



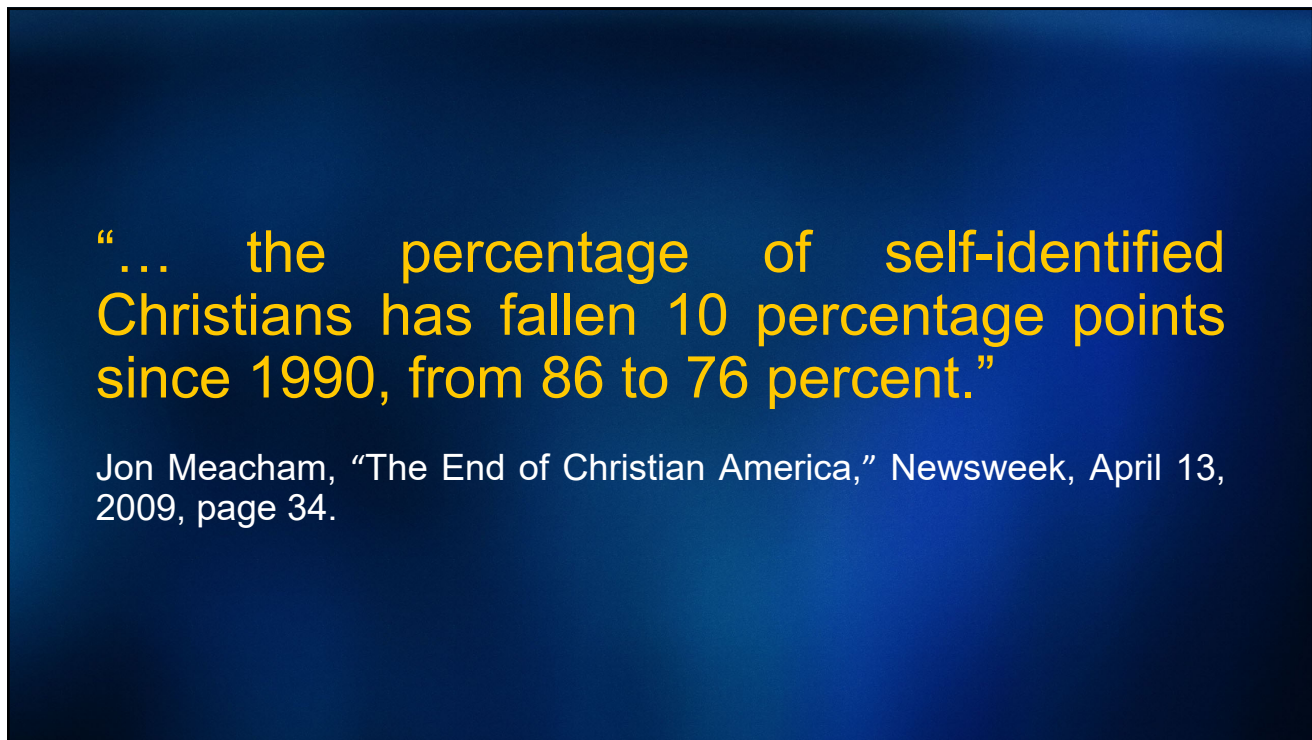
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“... the number of people willing to describe themselves as atheist or agnostic has increased about fourfold from 1990 to 2009, from 1 million to about 3.6 million.”

Jon Meacham, “The End of Christian America,” Newsweek, April 13, 2009, page 34.

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In early spring of 2019, Gallup released a major report that revealed:

“U.S. church membership was 70% or higher from 1937 through 1976, falling modestly to an average of 68% in the 1970s through the 1990s. The past 20 years have seen an acceleration in the drop-off, with a 20-percentage-point decline since 1999 and more than half of that change occurring since the start of the last decade.”

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The Southern Baptist Convention reports that its numbers declined from it's last report of 16.4 million members to 14.8 million in 2018 – the lowest number since 1987

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“SBC trends looked great when our neighbors gained social capital by joining our churches. They gained social status and trust within the community by joining the First Baptist Church or another evangelical congregation. That is no longer the case. Now, given secularization and the sexual and moral revolutions utterly reshaping our culture, our neighbors may well lose social capital by joining our churches. The age of cultural or nominal Christianity is fast coming to a close.

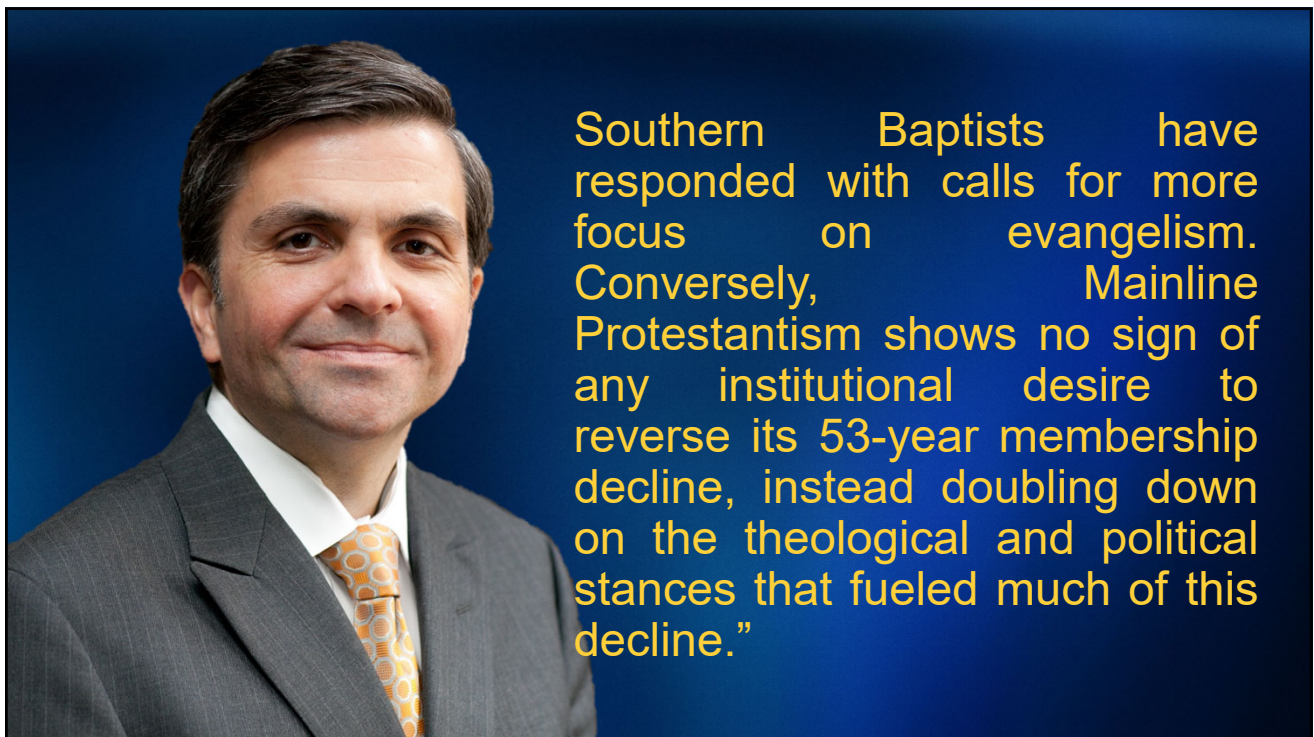
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Until recently, most people wanted to claim some kind of Christian identity or affiliation, even if they rarely attended church. That is increasingly no longer the case. The rise of the ‘Nones,’ those claiming no religious affiliation, now includes about 20% of the population and 30% of Americans age 30 and under. The SBC gained millions of members it could not find and did not know due to the phenomenon of cultural Christianity. ”

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“We are one generation away from the evaporation of church as we know it. Slowly but certainly the church of the future is headed toward the morgue and will continue to do so unless we come to better understand what is happening and implement a clear, biblical plan to circumvent it.”

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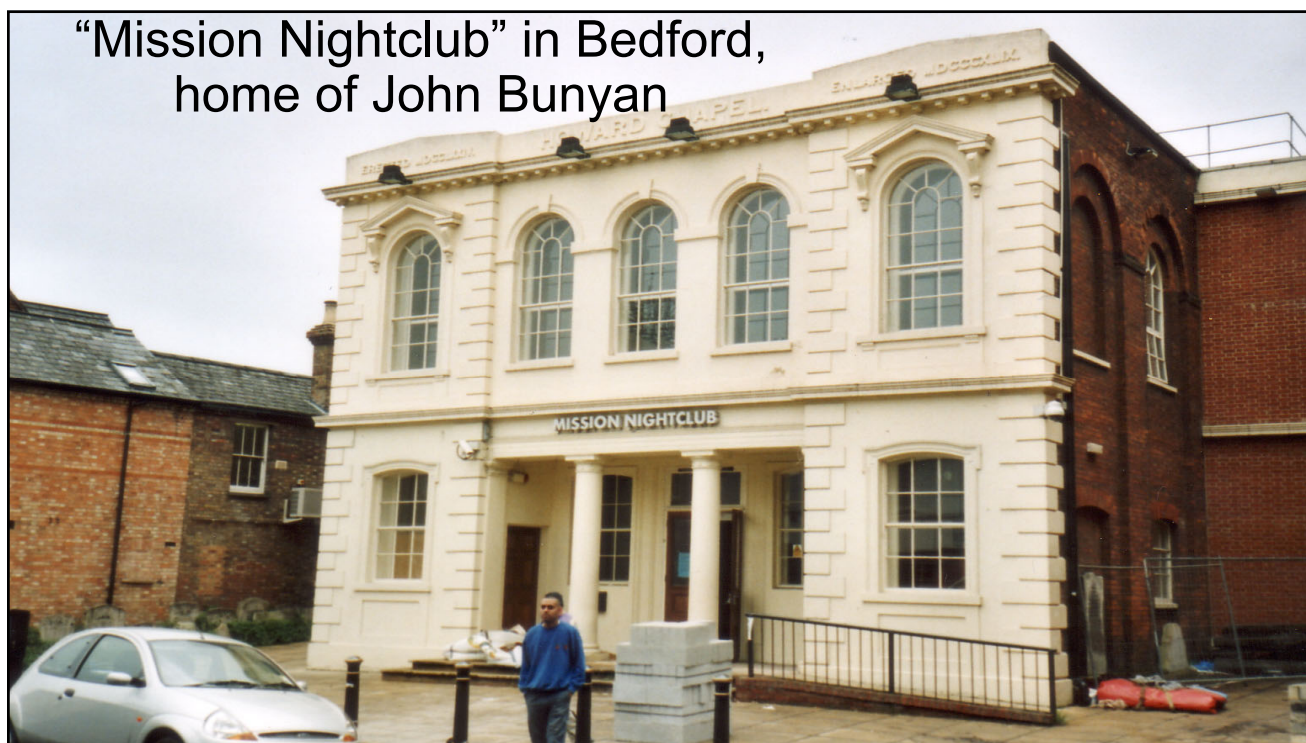
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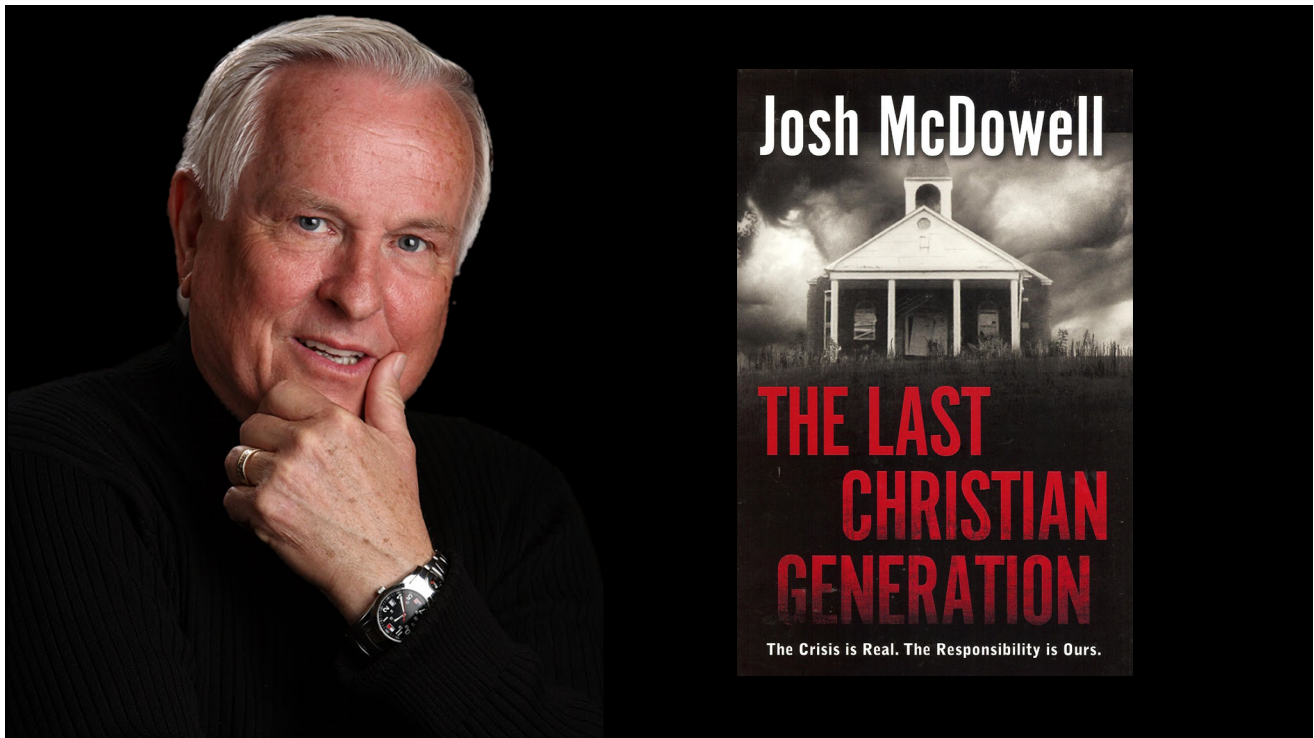
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Among those who grew up in Christian homes:

- 63% do not believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God
- 51% do not believe Jesus rose from the dead
- 65% do not believe Satan is a real entity
- 68% do not believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity
- 70% believe there is no absolute moral truth
- 58% believe all faiths teach equally valid truths
- 65% believe or suspect that there is no way to tell which religion is true
- 68% believe that a good person who doesn't accept the fundamental teachings of Christianity can still attain salvation and go to heaven

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Until recently, 55%-66% of youth said that church would play a significant role in their lives after they left home.

Today, only 33% say that.

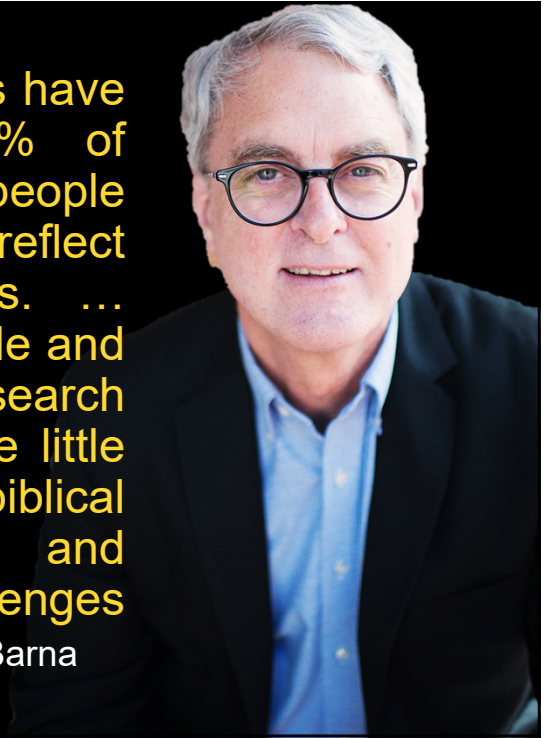
Somewhere between 69-94% of youth are abandoning the faith of their parents once they graduate high school.

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“It’s not that they haven’t embraced a version of Christianity; it’s simply that the version they believe in is not built on the true foundation of what biblical Christianity is all about. ... It is evident that the Church and Christian families are failing to lead them into a transforming experience with God. ... They read from the same Bible, talk of a personal relationship with God, and say biblical truth is important to their lives, but their beliefs and behavior are not consistent with what the Bible identifies as a true follower of Christ.” Josh McDowell

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“Only 9% of born again believers have a biblical worldview. ... 98% of professed born-again young people believe in Christ but they do not reflect Christ-like attitudes or actions. ... Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life.” George Barna



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“Only about 1 out of 3 teens (33%) believes they will continue to participate in church once they are living on their own.”



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Ps 33:12 blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord

Prov 13:34 righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people

Mt 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

31

2 Thess 2:1-17 Now, brethren, concerning the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him**, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the **falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the **Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming**.

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1. Frightening conditions
2. Faltering convictions

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¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

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3. Full confidence

4. Forceful call

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¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

5. Fitting consolation

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Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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You call Me master and obey Me not.
You call Me light and see Me not.
You call Me the way and walk Me not.
You call Me life and live Me not.
You call Me wise and follow Me not.
You call Me rich and ask Me not.
You call Me eternal and seek Me not.
If I condemn thee, blame Me not.

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