rank and file. And one of the ways he did that very much during COVID was platforming Francis Collins, the National Institutes of Health director, otherwise known as Anthony Fauci's boss.

And he presented Collins as a strong evangelical Christian brother that we could all trust and had information, knew very well that Francis Collins had, in his role as NIH director, fought President Trump and ensured that a traffic and aborted baby parts could continue so that

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research could be done. And during his time in overseeing that department, we saw things like experiments at the University of Pittsburgh, where they were grafting baby scalps onto lab rats.

He spearheaded an initiative, an LGBTQ initiative, because he calls himself a strong LGBT ally, and it included things like transgender treatments. I hate to use the word treatment, so let's say procedure. Transgender procedures on children, cross-sex hormones, puberty blockers, mastectomies on girls as young as 12, studies on young boys and their homosexual activity that were conducted without their parents' knowledge.

So, these are things that Francis Collins funded during his watch at NIH, and, in fact, spearheaded that LGBTQ initiative. So, when Russell Moore was presenting him, he was not giving anyone that information and yet was parroting the government's narrative that you need to listen to Francis Collins, keep your churches shut, get the vaccine to show you love your neighbor, and, you know, wear those cloth masks that we now know were completely ineffective.

FRANK:

Now, Megan, who was it? It may have been Russell Moore. I read the book, but I'm trying to remember who it was now, who after Roe v. Wade was overturned, didn't say, well, this is a good thing. What they wound up saying was, well, now the government needs to basically up their welfare programs in order to pay for all the so-called unwanted children. Was that Russell Moore or was that...?

MEGAN:

He was one of them. So, when he did finally speak, it took a couple of weeks. When he finally came out and said something about Dobbs, which is noteworthy in itself, because anytime there was something critical of the Trump Administration, he was Johnny on the spot the very next day or sometimes within hours with a critical essay. But after a couple of weeks, yes, he put out an essay, didn't give President Trump any credit, but he advocated for a stronger social safety net so that women would not want to get abortions.

And the same thing with Beth Moore, people who were close in Russell Moore's orbit, like Karen Swallow Pryor, who is a columnist and professor. And so, what they have argued is that

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Christians need to show that they care for the mother, which they do. But let's be very clear, Christians have always done that. So, it was kind of a sleight of hand way of suggesting that we still don't get any credit for this effort that we have undertaken politically to ensure that our law starts to recognize that babies in the womb are people who deserve full, due process, rights and protection.

So, when Russell Moore did that, I spent a lot of time showing how he and these others, including David French, who he's very close with, who is a New York Times columnist, kind of twisted themselves in knots to not give credit to President Trump. And in fact, would start to point out, well, abortions were lower under Obama, but did not mention things like, well, yes, because red state legislators took a lot of steps under Obama in order to restrict abortion during that era.

So, I mean, the big picture of that was just, let's not give any credit to President Trump. In fact, let's not talk about it for a few weeks. And at the same time, when we do talk about it, let's advocate stronger entitlements and expanded welfare programs.

FRANK:

Yeah. Isn't it interesting that these folks who claim to be evangelicals will be really bold about debatable issues that we all need to get behind, whether it's vaccines, whether it's illegal immigration, climate change, whatever it is. If you don't agree with us, you know, you're not loving your neighbor. But when it comes to black and white, very clear biblical issues like life, like gender, like marriage, suddenly that's nuanced. And, you know, there could be different opinions on that. They have it exactly reversed. Why is this, Megan? Why are these people actually backwards in their theology?

MEGAN:

Well, you know, my instinct is because that is the dominant cultural power center. You have all these Fortune 500 companies. They want to back some of this open border policy or these climate change initiatives. These are the issues that are important to them. They're the issues that are important to the World Economic Forum. And some of these pastors have been involved with them.

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FRANK:

Rick Warren. Okay, keep going. We'll talk about him later. Go ahead.

MEGAN:

And so, to me, I think that is why. Because you do not get a purchase on the power centers of American culture by taking up issues that are not popular with them. But if you take up these issues that you're bringing up that are debatable, gun control is another and say these are now Gospel issues, but these other issues we can be quiet about or they're nuanced and complex, then that makes you a popular evangelical influencer among those type of people who will then back you and will elevate you with fellowships and things of that nature.

FRANK:

And grants from George Soros.

MEGAN:

That's right.

FRANK:

Yes. And you tried to talk to Russell Moore. You tried to interview him. And I remember you saying at one point you were standing in line for an airplane going from Charlotte to Nashville. He's standing right next to you, and you say, hey, we got 20 minutes. Can we talk now? And he would not allow you to ask him questions.

You said, you've got to go through my assistant. And then you tried to do that, and he never would respond. Ladies, gentlemen, there's so much more we're going to talk about with the great Megan Basham. The book, again is 'Shepherds for Sale.' You don't want to miss the rest of our discussion. There are more wolves we're going to expose. Don't go anywhere. Back in just two minutes.

If you're low on the FM dial looking for National Public Radio, go no further. We're actually going to tell you the truth here. That's our intent anyway. You're never going to hear this on NPR. In fact, the people we are exposing are the kind of people that go on NPR and try and say

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that what isn't biblical really is. And they try to ignore what is biblical, issues like life, gender, and sexuality and try and say, oh, they're complex.

We can disagree over those things. Those things are nuanced. And Megan Basham, in her brand new blockbuster book, 'Shepherds for Sale,' is blowing the lid off this. This book comes out on the 31st of July. Pre-order it now. And when you get it, you'll probably read it in two or three sittings because it's very well written and Megan doesn't pull any punches. She is telling you where all this is coming from and why.

By the way, speaking of the life issue, our friend Scott Klusendorf, who is one of the top pro-life trainers in the world, will be running a course called 'How to Convince People to Be Pro-life.' It starts August 5. Go to Crossexamined.org. Click on online courses. You will see it there. And if you sign up for the premium version, you're going to be with Scott on at least six occasions for live Zoom Q&A's.

Let's talk a little bit more about the life issue, if we can, Megan. You mentioned that Francis Collins, who claims to be an evangelical, Fauci's boss, was actually doing Nazi like experiments or at least funding them. Who else in the world out there, the evangelical world, gets real squishy when you start talking about defending life. Bring somebody up.

MEGAN:

Well, I brought up Beth Moore in the book.

FRANK:

By the way, no relation to Russell Moore.

MEGAN:

But most people will know her as the very popular women's Bible teacher who has, I would say, been drifting left on a number of political issues. And she's also started to, you brought up downplaying sexuality, done things like that. But when the Dobbs decision came out, she made a statement where she said, well, I am pro all of life, womb to tomb. Which, yes, we are, but it was a way of downplaying the very specific nature of what pro-life means, which is protecting babies in the womb. It's what it's always meant to.

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So, she and others have done things like started to say that racial justice is also a pro-life issue, or you have seen the immigration issue or climate change being thrown into that basket of being a pro-life issue. And of course, what that does. And by the way, Tim Keller as well, I hate to say, but he did that also when the Dobbs decision was coming down, basically argued the social safety net position that, well, you know, we don't necessarily have to vote for politicians who are pro-life.

If we believe that the stronger social safety net, expanded welfare will lead to fewer abortions, that might also be a way we could be pro-life. So, what they've done in doing that is dilute the meaning of what pro-life is so that it does not have the power of the movement that actually got us to the point where we were able to overturn Roe. And, of course, we have a huge fight ahead of us.

But if you don't acknowledge that victory, it's not really surprising that you now have some GOP politicians who are like, well, it doesn't seem that important to them and think maybe they can skirt around that issue. So, as that was going on, that was probably the most disturbing thing to me, was to see them say, well, evangelicals who were pro-life, were backing Trump for power, and they made this exchange for an exchange for political power. They sold their souls. When, in fact, when you think about what politics is, it is enacting power.

Anytime you elect someone to see your policy preferences enacted, when someone else's aren't, you are wielding power. And that is a good thing. We should wield power for righteous causes because we're blessed to live in a representative Republic, and you can do that. And their argument was basically what you might call this pietistic, well, we need to sit out, go third party, and do things that would make us ineffective in the public square. And those were their arguments in pro-life.

And the most disturbing thing to me, largely was just that changing of what pro-life means. You even saw some of these people I mentioned, Carol Swallow Pryor, saying that to be pro-life, you had to wear those masks, you had to get vaccinated. And if you did not do those things, then you were not pro-life. And these were the arguments that were coming down from Francis Collins that people like Russell Moore, Beth Moore, and others promoted.

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In fact, Beth Moore said, if you did not get those vaccines, not only were you not pro-life, you were not following Jesus. So, yeah, so that you can see what damage that has done to the pro-life movement. And that is part of why I think it's so important that we talk about it openly, because you lose your political effectiveness when your aims aren't clear. And all of this has muddied the water incredibly.

FRANK:

Isn't it amazing that, I mean, these are smart people. One of my favorite preachers of all time is Tim Keller.

MEGAN:

Yeah.

FRANK:

I mean, he has great insights, or had great insights into the Scriptures. When he does a Bible exposition, I think he's wonderful. He's great. But how could a guy that smart equate not, say, wearing a mask or not getting a vaccine with murdering an unborn child? How are those two things equivalent at all?

MEGAN:

You know, I think part of what you see is the environment that they are in is impacting them. Like when you look at where Tim Keller was, he was in a very blue city, in a very blue state. And in some ways, I think it was impacting his thinking on these issues. And I agree with you. There are so much teaching and books of Tim Keller that I enjoyed and benefited from. But when he started to talk about these political issues, there just seemed to be such a lack of discernment that was disturbing.

And I think a willingness in the pages of the New Yorker and other outlets to really disparage the red state evangelicals who for really defensible reasons, decided that pulling the lever for Trump to get those justices was a reasonable political transaction for Christians to make. And so, when I look at that part of what really bothers me, I always want to tell people, it's not even that I'm defending Trump. I'm defending the Trump voters who are Christians, who I think

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made solid, reasonable, biblical decisions when they cast those votes against those who are saying that they sold their souls for power.

FRANK:

Yeah, there are no perfect candidates. There are not even any perfect platforms. There are no perfect people. You're always choosing, quite often, between the lesser of two evils. And when you go into the voting booth, by the way, you're not just voting for one person, you're voting for 5000 people to go to Washington and implement an agenda, implement a platform. And Jesus, I think, told us what we ought to do. Because when he scolded the politicians of his day, the Pharisees, He said, you're neglecting the more important matters of the law.

It seems to me that's what these people are doing here, Megan. They're neglecting the more important matters of the law. They're talking about wearing masks and vaccines, and they're not talking about don't murder your children, don't transition your children, don't mutilate your children. I mean, sure, there are certain debatable issues, but life and child mutilation are not those issues. And yet they try and flip the script here. It's so maddening.

MEGAN:

It is. And there's another piece of this that is really sad. And this is not to beat up on Tim Keller, but it was a really revealing moment after his death. When a CNN contributor, Kirsten Powers, who at one time called herself an evangelical Christian and was a member of Keller's church, she wrote a sort of memorial about him, and it was bitter. And the reason it was bitter is because she said she was in his church for so many years before she realized that they did have pro-life convictions and that they did believe that homosexuality and transgenderism were sin. And she felt resentful that that was not presented to her early on.

And I think that's almost a little bit fair because she didn't count the cost of what it would mean to follow Christ, that you might have to take some cultural positions that are unpopular. And so, when she was writing about Tim Keller's death, she was writing about the fact that she felt like that his church's position on that was that we should protect babies and was that homosexuality is a sin, should have been disclosed to her and clear early on, long before she got deeply involved in the church.

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And I think that really reveals to us the danger of conflating all these issues together so that we don't have to talk about them with clarity, saying that racial justice, which is a very debatable issue, where disparities arise from and the cause of them socially, is the same thing as something as extremely clear as killing a baby in the womb.

So, more than anyone, I look at that Kirsten Powers essay, and I encourage Christians to read it and think, what is your lack of clarity causing the people who think they are following Christ to believe? And how is it causing them to stumble when they realize, oh, I actually do need to believe everything that this Bible says. I can't just believe little parts of it.

FRANK:

You know, that reminds me of Beckett Cook. I don't know if you know Beckett Cook's story, Megan. Beckett, living as a gay man in Hollywood, apparently was in a restaurant, and he saw a couple of guys with their Bibles. And as he tells the story, if I'm remembering properly, he asked them, what does the Bible say about homosexuality?

And they told him directly, it's a sin. And he was actually thankful for that. And he ultimately became a Christian. If they had hemmed and hawed or been unclear or said it's nuanced, he might have never become a Christian. And you actually quote Rosaria Butterfield in the book here.

Again, ladies and gentlemen, the book is called 'Shepherds for Sale' by Megan Basham, my guest. You need to get this book. Rosaria, and maybe you can remember it better than I can. Rosaria says that when you don't tell people the truth of their sin, you don't give them an opportunity to repent and get the forgiveness of Christ. Maybe you can go a little further with that.

MEGAN:

No, she did say that. And what's really great about Rosaria, is that she said that in the context of repenting for some of these things herself. I don't know if you happen to see this, but before her last book came out, 'The 5 Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age,' she publicly said, I bought into some of this for a time. I was using terms like pronoun hospitality, and I repent. And part of the reason she says she repents is because she felt like I was not being clear about what sin is.

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And we have to be clear about what sin is that people realize that they need repentance, that they need Christ, and that they are not okay with God on their own, and that that propitiation for sin is the only way that they're getting to heaven into eternal life. And I just love her testimony so much for that reason. And I love her willingness to repent.

FRANK:

For those of you that don't know, Rosaria Butterfield was a lesbian, and I think a professor for many years.

MEGAN:

Yeah, queer theory professor.

FRANK:

Yeah, queer theory professor. And was actually invited by a pastor to dinner and he and his wife and over a long period of time they had many discussions. She became a Christian and now she's a very strong advocate for Christianity and being very clear about the sin, sexual sin and other sins. And we have much more with Megan Basham. Coming up again, the new book, 'Shepherd's for Sale: How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda.' Don't go anywhere. We're back in just two minutes on the American Family Radio network.

Ladies and gentlemen, I get a lot of emails and a lot of questions from people who want to get into apologetics. They don't know where to go. I always tell them, go where I went. It's the best school in the nation on it, Southern Evangelical Seminary, ses.edu/Frank. You might get a scholarship if you go to ses.edu/Frank. And the reason I'm bringing that up right now is because Megan Basham, my guest today, who wrote the brand new blockbusting book 'Shepherds for Sale,' is going to reveal to us right now what's going on in the seminaries. What is going on in the seminaries, Megan?

MEGAN:

Yeah. So, a lot of these secular left funded groups that billionaires like George Soros, Bill Gates, Zuckerberg, the Clinton Foundation. I could go on and on. They have been funding organizations that are coming into seminaries to push certain teaching on what they will call, for example, creation care. But what they mean by creation care isn't that we should care for

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creation, because I think we all absolutely agree with that, and we think we should care for creation and be good stewards, but they will specifically mean climate change. And that it's something that you have to be an activist on to be faithful to the gospel. You see so many of these programs, for example, associated with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, which represent some 185 member schools.

So, that's a lot of Christian colleges, including schools like Biola. So, what they've been doing is promoting this evangelical environmental network and its activities, bringing in speakers. You've seen seminaries like Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, not to be confused with Southern Evangelical Seminary, bringing in speakers from groups like OROSHA, who are funded by secular left groups that also fund abortion, because you always have to remember that population control and climate change initiatives are frequently tied together.

And you will see the big groups who are backing that will frequently have the same priority of reducing the population. And so, these speakers are being brought into seminaries. They're presenting an ideology that in many ways is diametrically opposed to Scripture in the sense that they are saying that humanity is a blight on the world rather than a blessing. And so, when they do this, they are presenting the climate change initiative as something that as Christians you have to get involved with, and that you have to let your lawmakers know as Christian students that you want to see them back.

And so, as that's going on, all of these churches and various ministries are bringing it in. And I think so many parents aren't aware that that's what's going on. So many seminary students aren't aware that this is only one side of this is being presented. And if you talk to guys like at the Cornwall Alliance, which is a stewardship organization, that says, we actually want to present how you care for creation, not just a push climate change agenda. They actually say these groups never bring them in.

They're only bringing in these activists, including from the World Economic Forum. And so, when they do that, what they're doing is turning Christian students and seminary students into climate change activists. So, that's part of what I covered in the book, is the networks of how they're getting them into these schools, how they're funding them to specifically get into these

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student Bible studies and things like that to train these kids to be climate change justice warriors in the name of Christ, essentially.

FRANK:

Let me give you another name, Ed Stetzer. Go.

MEGAN:

Well, when we talk about what's happening on Christian colleges, I think it's impossible not to talk about Ed Stetzer because he's sort of been the tip of the spear on packaging up so many of these progressive agenda items in churchy language and Christianese. We've talked about COVID, and he was certainly on the cutting edge of that, formally partnering with the Center for Disease Control to promote the vaccine. And what's fascinating to me is some of the writing that Stetzer did on that has since disappeared.

So, it used to be at Christianity Today. It's not at Christianity Today anymore. They don't explain why. And so, you saw him using the Billy Graham Center to promote government narratives that were certainly debatable and were not something that were explicitly connected to Christian study, the spread of the Gospel, to understanding Scripture. These were things that were very much the agendas of the powerful and using his influence in these schools to do that. You kind of saw him doing the same thing with the #MeToo movement when that was blowing up in 2018.

He was one of the people who were out there saying to young women, well, if you get entangled in some of these sexual situations, you're only a victim. You're not in sin because of power differentials between you and some of these men that you're involved with. And so, these were things that was just very worldly ideology being repackaged in churchy language and being broadcast out to evangelical audiences through Christianity Today, through the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton, through his podcast and writing in other places.

FRANK:

And so, Ed was at the Billy Graham Center. Now he's at Biola, which causes me some concern because I've got great friends at Biola. Sean McDowell's at Biola. He does great work. But their leadership there is now suspect, sorry to say, especially when I read what you've put together

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here in this book. And again, friends, the book is called 'Shepherds for Sale' by Megan Basham, my guest. Now, you've tried to interview so many of these people to get clarity. How many of these people? And we've got more that we're going to talk about. In fact, we're not even going to complete our discussion here, ladies and gentlemen. I'm going to have Megan on the midweek podcast.

And for those of you who are listening on the American Family Radio network, you will not hear that on AFR. You need to find the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast. And this coming Tuesday, Lord willing, our discussion, our continued discussion will be up talking to Megan. We're going to talk about Andy Stanley. We're going to talk about Rick Warren.

Both those guys are friends of mine, by the way, but I don't mind saying that from what I've read, they're going in the wrong direction. We're going to talk about other people that you need to know about and be aware of. But you've tried to speak to these people. How many of these people that we've mentioned here have actually granted you an interview and tried to explain themselves?

MEGAN:

None. I mean, I've interviewed some people for the book prior to their understanding that I was going to use it for the book or working on the book. I had interviewed JD Greer, for example, megachurch pastor on the pronoun hospitality issue and some of the other things that I write about in the book. But once it was clear that I was going to be reporting on these issues for The Daily Wire, for example, Stetzer, I reached out to, as you said, Russell Moore multiple times.

So, Rick Warren I tried to get in touch with, and either I got, I never got really very many direct no's. What I would get is we just can't schedule it right now or no response at all. I will give CEO of Christianity Today, Tim Dalrymple, some credit because he did give me an email interview. We did exchange some emails. And so, I do give him credit for that. But very few of these guys were willing to talk to me. And some of the most prominent, like Russell Moore and Ed Stetzer, David French, they just simply weren't. They just didn't respond at all.

FRANK:

Interesting. Tim Dalrymple, if I'm not mistaken, used to be an Olympic gymnast.

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MEGAN:

Is that right? I did not know that.

FRANK:

Yeah. And the Olympics are going on right now and I don't know if he contorted himself in the interview. [Laughter]

MEGAN:

Yes, he did.

FRANK:

Was he trying to jump through hoops and flip the script?

MEGAN:

Yeah. So, you know, I think at that time when I was emailing with him, it was about Christianity Today and the fact that I had turned up that, you know, their staff between 2015 and 2022, which was all the records I had up to that point, had made 74 political donations between staff and board. And every single one went to Democrats, including some hard left Democrats like Elizabeth Warren. Their news editor Daniel Silliman, as he was doing covering the campaign and conducting interviews with political principals during the campaign season of 2020 was also giving money to Elizabeth Warren.

FRANK:

Why would you be supporting politicians who hold policy positions that are directly against biblical teaching, directly against on big issues, life, gender, sexuality, why? I don't understand.

MEGAN:

Yeah, that's a good question. I didn't get an answer to that. I just got that, well, we're going to change our policy and we're not going to allow our staffers of Christianity Today to make political donations anymore. But when you bring up Elizabeth Warren, I do think it's really important to note she is so extreme. She has promised to shut down crisis pregnancy centers all

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over the country. So, she's not just pro-abortion, she's trying to ensure that women cannot even be talked out of having abortions.

FRANK:

Look, I'm the first person out here to say that Christians ought to be involved in politics. In fact, I think everybody ought to be involved in politics. If you're interested in taking care of your neighbor and interested in what laws are made and not made, you ought to be involved. The question is, are you involved in politics if you're a Christian? Are you following what the Bible says and what natural law says?

And unfortunately, I see so many people making major issues, minor issues, and minor issues, major issues in politics. And you've exposed that in this book, Megan. It's so clear. Again, friends, the book is called 'Shepherds for Sale' by Megan Basham. Again, the subtitle 'How Evangelical Leaders Traded the Truth for a Leftist Agenda.' You need to know this, friends. You need to read this book and see if some of the things that Megan is uncovered are percolating up in your church. In fact, there's a curriculum out there we'll talk about in the next podcast, the Tuesday podcast.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have to find the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast in order to listen to it with Megan. There's a curriculum out there that is predominantly intended to move Christians to the left politically, and it's in churches right now. We'll talk about it in the next show. Megan, before we go and record the next show, where can people learn more about you? What's your website? Where do they go?

MEGAN:

Well, you can always find me at dailywire.com. Several days a week I am on The Morning Wire podcast. And of course, you can find me on Twitter. I spend a little bit too much time there. I guess it's X now. So, I'm @Megbasham and I'm on Instagram @JournalistMeganBasham.

FRANK:

All right, Megan, great work. We're going to see you in the midweek podcast. Don't forget, ladies and gentlemen, both Megan and myself will be down in Palm Beach this weekend, Lord willing. Go to Crossexamined.org, Click on events. You will see it there. I'm up this Friday night,

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Megan is up Sunday, and there are several other speakers. You don't want to miss it. I'll be in Maine next Monday and Tuesday. Check our calendar, and I'll see you here Tuesday, Lord willing.

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