

THE TIMES,

They Are Changing



THE STATE & DIRECTION OF MODERN "PROFESSED CHRISTIANITY"

The Times, They Are Changing

THE STATE & DIRECTION OF MODERN “PROFESSED CHRISTIANITY”



The Reality:
Things Are
Changing

Consequences of
These Changes

Some Reasons
Things Are
Changing

How We Should
Respond To These
Changes



2 TIMOTHY 4:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–5 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

The Reality: Things Have Changed

Christianity faces sharp decline as Americans are becoming even less affiliated with religion

By [Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#) May 12, 2015

“The percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christians dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years to about 71 percent, according to a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Center. ...”

The Washington Post

- 1. Millennials are growing even less affiliated with religion as they get older - (*Born 1981 to 1989*) in 2007 - 25% — in 2014 - 34%**
- 2. There are more religiously unaffiliated Americans than Catholic Americans (20.8%), or mainline Protestant Americans. (14.7%)**
- 3. Those who are unaffiliated are becoming more secular**

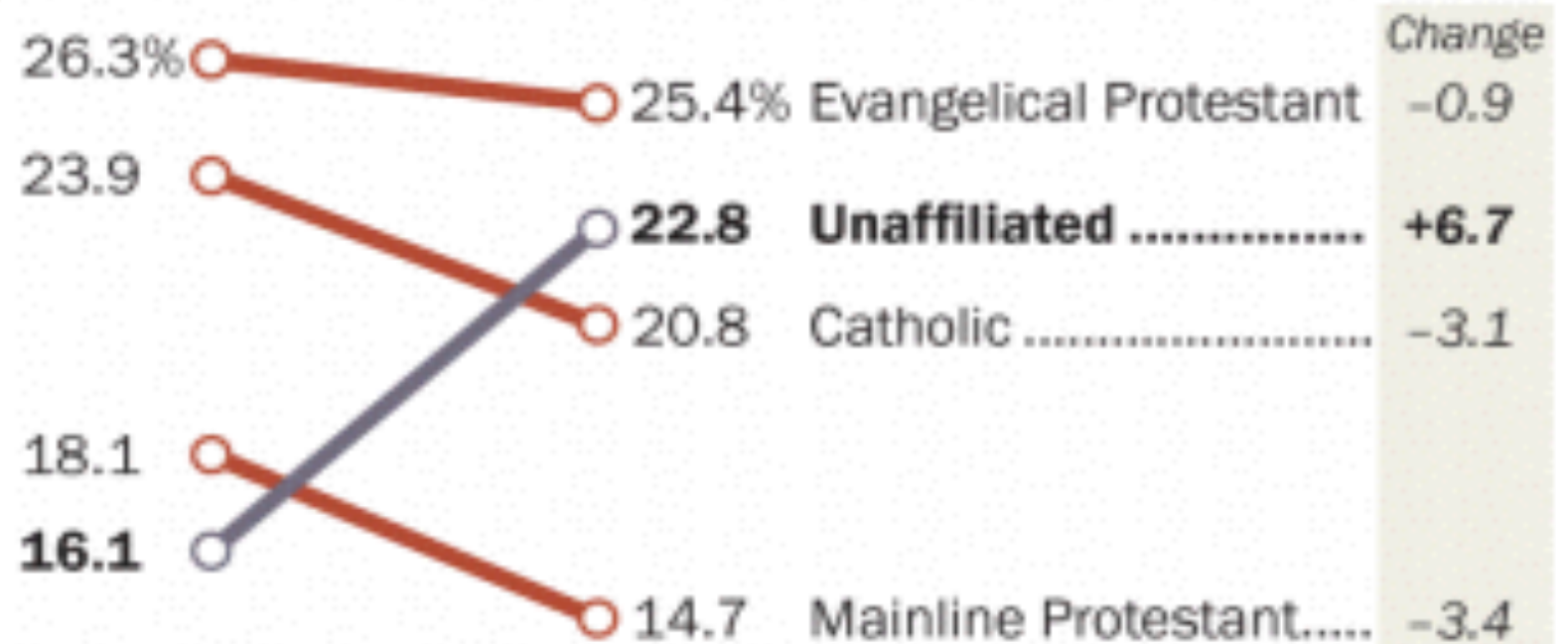
The Reality: Things Have Changed

Christianity faces sharp decline as Americans are becoming even less affiliated with religion

By Sarah Pulliam Bailey May 12, 2015

“The percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christians dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years to about 71 percent, according to a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Center. ...”

The Washington Post



Changing U.S. Religious Landscape

Between 2007 and 2014, the Christian share of the population fell from 78.4% to 70.6%, driven mainly by declines among mainline Protestants and Catholics. The unaffiliated experienced the most growth, and the share of Americans who belong to non-Christian faiths also increased.

The Reasons: Things Are Changing

- 1. A rejection of the reliability & absolute authority of the scriptures - (2 Tim 3:16,17; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Mat 24:35; Luke 21:33)**
- 2. A belief that truth is subjective & relative - (no moral absolutes / doctrine & theology inconsequential) - (Judg 21:25; Jer. 6:16-19)**
- 3. The emphasis of feelings & emotion over, & instead of, a “thus saith the Lord.” - (Prov 14:12; Jer. 10:23;)**



The Reasons: Things Are Changing

- 1. No NEED to READ or STUDY the Bible!**
- 2. It doesn't MATTER what I believe!**
- 3. I am educated & smart enough to determine what is true for ME!**



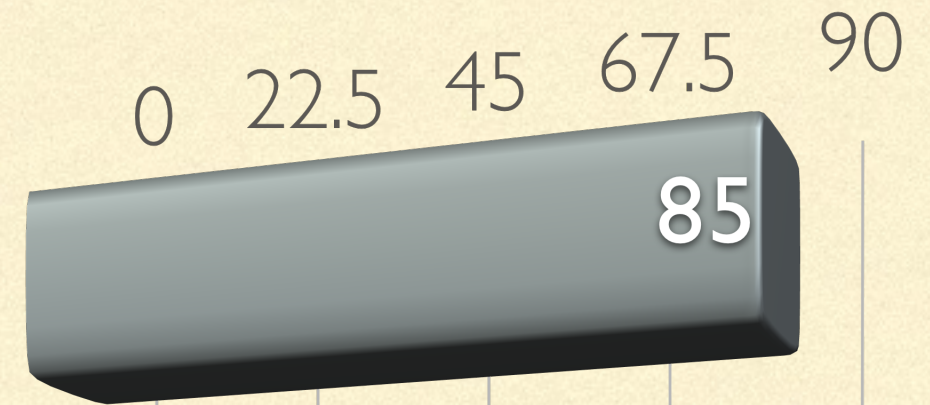
The Reasons: Things Are Changing

■ Biblical Illiteracy In US

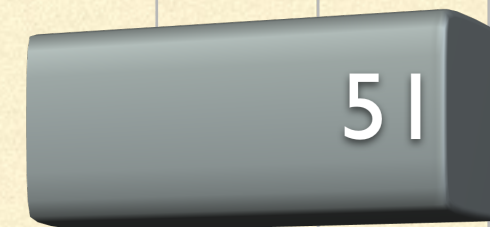


**"Increasingly, America
is biblically illiterate."
- George Barna**

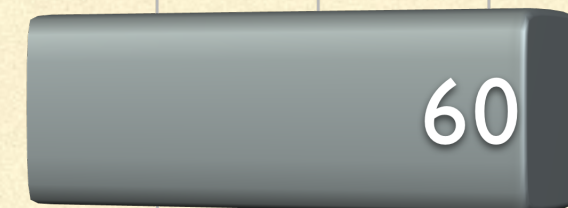
Own A Bible



Can't Name 4 Gospels



Can't Name 5 of 10 Comm



Believe Joan of Arc To Be Noah's Wife

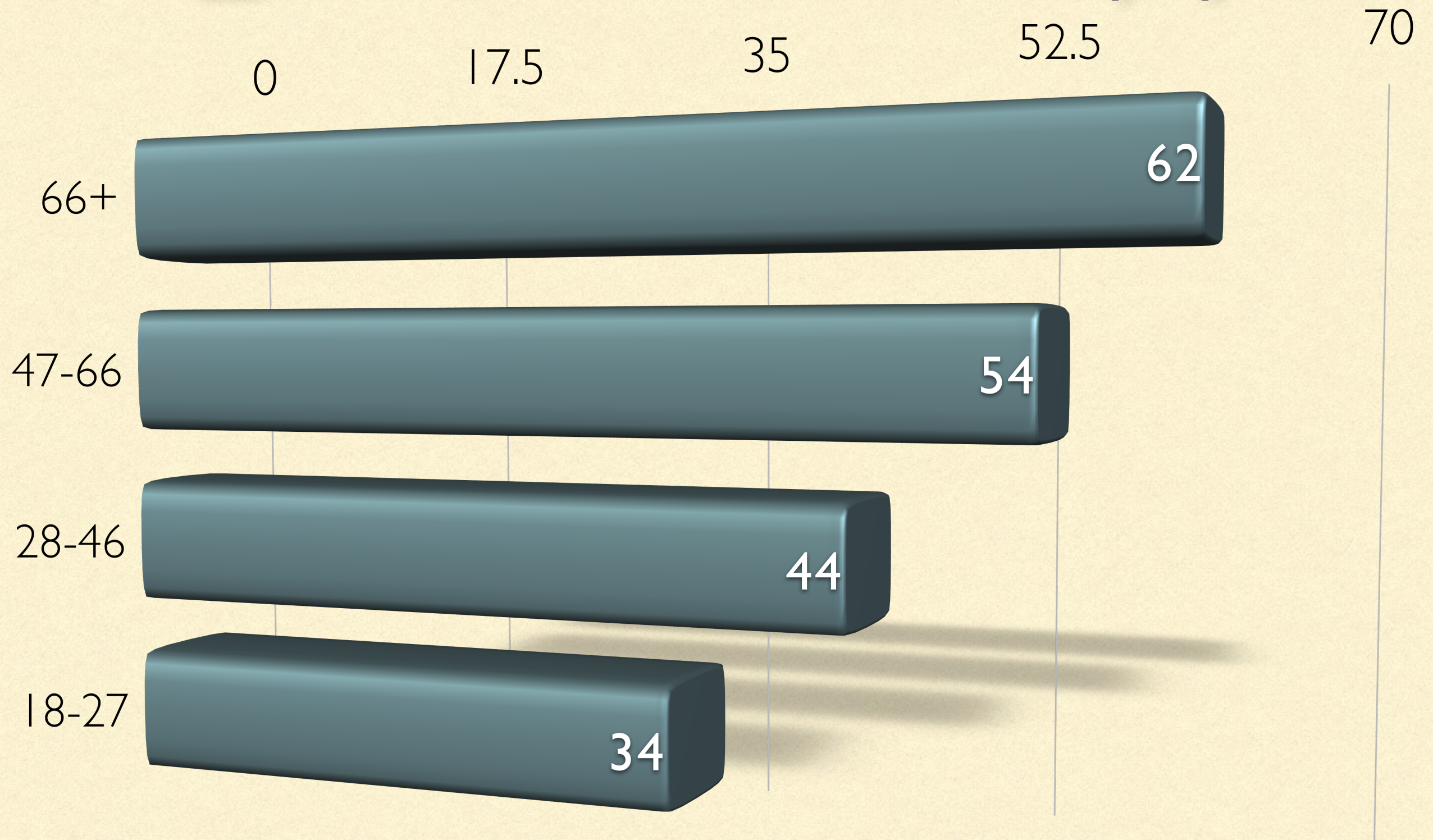


HS Seniors - Sodom & Gomorrah Husband & Wife



The Reasons: Things Are Changing

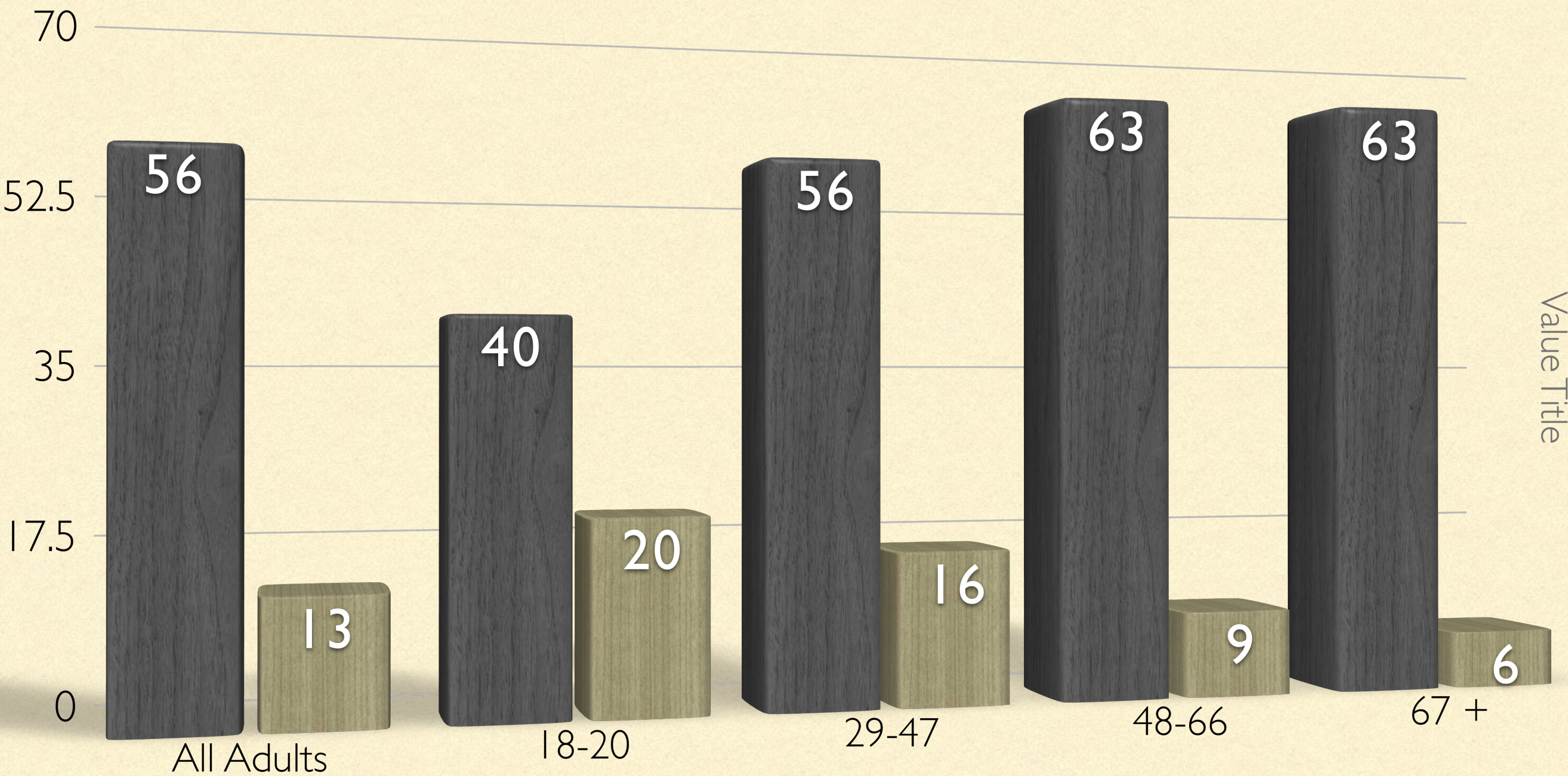
■ The Value of The Bible In Everyday Life



The Reasons: Things Are Changing

Role of Bible In U.S. Society

Too Little Influence Too Much Influence

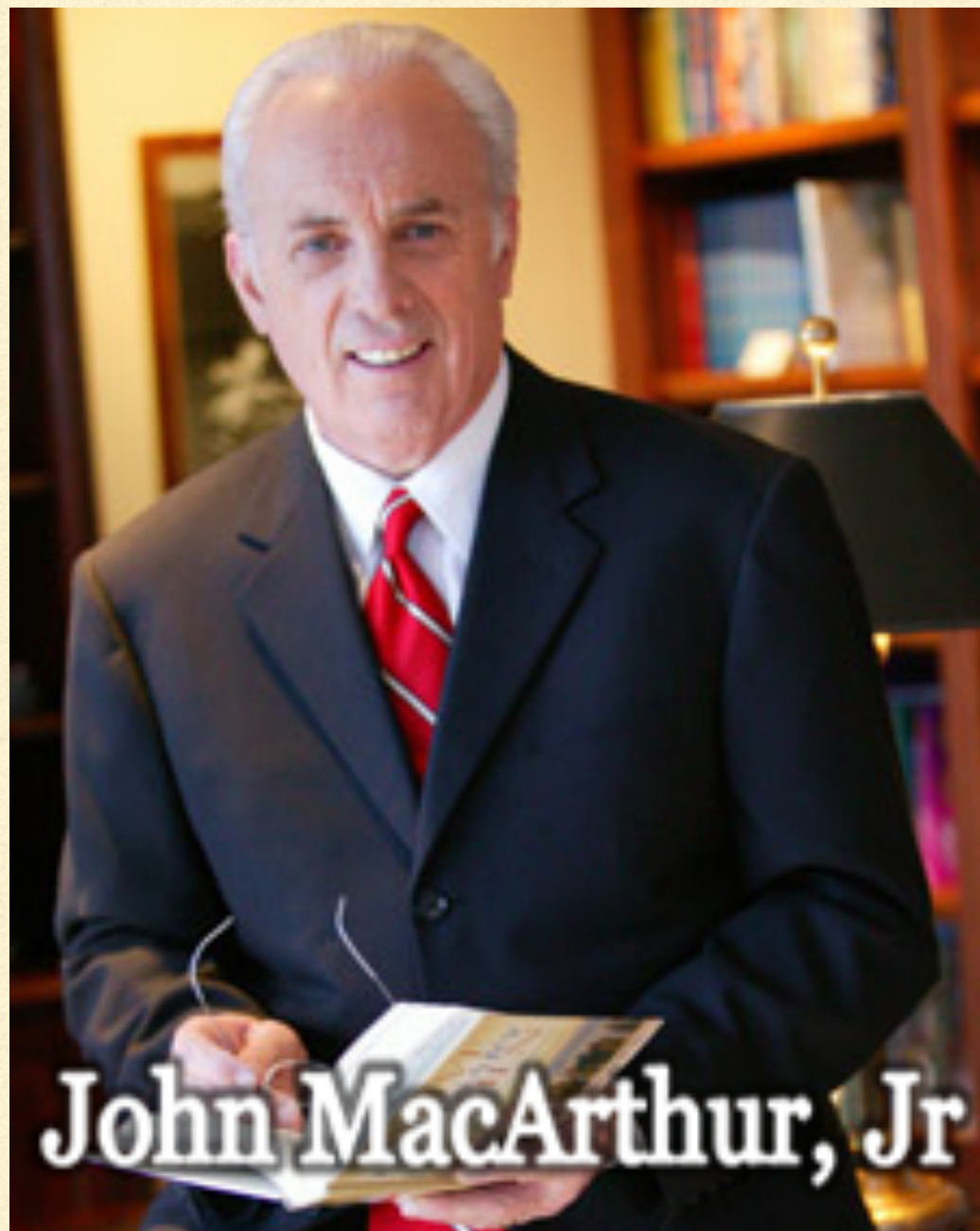


2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Consequences of These Changes

2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.



John MacArthur, Jr

“We have a society filled with people who want what they want when they want it. They are into their own lifestyle, recreation, and entertainment. They want comfort, happiness, and success. When churches appeal to those selfish desires, they only fuel fires that hinder true godliness.”

(Ashamed of The Gospel, When The Church Becomes Like The World, pg 85)

Consequences of These Changes

2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

1. Vain worship & Will

worship - Mt 15:7-9; Co 2:18-23; Ro 10:1-3

➤ *The object of worship & service is no longer the God of the Bible - John 4:24; Rom 1:18-25*

2. Will accept & practice

things that are sinful -

Rom 1:26,27; 2 Thes 2:10-12



Consequences of These Changes



“Bible reading has become the religious equivalent of sound-bite journalism. When people read from the Bible they typically open it, read a brief passage without much regard for the context, and consider the primary thought or feeling that the passage provided. If they are comfortable with it, they accept it; otherwise, they deem it interesting but irrelevant to their life, and move on. There is shockingly little growth evident in people’s understanding of the fundamental themes of the scriptures and amazingly little interest in deepening their knowledge and application of biblical principles . . .

Consequences of These Changes

■ Biblical Influence In US



Consequences of These Changes



“The problem facing the Christian Church is not that people lack a complete set of beliefs; the problem is that they have a full slate of beliefs in mind, which they think are consistent with biblical teachings, and they are neither open to being proven wrong nor to learning new insights. Our research suggests that this challenge initially emerges in the late adolescent or early teenage years . . . In a culture driven by the desire to receive value, more Bible teaching is generally not viewed as an exercise in providing such value.”

Consequences of These Changes

1. We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs.

2. The many fronts of moral compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches.



Consequences of These Changes

- 1. Without knowledge of God's word one cannot understand it - Eph 3:5; Ps. 119:97-104**
- 2. Without knowledge of God's word one cannot have true faith - Rom 10:14-17; 1 Thes 2:13**
- 3. Destruction will come upon those without knowledge of God's word - Hos 4:6; Mt 15:14**



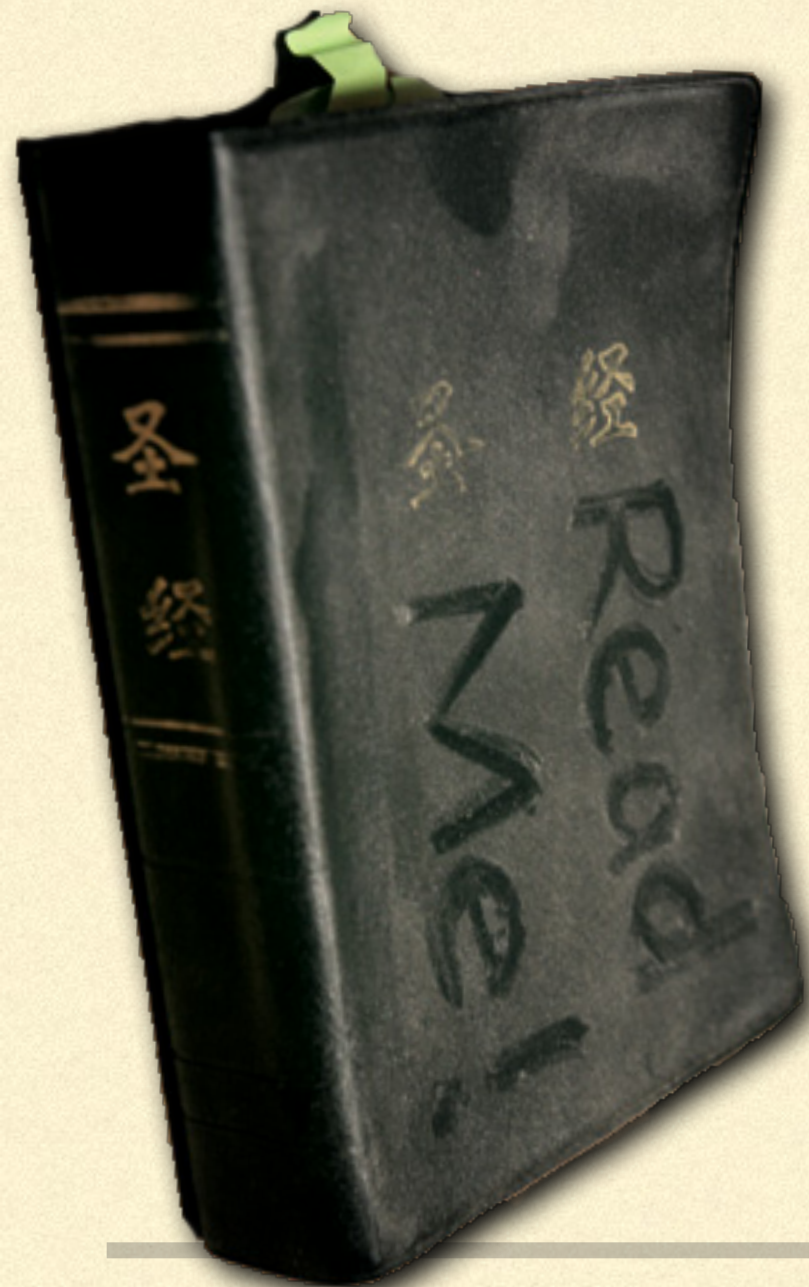
INDIVIDUALLY

1. Develop A Genuine Love For The Truth -
2 Thes 2:10-12; Ps 119:97-104; 2 Pet 2:2
2. Read & Study God's Word Daily - Acts
17:11,12; Psalm 1:2
3. Use God's Word To Mold & Control Our
Thoughts, Lives & Homes! - 2 Cor.
10:3-5; Eph 6:1-4
4. Support & Encourage The Preaching of
God's Word – 2 Tim 4:1-4; Col 1:28,29;
4:2-4
5. Become More Active & Supportive Of
The Church - Heb 10:24,25



IN TEACHING OTHERS

- 1. We MUST set forth a GOOD example -**
Mat 5:13-16; Ep. 5:8-14; Phi. 2:15.
- 2. We need to have an understanding of where others are coming from -** Acts 19:1-6; Eph 4:15
- 3. Be patient - Many will NOT understand why some things are wrong -** 1 Pet 4:4,5; Jno. 7:17; Ro. 12:2; Col. 1:9; 1 Th. 4:1-3; 5:18; 2 Tim 4:2
- 4. Be equipped to gently answer questions pertaining to evidences & why we can trust the Bible -** 1 Pet 3:15



The Times, They Are Changing

THE STATE & DIRECTION OF MODERN "PROFESSED CHRISTIANITY"



The Reality:
Things Are
Changing

Consequences of
These Changes

Some Reasons
Things Are
Changing

How We Should
Respond To These
Changes



How We Should Respond To God's Word?

OUR WAY, OR GOD'S WAY

It Does Matter!



- 1. What is your attitude towards the Scriptures? – Ps 119:97-104**
- 2. Will we believe and stand upon what God teaches in His word? – Jer 6:16; Ep 6:10-17; 2 Tim 3:15-17**
- 3. Will we always seek to make the proper application of scripture? – 2 Tim 2:15; Heb 5:11-14**
- 4. Will we seek to share our faith - Eph 4:15; 1 Thes 1:8**

How We Should Respond To God's Word?

OUR WAY, OR GOD'S WAY

It Does Matter!

The term "Christian" means
being a follower of Christ -



One is NOT following Christ if
he/she is NOT following His
word - Jn 8:32-34

One who is NOT following
Jesus' teaching is NOT a
Christian - Col. 3:17; 1 Pet 4:16

We NEED to be genuine
followers of Jesus - ARE YOU? -
YOU CAN BE! - Mat 11:28-30

THE TIMES,

They Are Changing

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared February 18-20, 2016 / Preached February 21, 2016
West 65th Street church of Christ / P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 –
Phone 501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote

More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>

THE STATE & DIRECTION OF MODERN “PROFESSED CHRISTIANITY”

2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9 (NKJV)

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 TIMOTHY 3:1–9 (NKJV)

⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.
