



CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

A Study on Cultural, Literary and Political Christian Thought Within Our Time



A PRESENTATION BY

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“God’s Plan is Unhindered”

CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD



Cultural

Isaiah 30:21

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”



Literary

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”



Political Christianity

Matthew 22:21

“They say unto him, Caesar’s then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.”

CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

The 21st Century is fairly young, we are just fifteen years into it and we're moving and not looking back. The progress that is being made in this century has really come down to one thing, "How should the Christian respond?"

Christians have always been fully engaged in the Culture of America and these past fifteen years have been no different, whether was through music, sports, literature, or in politics, in which we have seen the first African-American president elected twice. Christians have made themselves known for their abilities and for whom they serve.

The change in our culture has also entered into the church where we now see the Emergent Church. It's reaching young people all over our country, this is truly an example of meeting the lost where they are.

CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

Specifically, the 21st Century has given us a brilliant group of writers. Of all the books written this century, both by Christians and non-Christians, some have been great and some have been questioned and has the could of controversy.

Politics are the threads that hold the fabric we call America together. We have one of the best political systems in the world, that we must protect and respect. Christian Politicians have begun to speak about their faith and what God has done in their lives. The 21st has seen the development of our nation, with many obstacles to clear. As mentioned earlier, one of those obstacles was electing the first African-American President.

CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

- There will be several areas of study that we will cover throughout this presentation with particular emphasis on three topics that will be used to cover the actions and reactions of the Christian in the modern world. The topics are as follow:
 - ◆ Cultural Thoughts
 - ◆ Literary Thoughts
 - ◆ Political Christian Thoughts

CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

Of these three topics, we will unpack them to address where the church is headed and how to respond to those that say “the church is dying.” (And we know and proclaim that that would be impossible as God is not mocked.)

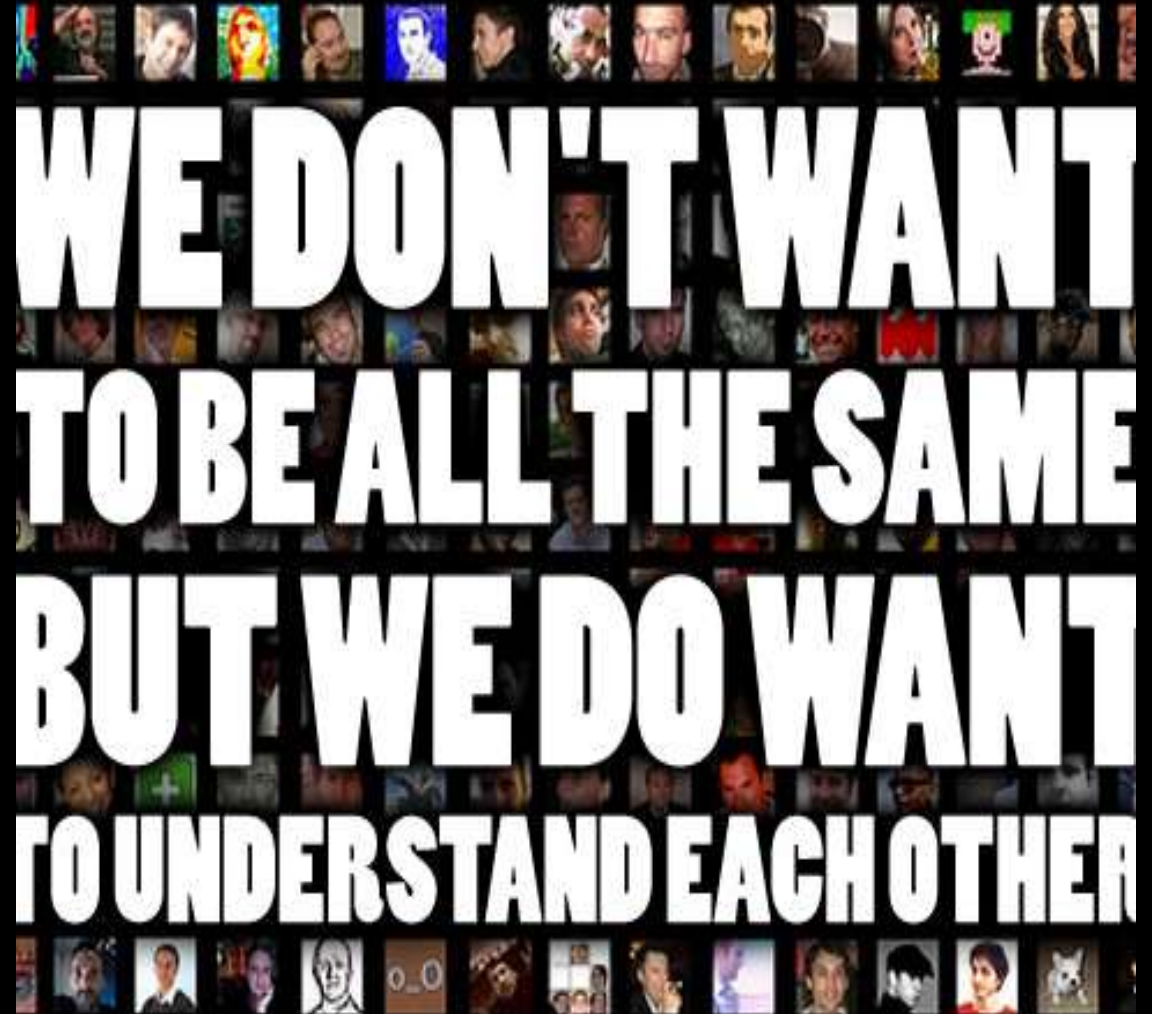
- ◆ The General Overview of the Era
- ◆ Christianity and America overview
- ◆ Analysis

CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY



CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In the 21st Century, our Culture was/is rapidly changing, some may say for the best and some, the worst. These changes are made from lifestyles to demographics and the Church will have to make adjustments to reach the lost. The adjustments will come from our actions, because God's word is not adjusted.



CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The changes for the church will be small steps for some and big steps for others. No matter the steps, God has to lead, not man.

- ❖ How will the church cross the race lines?
- ❖ How will the church handle the changing music, language, fashion, and technology which consume the minds of the youth?

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- ❖ How can the conservatives be conservative within the framework of Christ?
- ❖ How can the liberals be liberal within the framework of Christ?
- ❖ Will the church be able to handle social networking and its' negativities?

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

These are issues that the church is facing day after day and have always faced, but “nothing is impossible for God.” As the world changes, we can rest assured that God doesn’t change at all, no matter how the Supreme Court sees it.

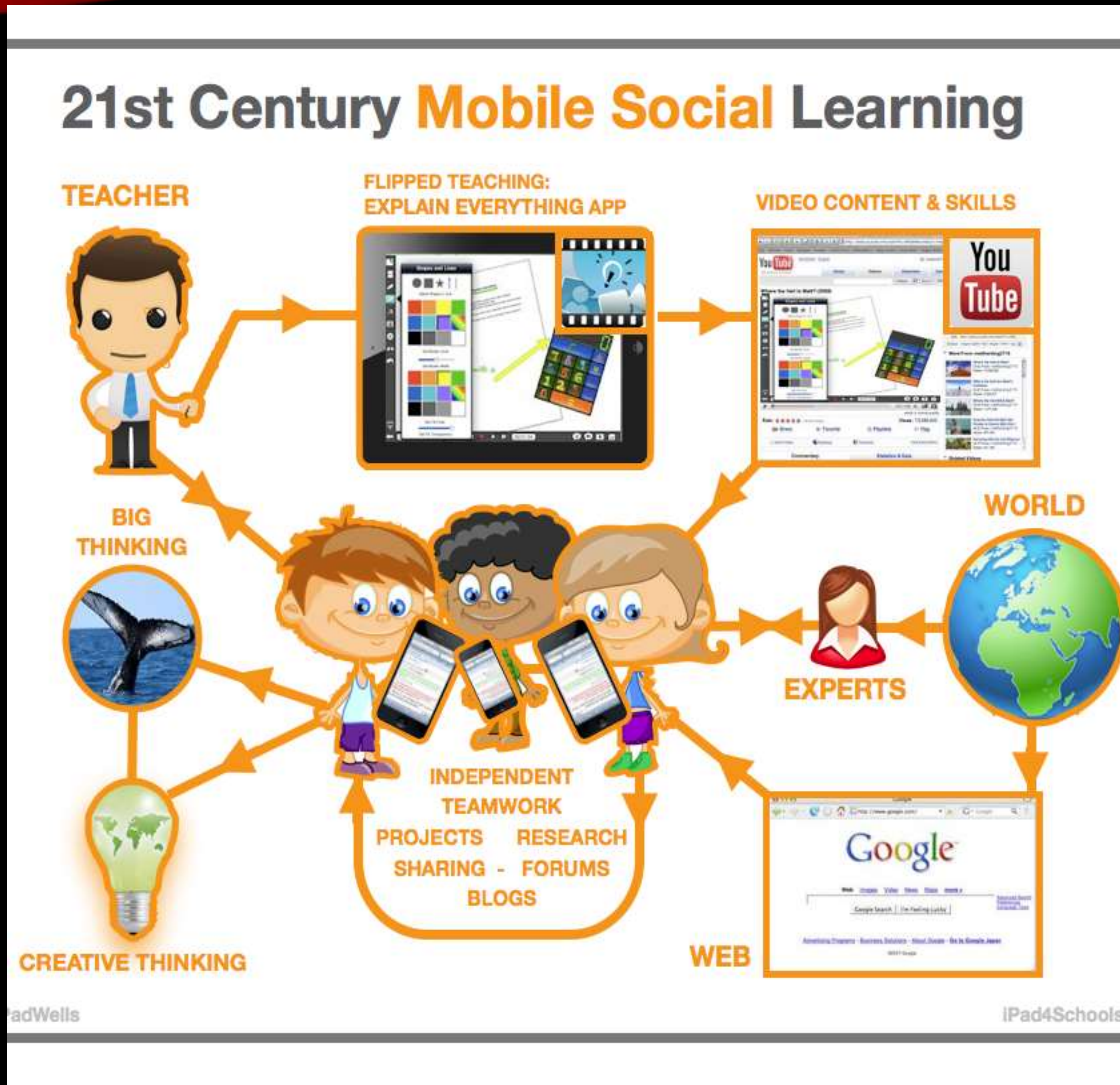
CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- ❖ The Culture of the 21st century has had its victories and losses, ups and downs, but the American way has always been “We will bounce back.”
- ❖ The events that have taken place throughout this century thus far, have caused us to adjust, transform, adapt, and even except.
- ❖ We have had to adapt to destruction on the shores of American, with the tragedy on Sept. 11, 2001.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- ❖ Hurricane Katrina was another major event that occurred in the 21st century on Aug 29, 2005. In New Orleans, LA., one of the deadliest hurricanes changed that area forever. Many were displaced and needing emergency assistance for many months to come. This would change our view of government and the ways in which they express their concern for the people.
- ❖ Moving on to more exciting information at the beginning of the century, the groundwork was laid for the new wave of technology. It was time for the world to start connecting and communicating by new means, but as a result, person to person socializing would begin to minimize.³

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY



As the social networks would pop up one after the other, the new cultural goal in life is to see who can get the most followers.

More kids would become consumed by their mobile devices, including Playstations, Wiis, Xboxes, iPhones, and such. This is a bold step in a new direction.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Here's a glimpse into the Networking culture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuKu6PZXC1Y>

These are some of the networks:

- ❖ Friendster
2002 – An online community that connects people through networks for dating or just friends.
- ❖ LinkedIn
2003 – Boasts more than 297 million members.
- ❖ Myspace
2003 – Once the perennial favorite, with music, music videos.
- ❖ Facebook
2004 – Would become the ultimate in social networking.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- ❖ One of the biggest events that took place in the 21st century and no, I'm not talking about the DVD replacing the VCR--I'm talking about something that took place just one month prior. ²The first African-American President Barack Obama was elected and history (as they say) was made on Nov. 4, 2008. Not all in our culture was pleased, but again adjustments had to be made.
- ❖ Our Culture would be struck by a weakened economy and would have to ride out the Great Recession of 2008.
- ❖ The Churches would find themselves under attack by the supporters of gay marriage, supporters who eventually win in the court of man's law.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The culture of racism is at the center of every argument and it is a neverending conversation.

- ❖ The culture of today finds itself reliving a time when race was the deciding factor as to where you lived and where you dined out. Today, it's where you walk and how you react. The church has it's own problems – In this day and time, why do we have the Black church? (I fully understand why it was started) And why the White church? Then we have the Mega church, this is the culture we live in. The culture of some churches seems to be "Live your best life now!".

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MUSIC

Britney Spears ⁴

Urban contemporary, Pop
(Bubblegum, Synth, Teen)
and Electronic dance music

Our culture has a way of building you up and then tearing you down. Britney Spears is one of those examples'. Always being a part of the entertainment world, Spears is a pre-21st century talent and she jumped into the 21st century on top and moved into the world of drugs and destruction. She was however able to bounce back and continue her stronghold as one of the top performers of the 21st century.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MUSIC

Beyoncé Knowles ⁴

Hip Hop, Urban contemporary,
Pop, Electronic dance
music.

Coming to our attention pre-21st century Beyoncé has been called the “Queen B” and has been at the top of the music world for a majority of the 21st century and not looking back. Her marriage to another top rapper (Jay Z) has not hurt her climb either. Her music has been questioned in the pass for its’ provocative lyrics, but her fan base has shown the resilience to withstand the complaints.

CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MUSIC

Although the music industry is dominated by the focus on the female body, male artists seem to be ones that have laid the groundwork. I have listed just the top three to give an idea of who they are: ⁵

- ❖ Eminem – Hip Hop, and Hardcore Hip Hop
 - ❖ Jay-Z – Hip Hop (east coast), Gangsta rap
 - ❖ Kanye West – Hip Hop (Alternative), Pop.
- ²These are just a few names that have impacted our culture with tremendous financial force that puts a smile on the face of Wall Street.



CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ When it comes to Christianity and America, the differences should be clear cut, sometimes they are and sometimes they're not.
- ❖ The ups and down of our culture will sometime bring people together to work for the common good. But the church should be at the forefront of this change.
- ❖ Some of the adjusting, transforming, and adapting would have to done by Christians, as long as it did not go against the Word of God.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ How did Christians respond to 9/11? That was a time for Christians and the world to put away differences for the sake of bringing our country back from the attack. The actions of the Christian can touch the heart of a lost soul.
- ❖ The reaction was seen the following Sunday after 9/11, as many came to church for the message or prayer, the churches were packed. Not all Pastors were prepared to preach Jesus, but instead continued their usual sermon series.
- ❖ Not all Christians were ready to serve and minister to those who were hurting and lost.
- ❖ The Pastors were preaching the gospel of salvation and many came to the Lord and received Him as Savior.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ The Christians had to prepare yet again, for another tragedy. This time it would be the flooding from Hurricane Katrina. Once again the Christians would jump in and serve where needed.
- ❖ Some Pastors preached messages letting the congregates know that God was not happy with our sinful nation. The church was standing on the word of God, without blaming anyone else.
- ❖ The church saw these opportunities as a time to reach the lost for Christ. Throughout this time in the 21st century, the church had to stay focused because of the hurt experienced by many.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ With the change in technology and social networking, the church had to adapt, because technology is here to stay.
- ❖ The church began to create ways to reach those audiences that were locked into these social network.
- ❖ The Pastor's began posting their sermons, devotionals, and messages on social network.
- ❖ The church also use social networks in ways to reach out to those who may be afraid to come forth, in cases of abuse or for any other reason.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ The Church seemed to be split on the election of Barack Obama as our first African-American President. Many blacks in the church voted for him because of his color and many whites didn't vote for him because of his color.
- ❖ Some churches had a tough time adjusting to the President's policy, because they were concerned that he was not an American (though it has never been clear why they felt this way). Many in the church are against the President even still today.
- ❖ Once the Recession of 2008 hit, many churches lost their building and fell behind and many have never recovered.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ The major adjustment that would have to be made was and is with legalizing gay marriage and the protesting to change the meaning of marriage between a man and a woman. Christians have to follow the law of the land.
- ❖ There are different views from within the Baptist denominations. The Southern Baptist call homosexuality sin and therefore does not recognize gay marriage.
- ❖ On the other hand the Association of welcoming and affirming Baptists stand on full inclusion of homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered individuals.
- ❖ For the church, our position should be, how to minister to people from all walks of li.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW

- ❖ We have developed into a culture that is very busy and the church works on that same system. The church schedule is packed and service has to end on time to keep the congregates happy and on schedule for their outside church events.
- ❖ How does the church deal with racism? The sad reality is that many of them, don't. Some churches run from this topic and deny that it's happening today. Other churches are opening their doors to those of other races and building relationships as unto the Lord. Some are church planting in the urban areas to keep the gospel moving forward.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW (MUSIC)

Throughout the 21st century, music has been a point of contention, trying to keep a clear distinction between Christian music and the World (worldly music). The 21st century has been favorable to all who want to hear it in their suitable genre. We have Christian Rock, Rap, Pop, Gospel, Dance/Techno, Heavy Metal, Punk, Hip Hop, R&B and Praise & Worship. With all of these the world can go to church and have the feel of the club or vice versa. Some of the major musicians for the 21st century have lead the way and have drawn the attention of young teens and adults in ways that the older musicians (and hymnals) do not.

CULTURE CHRISTIANITY AND AMERICAN OVERVIEW (MUSIC)

- ✦ Contemporary Christian artist Michael W. Smith would influence many by using a contemporary sound that separated the Christian music from mainstream culture. The only clear difference was the fact that the name Jesus would be echoed throughout. Smith would be honored as the “cornerstone of Christian music.”⁷
- ✦ Christian rap was another genre that would catch on quickly, though not the first, TobyMac would take the 21st century by storm. Many were trying to figure out what Christian rap was due to all the negativity from gangster rap and since it sounded the same, many wondered if it was sending the wrong (or confusing) message to the young people.

ANALYSIS (CULTURE)

So how would I analyze the 21st century culture in America from the eyes of a Christian? As the country and our culture continue to develop, I believe it is failing in its attempt to reconcile the two. American History has proven once again that it's only going as fast as the events can occur. The events and themes presented in the 21st century showed that the culture of the 21st century is going to be very artistic with a desire to see the world (at their finger tips). History was made in the White House, with Barack Obama. This would only reveal a hatred that once dictated our nation. A hatred that the church can not be entangled into.

ANALYSIS (CULTURE)

The history making President would call for “hope and change,” which meant that he would shine light on issues that were already heated topics for the Church. Issues such as abortion, immigration, welfare, healthcare, and other social issues would be the focus of some conservative Christians. These issues would end up in the hands of the Supreme Court and would change the history of this nation, if passed. This would draw a clear distinction between the conservative Church and the more liberal Church, which seem to be more inviting to the lukewarm Christians and non-believing liberals.

ANALYSIS

(CULTURE)

The biggest impact made on the Church in this century, would have to be "Prosperity" and the desire to get it at any cost. With the success of the Prosperity Church movement, this almost overwhelmed the Church, but thank God for men who are focused on the Cross instead of cash and fame. This desire has led Pastors, entertainers, athletics, and a nation of get rich quick minded individuals to scheme and deceive our culture. We are losing our young to technology. Our education is being watered down, respect is being lost in the home and in the schools, and, parents are selling their children for prosperity and fame. What have we become? And how will the Church step up to the challenge? The culture of today will eventually realize that they need a Savior, hopefully before it is too late. God's plan is unhindered.

LITERARY CHRISTIANITY



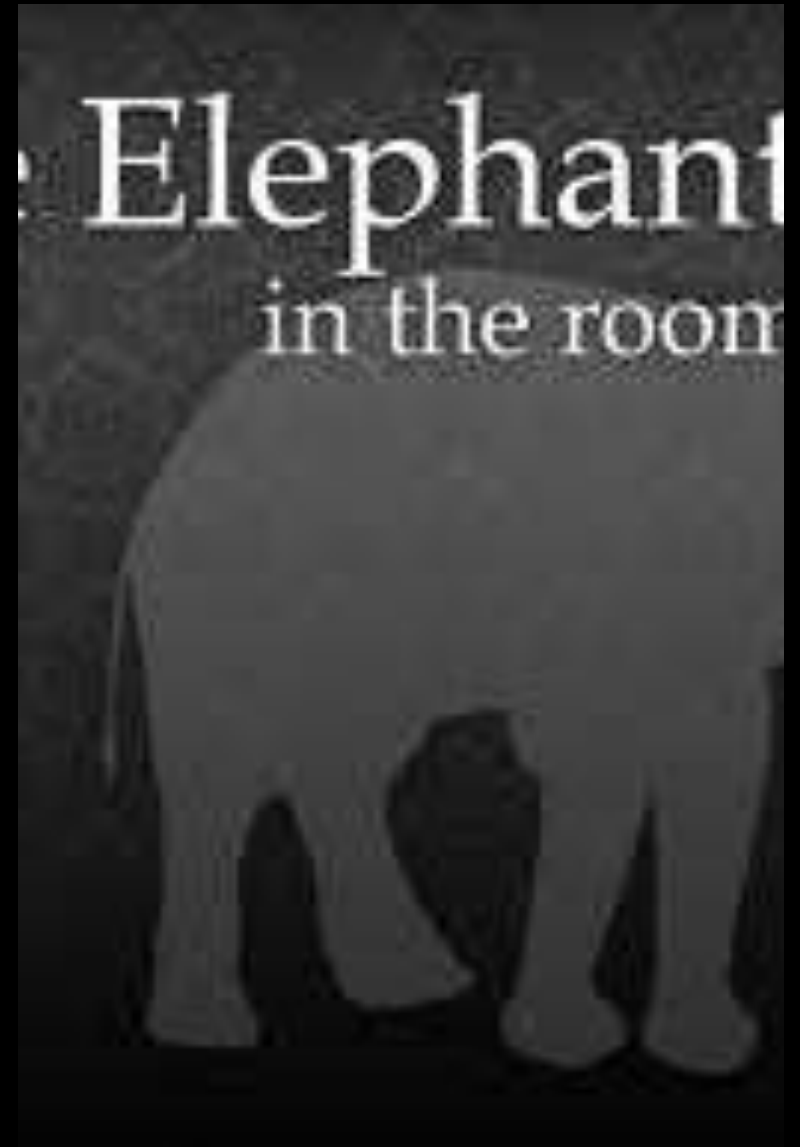
CHRISTIANITY THROUGH THE LITERARY EYE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- As the turn of the new millennium approached, many fears arose as to what would happen to our "age of technology." The fears of a mass computer shutdown darkened the precipice of the long awaited New Year. Many doomsday fanatics rushed to the call to stock up on generators and non-perishable foods. Thousands of people were near the edge of panic and chaos. The times were a bit uncertain, to say the least, which provided a perfect opportunity for Christians to share the Gospel with their shaken, non-believing friends and neighbors. It also presented the rare opportunity for a renewed interest in eschatology, or the study of "last things". The following is a closer look at Christianity through the literary means available in the 21st Century.

A LITERARY OVERVIEW OF THE 21ST CENTURY

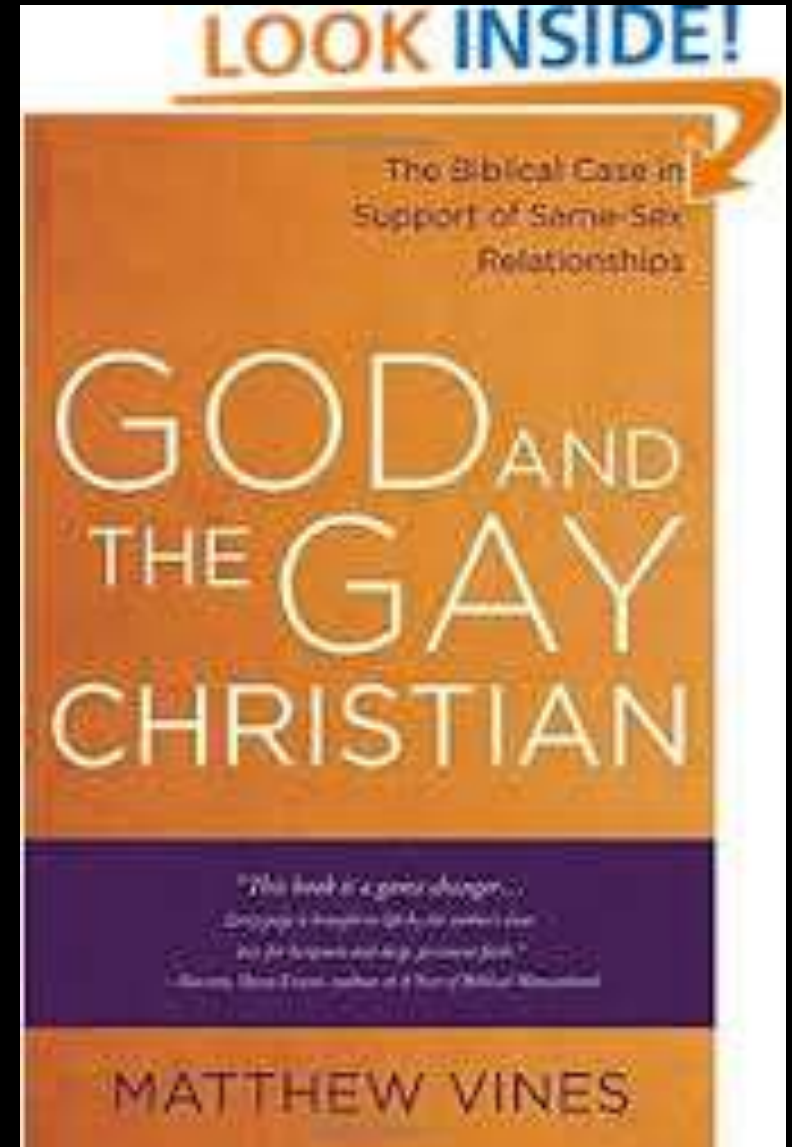
With the rise of world wide communications, the church now has the task of defending her position in a global arena. A few areas worth noting are:

- Never Before Discussed Topics
- "Christian" Literature
- Biblical Illiteracy



NEVER BEFORE DISCUSSED TOPICS

Topics which remained too taboo for the church suddenly made their way to the forefront of discussions across the denominational lines. Unfortunately, much of the content was being presented by only one side.



THE TOPIC OF HOMOSEXUALITY

The most discussed topic in the literary sphere after the turn of the new century was not soteriology, abortion, or even denominational divides. Instead, it was the debate about what to do with those who practice same-sex relationships, but profess to be Christian.

Now that the world was at one's fingertips, the "Gay Wave" swept the internet. Dialogue was shunned and resisted by those in church leadership, as the idea was still something the church was afraid to confront.

After much uprising on both sides, several denominations gave in to the pressure of being *relevant and accepted homosexuality as any other relationship*. *Despite God's Word, they allowed the media to be their final authority.*

THE TOPIC OF DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Many states have chosen to legalize marijuana for recreational and "medicinal" purposes. In light of these decisions, the church found itself in the mix as members justified their use of the drug. Many pastors wrestled with the morality of it, as the mainstream media (and even some church publications) seemed to promote the new laws.

The use of alcohol became more openly accepted by the church as a new generation of reformers arose. Searching scripture and finding no condemnation of a beer with dinner, they felt the need to encourage bar room evangelism. Much of social media touts the images of *drinking Christians*, and churches had to make big decisions as to where they stood on drinking.

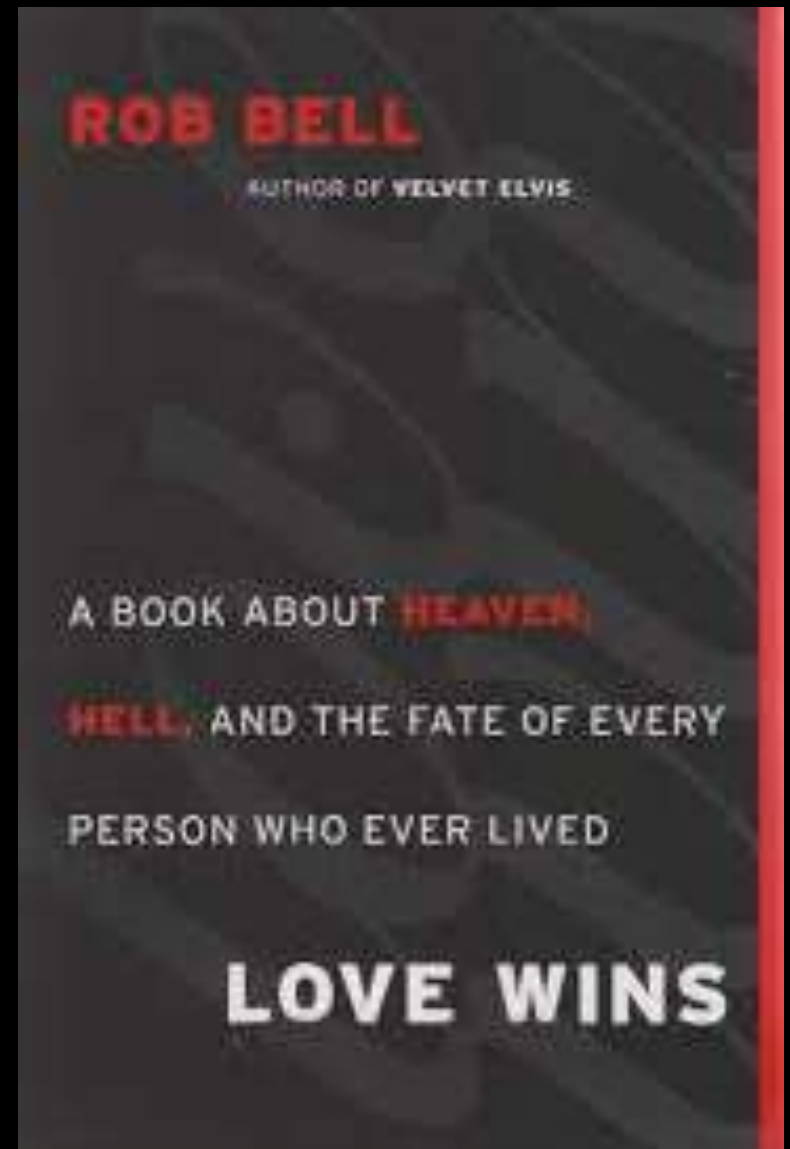
THE TOPIC OF DECLINE

Many churches report a strong decline among the millennial generation. In addition, many "baby boomers" reported no religious affiliation, due in part, to being *enlightened* by some book or teaching not found in church.



"CHRISTIAN" LITERATURE

Much of the books published on the topic of faith and religion are devoid of any theological substance, and do more to weaken the senses of the average believer. Authors such as Rob Bell and Joel Osteen tempt "followers" with an easy to believe doctrine that denounces Hell and punishment, while promoting the *promises* of God.



A RENEWED SENSE OF WRITING

The ability to have a book on the *New York Times Best Seller* list became easier with the advent of social media. One can have a book promoted via facebook, or twitter. If your work is trending on social media, you can almost guarantee its success.

With this ability comes a renewed sense to write about Christian issues and include a much broader audience than before. Books like *Crazy Love* by: Francis Chan and *The Vertical Church* by: James MacDonald have grown in popularity among Christian readers. Enrichment for the believer is a valuable tool for discipleship.

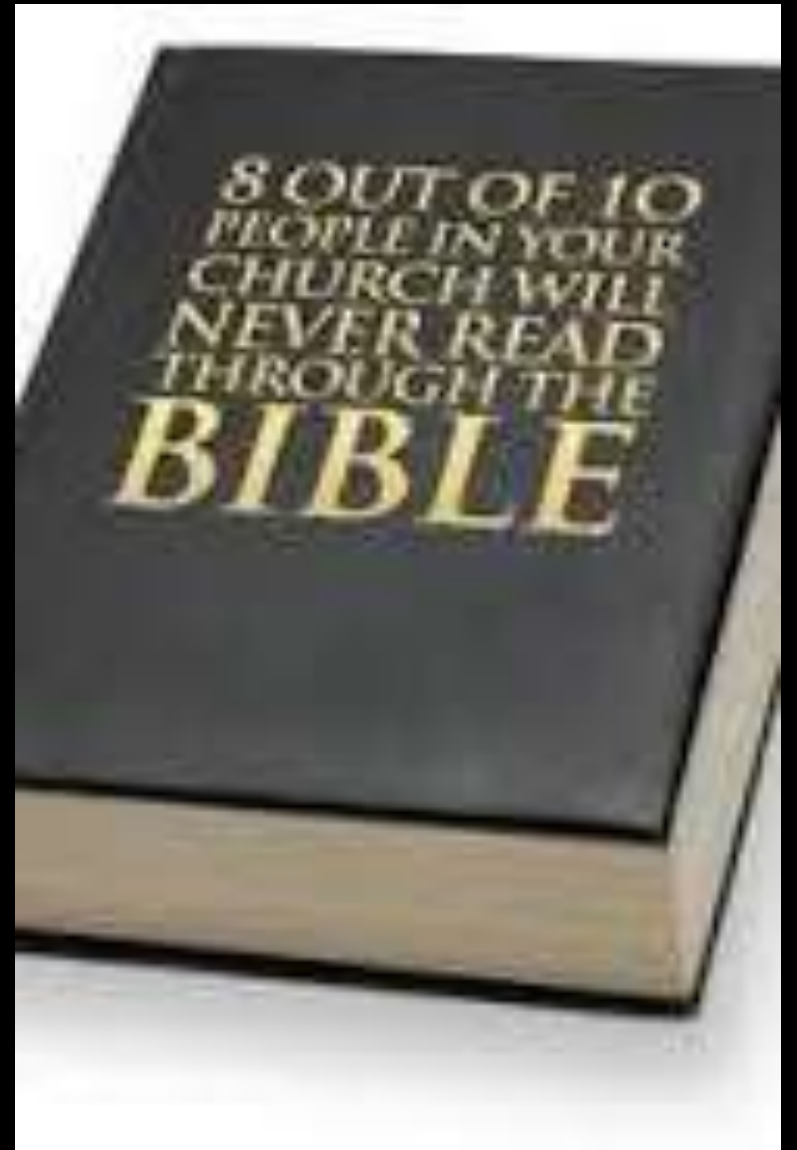
CURRICULUM FOR EVERY IDEA

Publishers like *Lifeway Christian Stores* and *Family Christian Stores* found a new cash cow; Curriculum. Nowadays, if someone has a thought or idea that promises to make following Christ easier, or streamline the discipleship process, churches flock to it like pot-luck spaghetti. Every classroom and small group meeting area is usually inundated with the latest and most critically acclaimed literature.

Among the most influenced by this new era, are the Southern Baptist churches. Every age group is able to obtain teaching plans and personal Bible study tools, in various translations, and on endless topics. There almost seems to be no reason to try and open the Bible and study its content. This cannot be a healthy trend, as it creates Biblical Illiteracy.

BIBLICAL ILLITERACY

With the drastic uptick in "Christian" literature, more and more people are looking to authors for answers, as opposed to looking to what God has to say in scripture. Notable to mention is the fact that most Americans have more than four Bibles in their household. Still, Oprah and Lifeway have the easier path, and that is where laziness finds a friend.



SPOT THE NOT

When asked, the majority of Christians reluctantly admit to never having read their Bible through at least once. Staggering amounts of church leaders are also grouped in this category. If theology is both prescribed *and* described in scripture, where then does their teaching originate?

This was a non-issue in the centuries preceding ours, as most homes inly had one, maybe two, Bibles. Our grandparents read their Bibles daily, and could quote scripture from memory.

Thankfully, there are some shifts in this trend, as groups like AWANA teach scripture memorization early into childhood.

Still, most professing Christians cannot determine what is Word and what is Wives-tale.

CHRISTIANITY & AMERICA

With the influx of immigrants coming into America, comes the immigrant's religious beliefs. The landscape of America is changing, and the world is coming to our doorstep. The church must be prepared to dialogue without fear, and must also be willing to meet people who are different. Most of the new citizens have never heard the Gospel. What an opportunity!



ANALYSIS (LITERARY)

If the church in America continues to look to sources other than Scripture for answers, she will continue to decline. True revival comes from true repentance; true repentance comes from true conviction; true conviction comes from the truth of God's Word. It is a slippery slope to stand apart from the Bible, while professing to be a Christian.

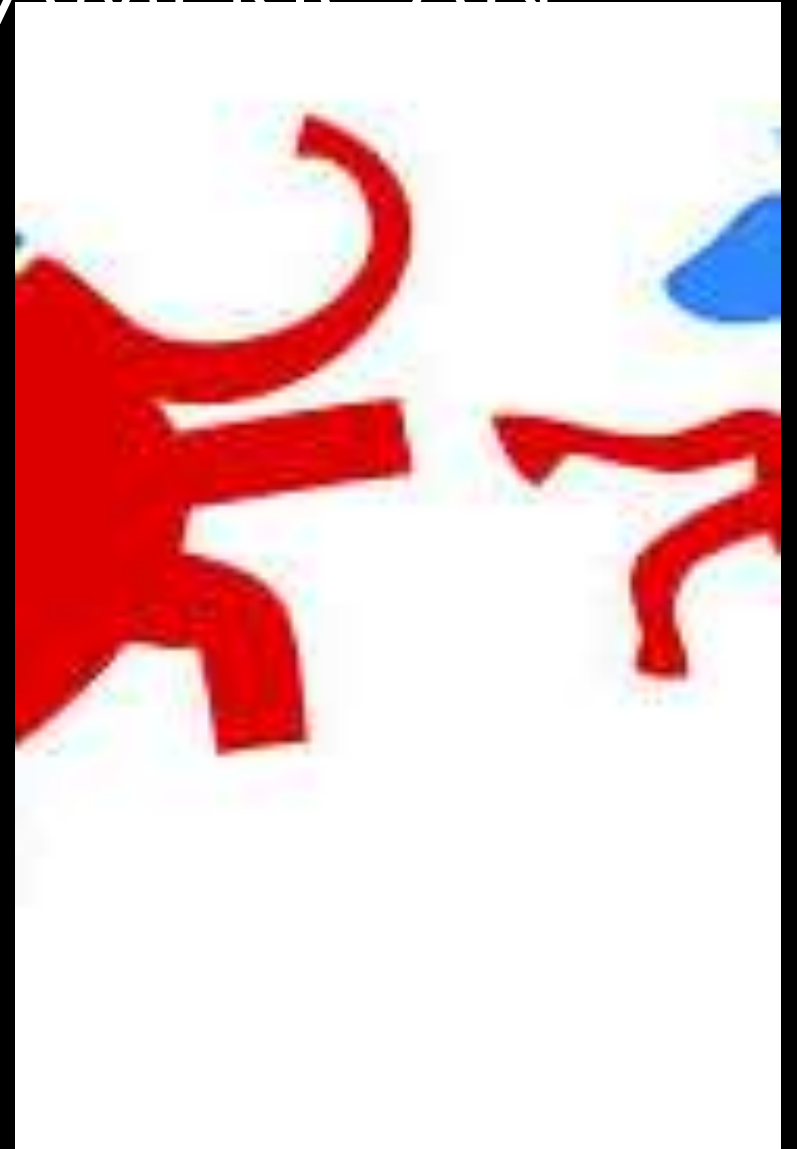
With a vast amount of Christian Literature available, it is very important to distinguish what is aligned with truth and what is man's ideology. Too many writers have their own philosophy of what it takes to get to God. God understands we can NEVER get to Him, so scripture is the account of God coming to us.

POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

In the beginning of the 21st century, America, the great melting pot, was beginning to be stirred: the Human Genome project questioned the morality of cloning; the Iraqi War unsettled the minds of citizens; and the election of the first African-American president, Barak Obama, revealed the internal turmoil of a nation shredded by materialism and division.



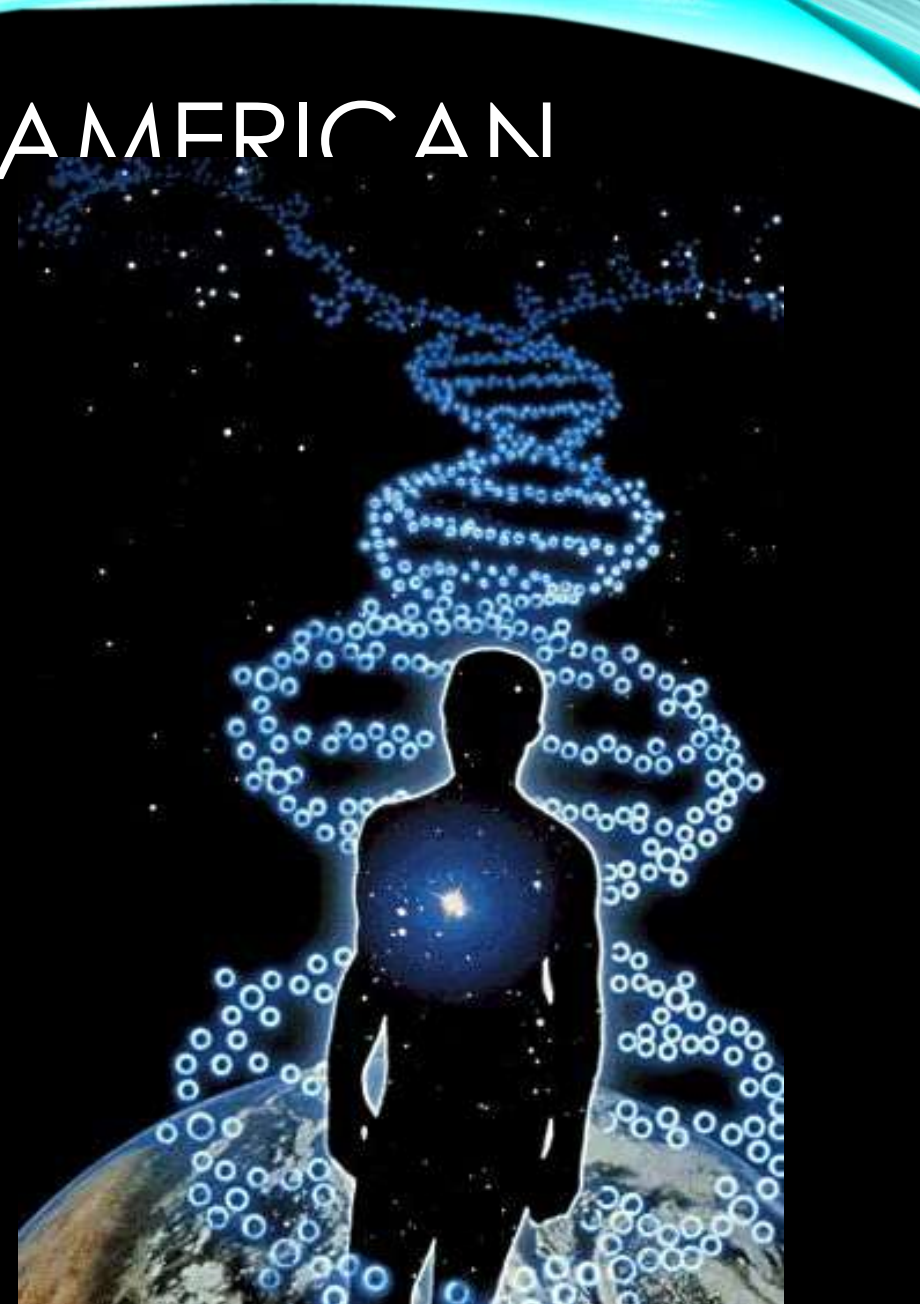
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Anarchism, "the theory that all forms of government are oppressive and should be abolished," (American Heritage Dictionary) appears to be on the rise and in America. Much of the political struggles appear to be internal anarchist struggles which flourish into greater depths of turmoil outside of the United States. For example, the religious wars on terrorism, the inter-racial struggles of African-Americans and Whites, and the advances of technology which bred a new brand of science.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

According to knowledgene.com, "the HGP [Human Genome Project] is first large scientific undertaking to address the *ethical, legal and social issues* that may arise from the project" (Brackets and definition added; italics remained within the text). This project was intended to extend 15 years of extensive labor; however, it was completed in 13, ending on the date of 2003.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

The quest of the Iraqi war was in essence "... to destroy Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and end the dictatorial rule of Saddam Hussein." Some question if the war itself was politically constructed on the premise of oil and religious extremism. However the motives are still questioned, and a type of internal "anarchism" has arisen amidst the citizens of America, questioning if the government should be trusted.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Barak Obama, the first black president of the United States, was elected in the year of 2008. According to the New York Times, the election of Obama was a "...strikingly symbolic moment in the evolution of the nation's fraught racial history, a breakthrough that would have seemed unthinkable just two years ago."

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/05/us/politics/05elect.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

This freedom which apparently was laid out by the election of an African American president, appeared to be shattered by the Ferguson protests. According to a BBC article, the shooting of an unarmed African American shattered the new dreams of African Americans; this action--depending on the conclusion of the reader--stirred much turmoil within the African American community.



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Morality, Anarchism, and the quest for peace in the midst of diversity seem to be defining themes within the political realm of America.

- What was the Churches response in politics to the Human Genome Project, the war in Afghanistan and the election of Obama?
- What major laws were passed during the succession of these three major ideas?
- And, how did the politics of America effect the "global conditions" of the global world?



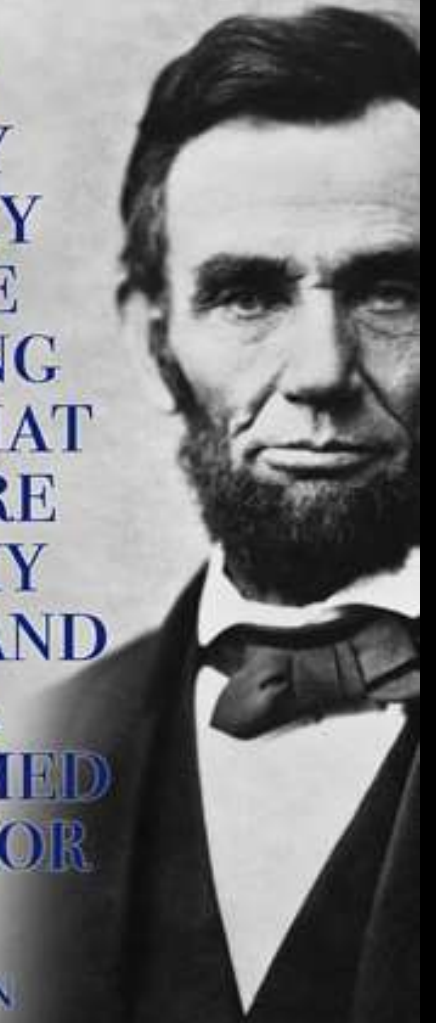
POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA ~THE GENOME PROJECT

With the advance of technology, the church had to answer questions that arose about the ethical use of the Genome Project. According to the Apologetics Press, "Science can produce the technology. But it cannot provide the moral impetus to guide us in the use of that technology." Numerous Christian articles were produced during this time period; many of which defined the "nucleus" of morality, and a new breed of intellectual thought was sown in order that "morality" be defined not by the wisdom of man, but by the wisdom of God; hence, the quote on the right hand side.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

REALTRUTHMATTE



POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA ~THE IRAQI WAR

The Christian church, the "Disciples" of Christ--also known as the "Disciples Peace Fellowship"--supported the war, but disagreed against the action. The politics in accordance to the Supreme Court insisted, along with Bush, that this war was "just" in the aspect of freeing the Iraqi citizens from the tyranny of an oppressive radical group.



POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

~ELECTION OF OBAMA~

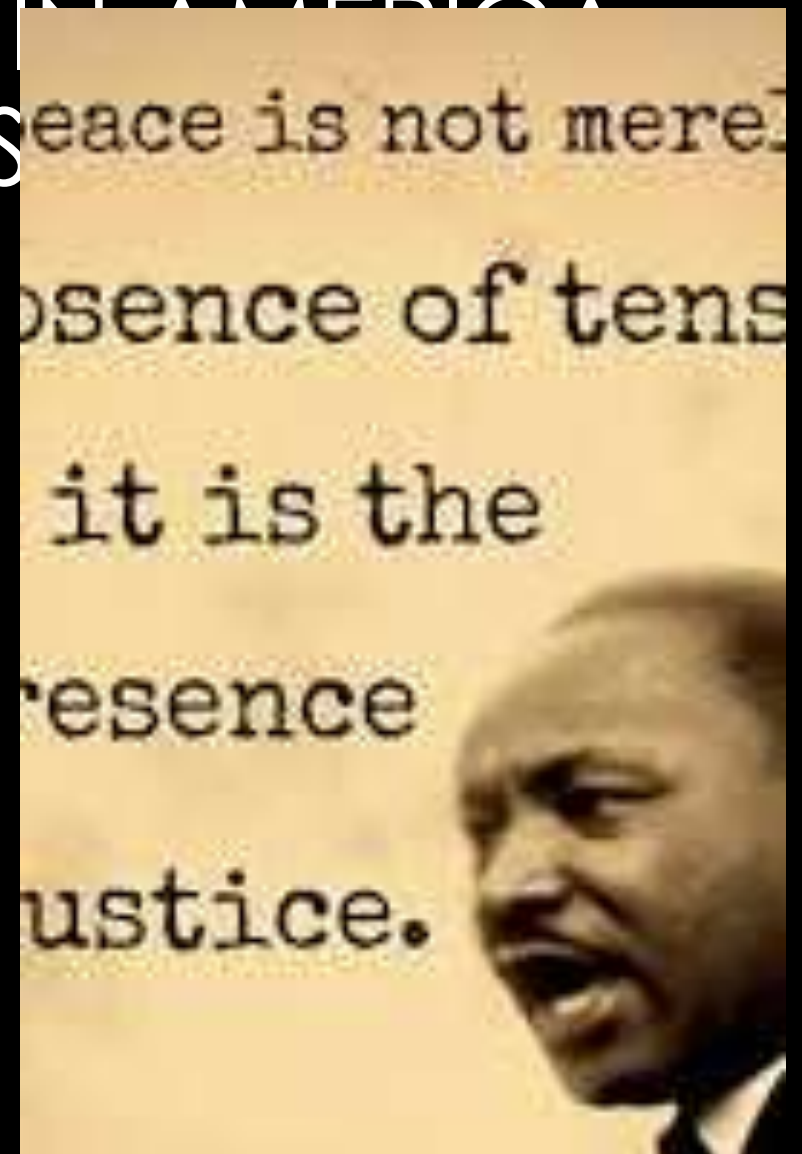
In Obama's election, he premised himself as dedicated believer in Christ. The church then had concerns for the following ideas and concepts Obama presented:

- 1.) "Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation." (BHO, 2006)
- 2.) No need for national day of prayer
- 3.) The Bible was banned in the White House--Pentagon's daily Intelligence briefings ceased carrying any Bible quotes/messages.



POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA ~RIOTS IN FERGUSON

The civil rights movement of "equality" began with Martin Luther King, professing his dream of equality in a non-violent way. The church, especially those of the African-American denominations, suddenly felt deeply the schism of what they thought was resolved through Martin Luther King's speech. Therefore, racism spread reared its ugly wound again; the churches called for prayer and non-violence--Dr. Alveda King being the main speaker of the church's response.



POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

~MAJOR LAWS FOR MA

The Major Laws passed in America during the 21st Century are as follows:

1.) Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act

2.) 21st Century Cure Act

3.) The Legalization of Gay Marriage in 50 states



POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA ~THE GLOBAL EFFECT

For further investigation and readings on the global impact America has accomplished, below is a link to a pdf file in which Tamar Jacoby writes "What It Means to be an American in the 21st Century:"

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/meltingpot/html/part_6.pdf



ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY

POLITICS

From our findings about American politics, it appears that the world is growing dimmer and darker. However, in comparison to other cultures in Biblical times, it is just as evil; sin remains prevalent in a corrupt earth. Therefore, it should not be something to be dismayed about. With the acceptance of Christ as our ultimate savior, not the world, or the president, or the government, we will be able to preach the gospel without hindrance.



ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL CHRISTIANITY

POLITICS

Though "anarchism" is a common theme among America and globally, the ultimate freedom is in Christ. Therefore, though the politics of this age ultimately might be disagreed with, the end state of this world is not to be our focus. Rather, Christ is our reward, and His blessing is what we should strive for.



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POLITICS

The questions then become:

- > How should the church live within the world?
- > What is our calling as a community in a world of corruption?
- > How can we then make a difference in the political realm?



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The simple answer is, follow Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to first change you. If Christians are to be the salt of the earth, then there are a few requirements:

First, the salt has to be "salty." If you are a Christian who wants to change the world, but has no "personal" transformation, how will one change the world? Because, it is a terrible tragedy for a man to gain the world but lose his soul.

Secondly, too much salt in one area is "bitter." Allow yourself to spread your gifts and talents in ways in which is not "self-centered." Thus, you can impact the world through a life of giving, not hoarding.

Thirdly, pray like Christ did. I think that the greatest miracles are the ones which are currently present within the time frame of every day.



CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE MODERN WORLD

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