EVANGELICALISM LONG IS LIVE DEAD EVANGELICALISM

EVANGELICALISM IS...

Discipleship in the Biblically-attested Gospel of Jesus' salvation-

Offered in apostolic simplicity, established and reformed by the authoritative scriptures.

Evangelicalism is not a sect, or denomination. It is a convictional posture toward the mission of Jesus of those willing to trust the scriptures.

DATE THIS STORY:

A Missionary returned after 5 years in the field and was asked what change was most obvious.

He said, "When I left, the public used the term 'evangelical' with respect. Now it's used with derision".

When was this said?

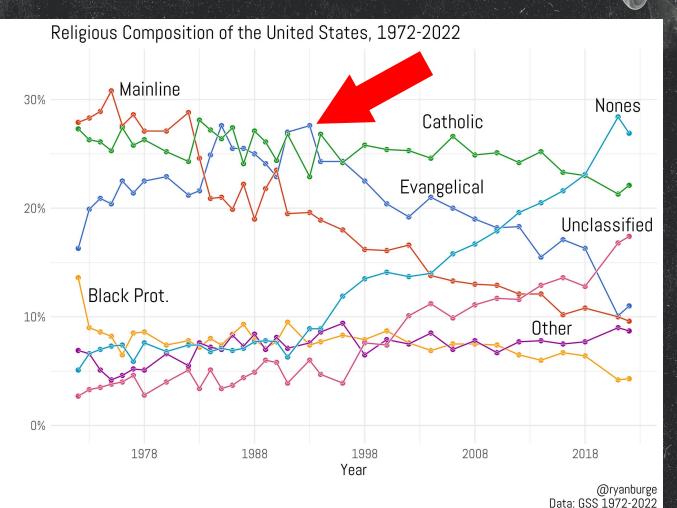
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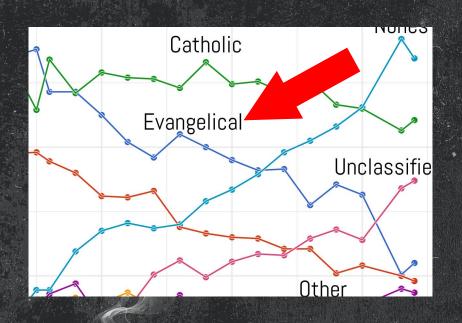
When was this said?
It was in a volume published in 1990.

Jim Bakker scandal was 1987-88 (sex scandal and wire fraud) 1988 Oral Roberts hospital fraud lawsuit 1988 Jimmy Swaggart with prostitutes

EVANGELICALISM IS DYING.



EVANGELICALISM IS DYING...

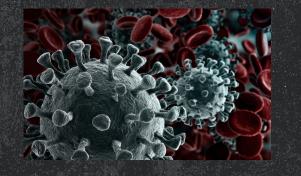


But is it a natural death, like the twilight of the gods, or an unnatural one of poisoning and starvation?

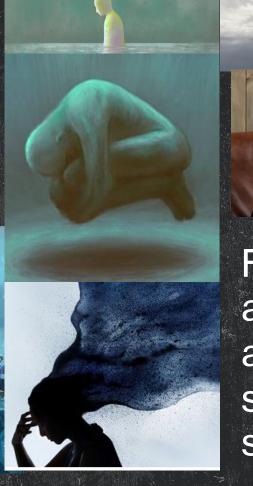
Both look like neglect.

1. WE AREREACTING TO FEAR

Our courage, purpose and passion are not up to the adaptation needed in our environmental toxicity.



A society of fear (we like "anxiety" better)





Fear tempts us to act instinctually and selfishly of short-term security.

Only truth, hope and love can produce faith, that is, courage.

2. WE ARE CONSUMED BY CONSUMPTION

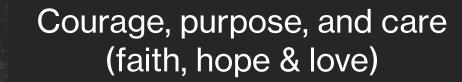
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A Society of Hyper-Consumption

Pride tends toward a sense of entitlement about consumption—feeding the Flesh (distempered instinctual sensuality).

(disregarding moral limiting principles)



Fleshly Reactivity



Godly peace & Wise response

Fear: self-protection

Pride: entitlement and greed

3. WE'VE BEEN UNDISCERNING IN SLANDEROUS DECEPTION

The Calumny of Evangelicalism (Apelles, 1495)

Fraud

Truth Repentance

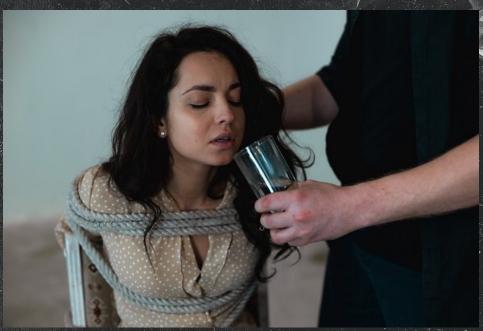
Conspiracy/ Calumny/ Rancor/ Ignorance
Perfidy Slander Envy Suspicion





STOCKHOLM SYNDROME





When a false authority and captor tells you a counternarrative until you think its true and emotionally connect with their burden until they are no longer the perpetrator. In virtually every **objective** category, **committed Evangelicals do better** than average in outcomes of personal and social goods:

- More marriages; more satisfying and more stable
- Have more children
- Are more generous
- Give more of their time
- Less mental illness and levels of stress

The truth in the falsehood: nominal religion often leads to "worse" outcomes than irreligion—though for unpredictable reasons. (divorce, illegitimacy, anxiety, etc.)

Example: The nominally religious may be religious enough to GET married but not mature enough to STAY married.

4. WE LOST OUR DOCTRINE BECAUSE WE LOST OUR DISCIPLINE

Sometime in the 1990's we started deciding that our discipline was too much and too legalistic and replaced it with nothing.

THEN

- Church Sunday Morning (3x-4x month)
- 2. Sunday School
- 3. Sunday night service
- 4. Wednesday night teaching, youth, children
- 5. Daily devotions
- 6. Retreats
- 7. Summer camp

For some:

8. Family devotions

NOW

- Church Sunday Morning (1x-2x month)
- 2. Some YouTube videos
- 3. Some podcasts?

That's 27-32 monthly units of training vs. ~4-8

And now, of worse quality and continuity.

SO, WHAT NOW?







ON THIS PATH, HOW CAN EVANGELICAL FAITH NOT BE DYING?

The evidence for Jesus hasn't gotten worse since 1990. This has been an emotional and systemic process.

Psalm 11:1-3

"In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: 'Flee like a bird to your mountain. For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Psalm 11:4-7

"The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning Sulphur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face."

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

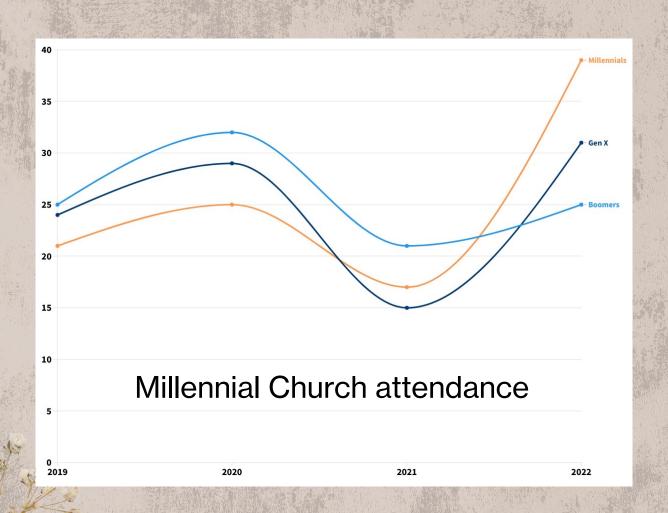
"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

ARE WE GOING TO BE THE GENERATION THAT RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE IN VAIN?

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

"For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all of them yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed."

TRENDS DON'T JUST GO ON BY THEMSELVES



GOD CHANGES PEOPLE'S MINDS



"The dumbest thing I ever wrote."

"Christianity is the load-bearing wall of American Civic life."

Cross Purposes

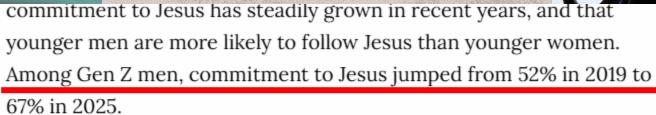


Jonathan Rauch

Author of The Constitution of Knowledge

GOD REACHES PEOPLE MORE IN BAD TIMES. (If his people and community stand out)





New data from the <u>American Bible Society</u> shows men saw a 19% increase in Bible use from 2024 to 2025, closing the gender gap in Bible engagement. Young men are also attending church more, with recent

WEDIDN'T LOSE OUR LEGITIMACY.

WE LOST OUR NERVE.

WHAT FOUNDATION ARE WE RELEARNING?

Classical- historically rooted, going through our history all the way back to the apostles.

Protestant- The Scripture is the authority, the Jesus in the Gospel is the interpreting principle, apostolic suspicion of failed authority and man's accretions. The faith is established and reformed by the Gospel and the Bible.

Evangelical- believe and obey the biblically attested Gospel in Apostolic simplicity, continually established and reformed by the authoritative scriptures.

WE NEED TO REMASTER EVANGELICAL...

Gospel Doctrine and Creeds
Gospel identity individually and together
Gospel Spirituality
Gospel-principled action and practical life

1. We will relearn the Gospel, our creed, identity, spirituality and practical path from the Bible

sh man nouse The in came do the state is rose, and the B blew and the love, an it fell wi grea crash." - Matthe -27 "He ___ m this parable: "No one tears a piece of ar garment to pate old one. Therwise, they will have torn the new garmen ad the patch from the ne l not match the old. " - Luke 5:36 "Neither do peo pour new wine into of eskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine wil un out and the wineskin 1 be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins nd both are preserved." thew 9:17 Then he told them many things in parables, seeing: "A farmer went out his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the bir e and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, whele it ded not have much soil and up quickly, because the soil has shallow. But when the lun dama up, the plane scorched, and they withered because that had no root. Other seed fell among which gow up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell in good soil, when luced a comparable a karaled, sixty or thing times with lower - Matthew 13: 3: bulling the uproot the whe he ans When Scripture becomes second nature then gath wheat and bring it into my unreal to Mattered 12, 24-30 He cold them another parabl ne kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in h ld. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the large garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in i nches. "-Matthew 13:31 - 32 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of Go oman took and mixed into about sixt of flour It is dough. "-Luke 13:20-21 "The kingd recommon is worke man found it, he hid it ag nl asure

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- 5. Teaching and publishing on Evangelicalism

REVIVALALWAYS STARTSWITH RENEWAL

EVANGELICALISM LONG IS LIVE DEAD EVANGELICALISM



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again.

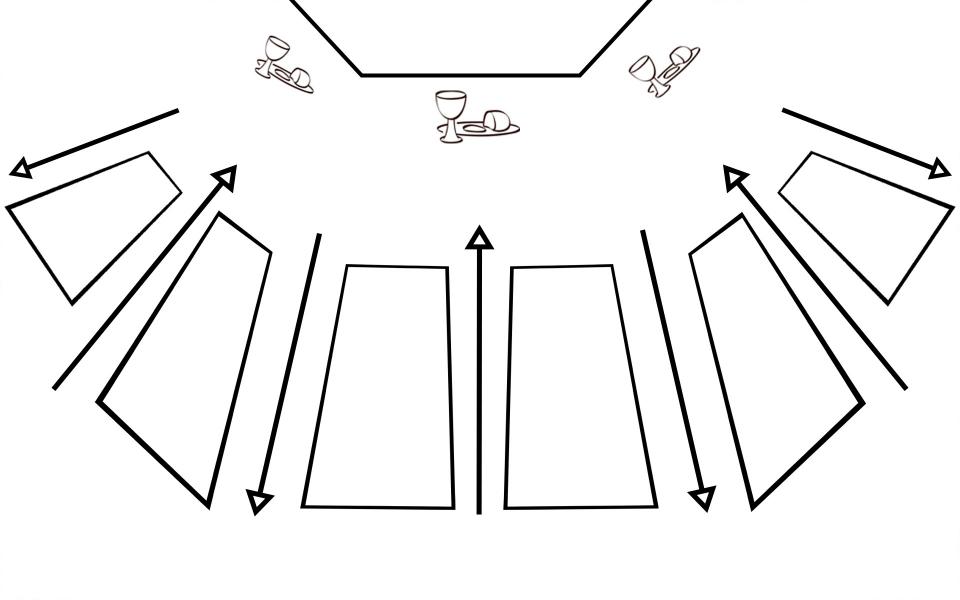
APOSTLES' CREED

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*catholic (Greek) = "universal"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.



ALL-CHURCH BBQ

College students - go left out the sanctuary doors.

Everyone else - go right out the sanctuary doors.

Follow the arrows on the ground!

Seeking prayer?

Visit our prayer team at the front left of the stage.