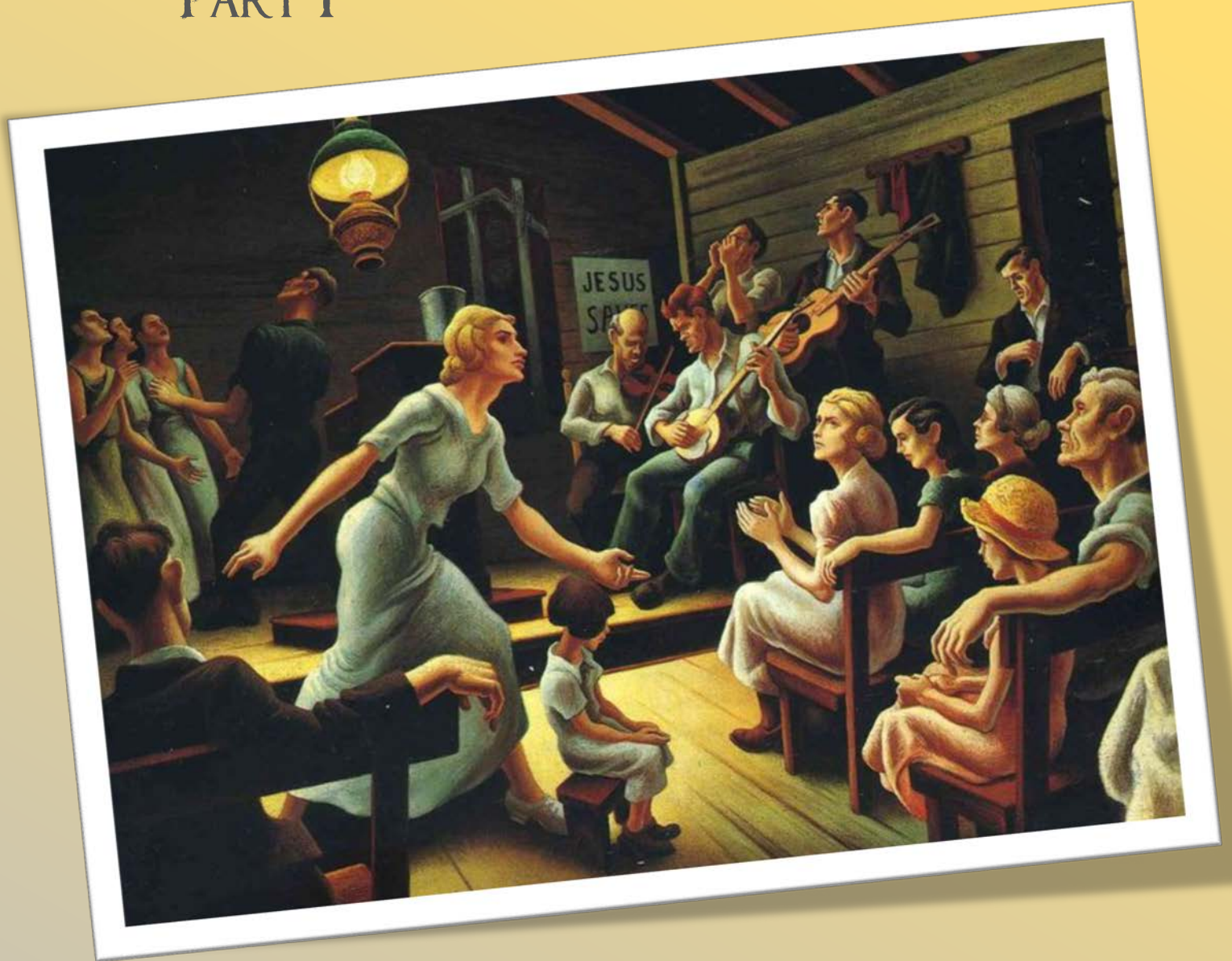


CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH

PART 1

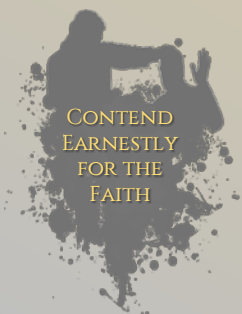
“I NOW FEEL COMPELLED
INSTEAD TO WRITE TO
ENCOURAGE YOU TO
CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR
THE FAITH THAT WAS ONCE
FOR ALL ENTRUSTED TO
THE SAINTS.”

JUDE 1:3B NET



“LORD HEAL THE CHILD”

THOMAS HART BENTON
1934





"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."



CT

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

ELECTION
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VIEWS p.52

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October 11, 2016


The following article is located at: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/october/beautiful-orthodoxy.html>

Christianity Today, September, 2016

COVER STORY

The World Is Yearning for Beautiful Orthodoxy

Goodness, truth, and beauty all come from the same Person.
Mark Galli / posted September 23, 2016



Rage is today's ruling online emotion. So concluded a 2013 study of Chinese mini-blogging network Weibo—a platform that resembles Twitter and boasts twice as many users.

Beihang University researchers examined 70 million Weibo "tweets" over a six-month period, sorting them by anger, joy, sadness, and disgust. Rage was the emotion most likely to spread across social media, with one angry post powerful and persuasive enough to negatively influence a follower of a follower of a follower.

In other words, that angry tweet of yours has the potential of fomenting rage to the third degree! But it's not just our smartphones sowing the seeds of all this discontent.

Neglected, slighted, misrepresented-evangelical Christianity needs **a clear voice**, to speak with conviction and love, and to state its true position and its relevance to the world crisis. **A generation has grown up unaware of the basic truths of the Christian faith taught in the Scriptures and expressed in the creeds of the historic evangelical churches.**

CHRISTIANITY TODAY is confident that the answer to the theological confusion existing in the world is found in Christ and the Scriptures.



WHY 'CHRISTIANITY TODAY'?

The best modern scholarship recognizes the bearing of doctrine on moral and spiritual life.

CHRISTIANITY to express his... tion. Negle... Christianity... viction and... relevance to... up unaware... taught in th... of the histo... Theologi... and spiritual... on the stre... tracted by

quently, it finds itself adrift in speculation that neither solves the problem of the individual nor of the society of which he is a part.

For the preacher, an unending source of wisdom and power lies in a return to truly biblical preaching. For the layman, this same Book will prove to be light on the pathway of life, the record of the One Who alone meets our needs for now and for eternity.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY is confident that the answer to the theological confusion existing in the world is found in Christ and the Scriptures. There is evidence that more and more people are rediscovering the Word of God as their source of authority and power. Many of these searchers for the truth are unaware of the existence of an increasing group of evangelical scholars throughout the world. Through the pages of CHRISTIANITY TODAY these men will expound and defend the basic truths of the Christian faith in terms of reverent scholarship and of practical application to the needs of the present generation.

Those who direct the editorial policy of CHRISTIANITY TODAY unreservedly accept the complete reliability and authority of the written Word of God. It is their conviction that the Scriptures teach the doctrine of plenary inspiration. This doctrine has been misrepresented and misunderstood. To state the biblical concept of inspiration will be one of the aims of this magazine.

The doctrinal content of historic Christianity will be presented and defended. Among the distinctive doc-

those of God, Christ, man... The best modern scholar... of doctrine on moral... life. The emphasis will find encourage... pages of CHRISTIANITY TODAY... munity will be fostered by setting forth... testament teaching of the unity of believers... Christ. External organic unity is not likely... unless the unity engendered by the Holy... A unity that endures must have as... basis a like faith, an authentic hope, and... power of Christian love.

National stability and survival depend upon enduring spiritual and moral qualities. Revival as the answer to national problems may seem to be an oversimplified solution to a distressingly complex situation. Nevertheless statesmen as well as theologians realize that the basic solution to the world crisis is theological. CHRISTIANITY TODAY will stress the impact of evangelism on life and will encourage it.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY will apply the biblical revelation to the contemporary social crisis, by presenting the implications of the total Gospel message for every area of life. This, Fundamentalism has often failed to do. Christian laymen are becoming increasingly aware that the answer to the many problems of political, industrial, and social life is a theological one. They are looking to the Christian Church for guidance, and they are looking for a demonstration of the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a transforming and vital force. We have the conviction that consecrated and gifted evangelical scholarship can provide concrete proof and strategic answers.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY takes cognizance of the dissolving effect of modern scientific theory upon religion. To counteract this tendency, it will set forth the unity of the Divine revelation in nature and Scripture.

Three years in a theological seminary is not sufficient to prepare a student fully for the ministry. CHRISTIANITY TODAY will seek to supplement seminary training with sermonic helps, pastoral advice, and book reviews, by leading ministers and scholars.

The interpretation of the news becomes more and more important in the present world situation. Correspondents conversant with local conditions have been


Why American Evangelicals Are Confused About What the Bible Teaches

sharedveracity.net/2016/10/07/why-american-evangelicals-are-confused-about-what-the-bible-teaches

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Why American Evangelicals Are Confused About What the Bible Teaches

October 7, 2016

By Clarke Morledge

Despite having access to more and more knowledge, it is well-known that the average American's knowledge of the Bible, and having confidence in that Bible, is at an all-time low. But did you know that American evangelicals are becoming more confused about what the Bible teaches?

A recent survey conducted by LifeWay Research and Ligonier Ministries identified a sample group of American evangelicals; that is, those who believe the Bible to be their highest authority, that sharing one's faith is very important, and that trusting in Jesus' finished work on the cross is the only way to salvation. In asking a series of questions about what the Bible teaches, the survey revealed some rather disturbing results about what self-proclaimed evangelicals really believe. Here are some of the most alarming:

- "People have the ability to turn to God on their own

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OCT 4, 2016 EDITION



The State of Theology

19:34

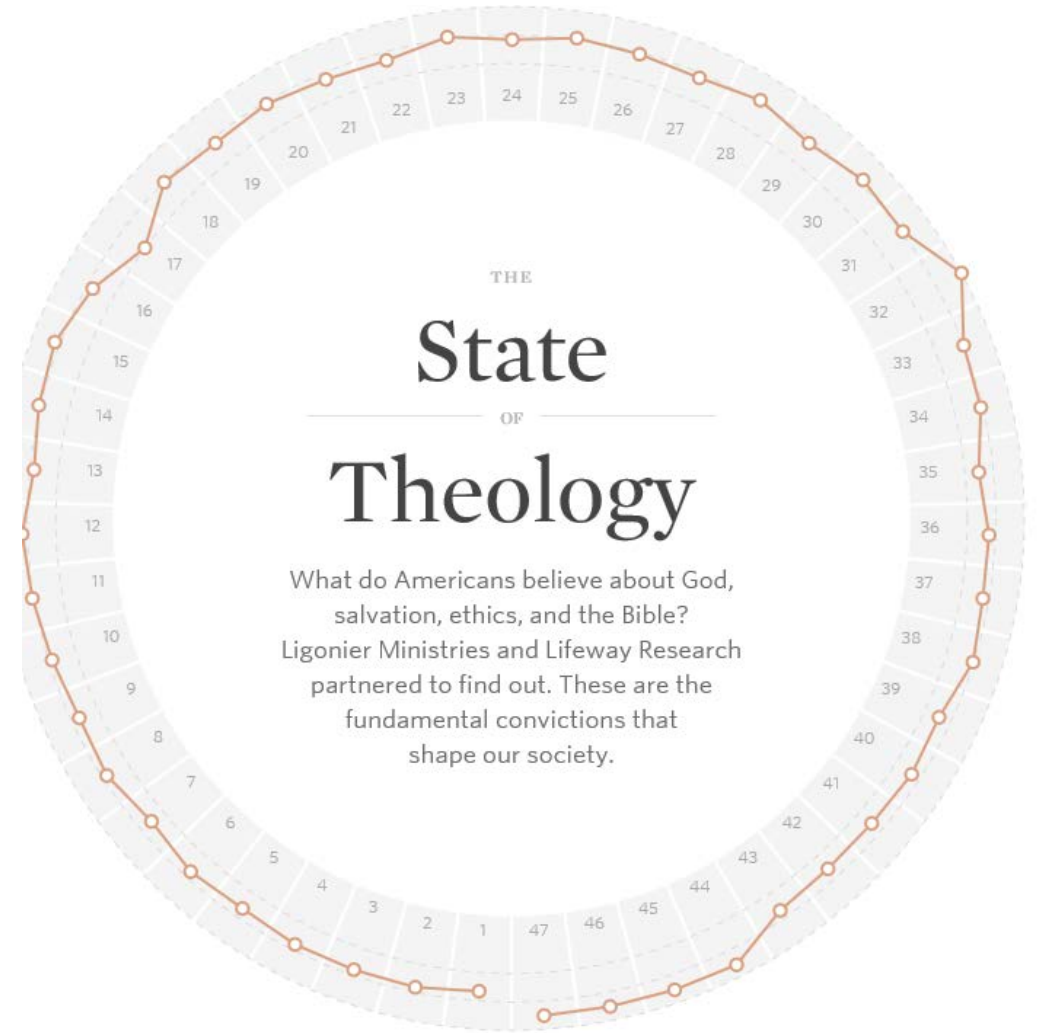


An Interview with Chris Larson and Stephen Nichols

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Ligonier Ministries teamed up with LifeWay Research to conduct The State of Theology study for 2016, a poll which surveyed the theological beliefs of 3,000 Americans. Listen today as Chris Larson, Dr. Stephen Nichols and Lee Webb discuss the survey and its findings. To view the survey and findings visit TheStateOfTheology.com.



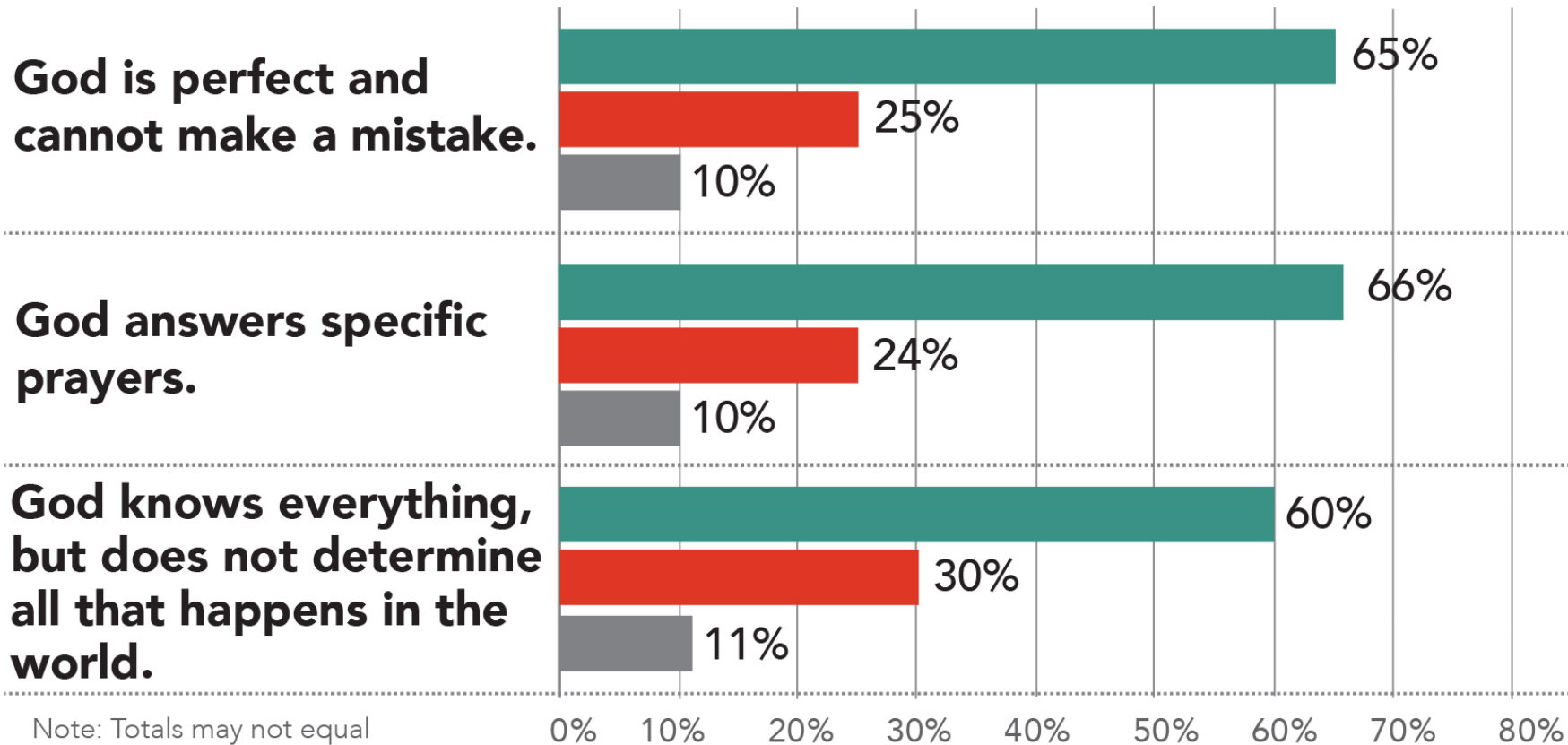
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American Theological Views:

CHARACTER OF GOD

AGREE DISAGREE NOT SURE



RELIGION:

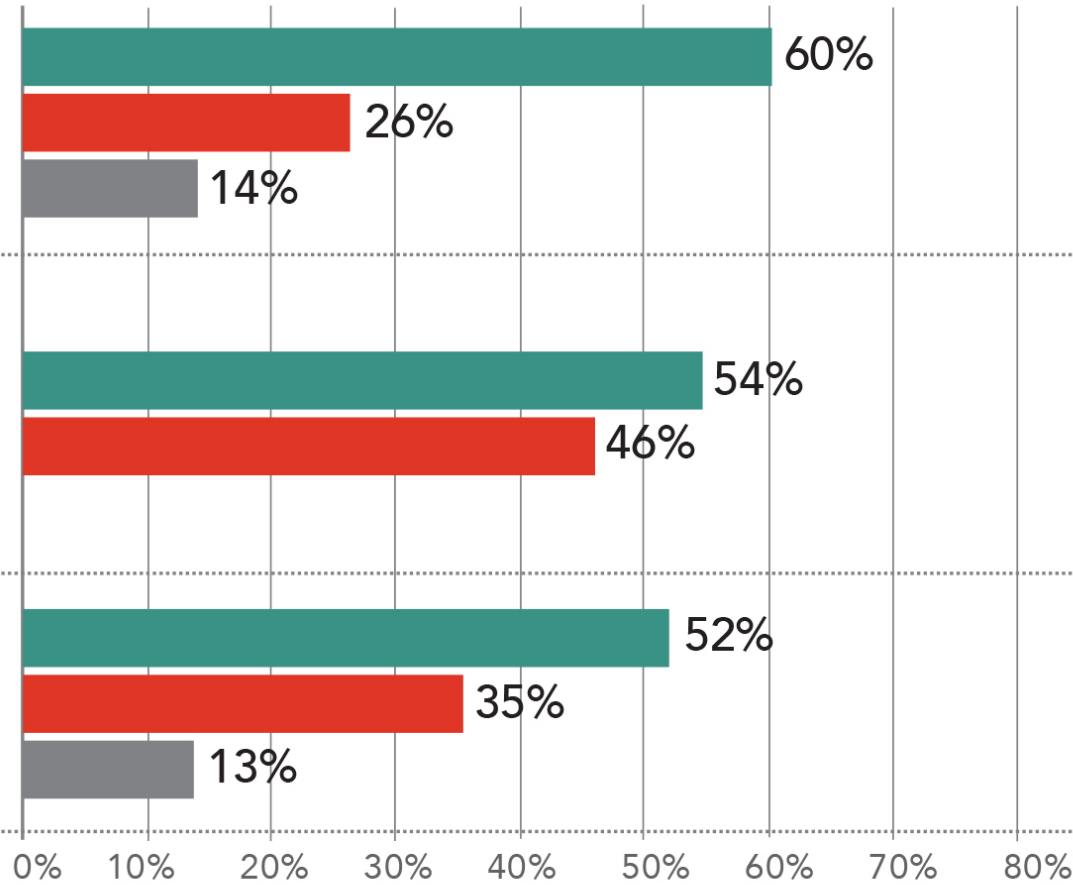
God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

64% agree

American Theological Views: **THE AFTERLIFE**

AGREE DISAGREE NOT SURE

Heaven is a place where all people will ultimately be reunited with their loved ones.



HELL:

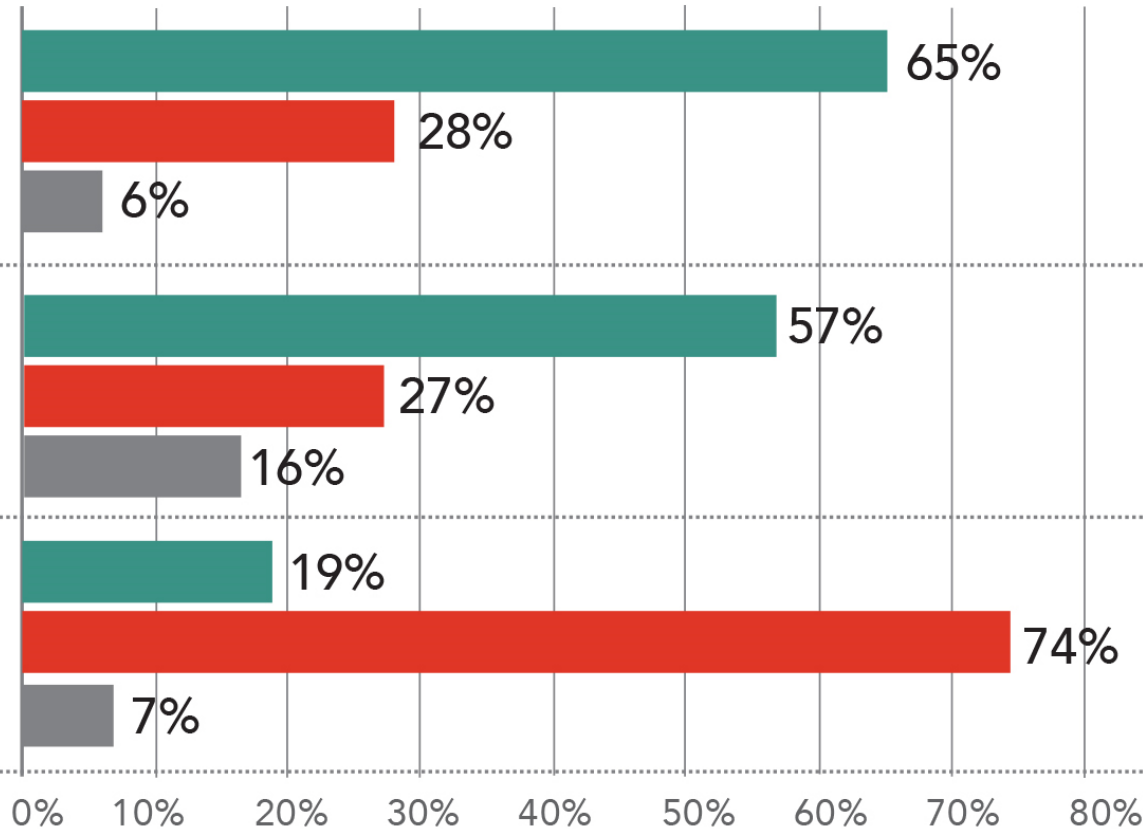
Hell is an eternal place of judgment where God sends all people who do not personally trust in Jesus Christ.

40% agree

American Theological Views: **SIN & CONDEMNATION**

AGREE DISAGREE NOT SURE

**Everyone sins a little,
but most people are
good by nature.**



Note: Totals may not equal
100% due to rounding.

**FOLLOWING
BEHAVIOR
IS SINFUL:**

Sex outside of marriage

49% agree

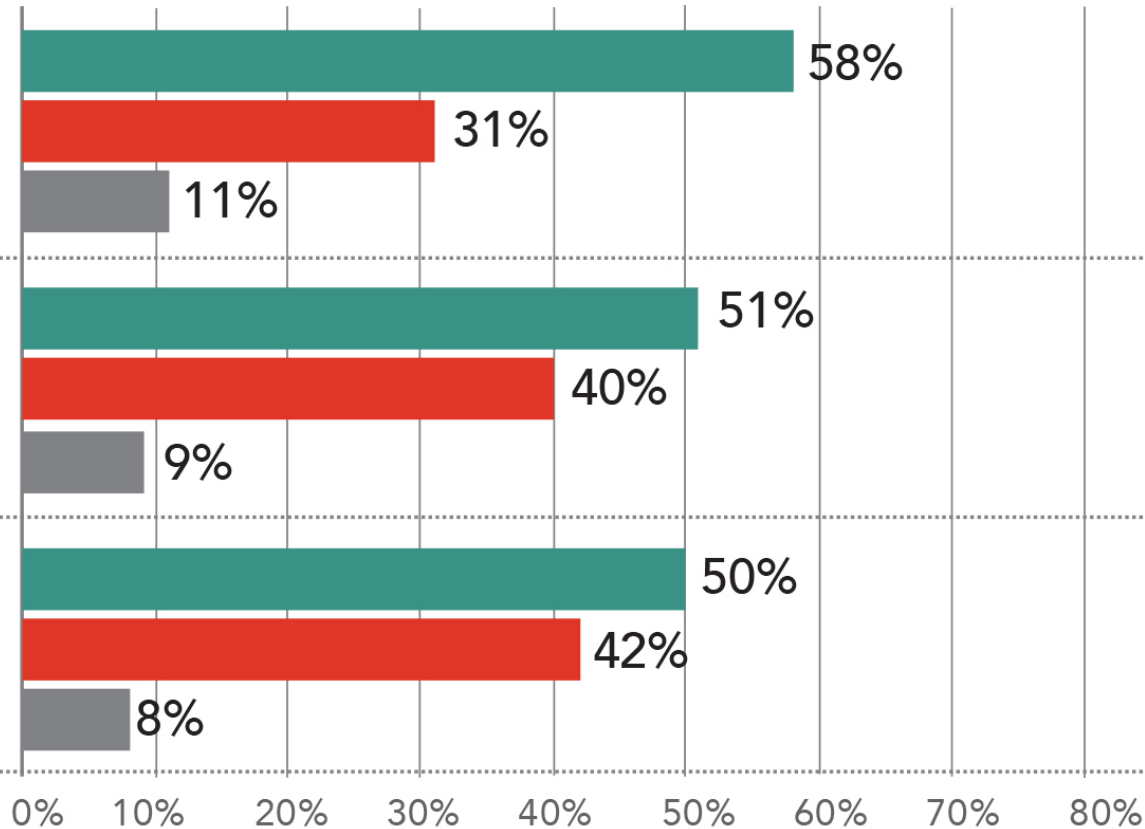
Abortion

49% agree

American Theological Views: **THE BIBLE**

AGREE DISAGREE NOT SURE

God is the author
of Scripture.



The Bible was written
for each person to
interpret as he or she
chooses.

The Bible has the
authority to tell us
what to do.

ACCURACY:

**Biblical accounts of
Jesus' bodily resurrection
are accurate.**

64% agree

The Bible is 100% accurate.

47% agree

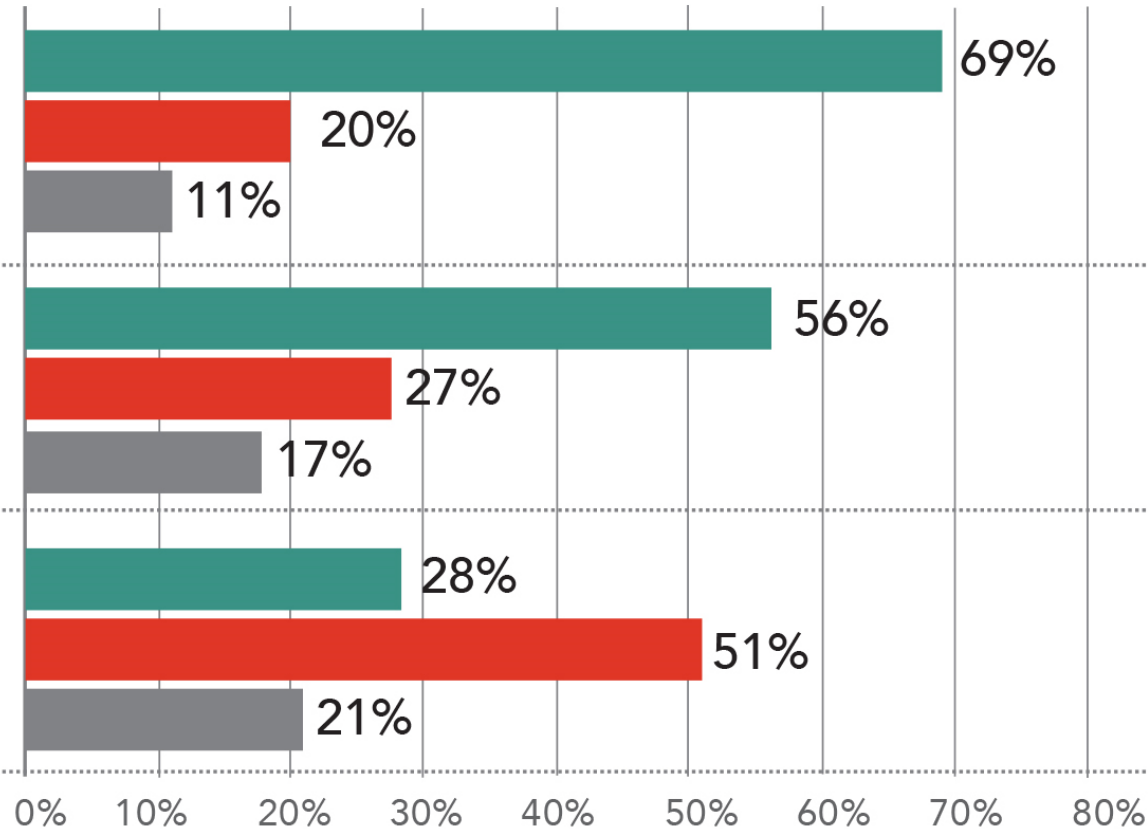
**The Bible is helpful, but
not literally true.**

44% agree

American Theological Views: **THE TRINITY**

AGREE DISAGREE NOT SURE

There is one true God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



JESUS:

Jesus is truly God with a divine nature, and Jesus is truly man with a human nature.

61% agree

Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.

52% agree

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Contend Earnestly for the Faith

Greg Koukl: Expert On Defending Your Faith



Today, Christianity is facing challenges on two broad fronts: trouble in the world and trouble in the church. Apologetics authority, Greg Koukl, unpacks issues in both of these areas and discusses how modern-day culture has created confusion that is attacking the foundations of the Christian faith. You'll discover the simple, two-part solution to these challenges that anyone, regardless of their level of biblical knowledge, can easily apply to their life.

Sermon Outline



CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH

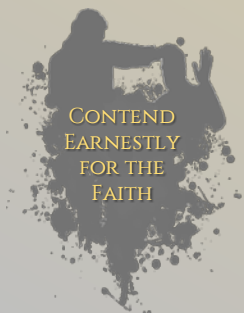
SERIES OUTLINE

QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT IS THE “FAITH THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS?”
2. WHO WERE THE SAINTS?
3. HOW *DID* THEY CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH?

TOPICS:

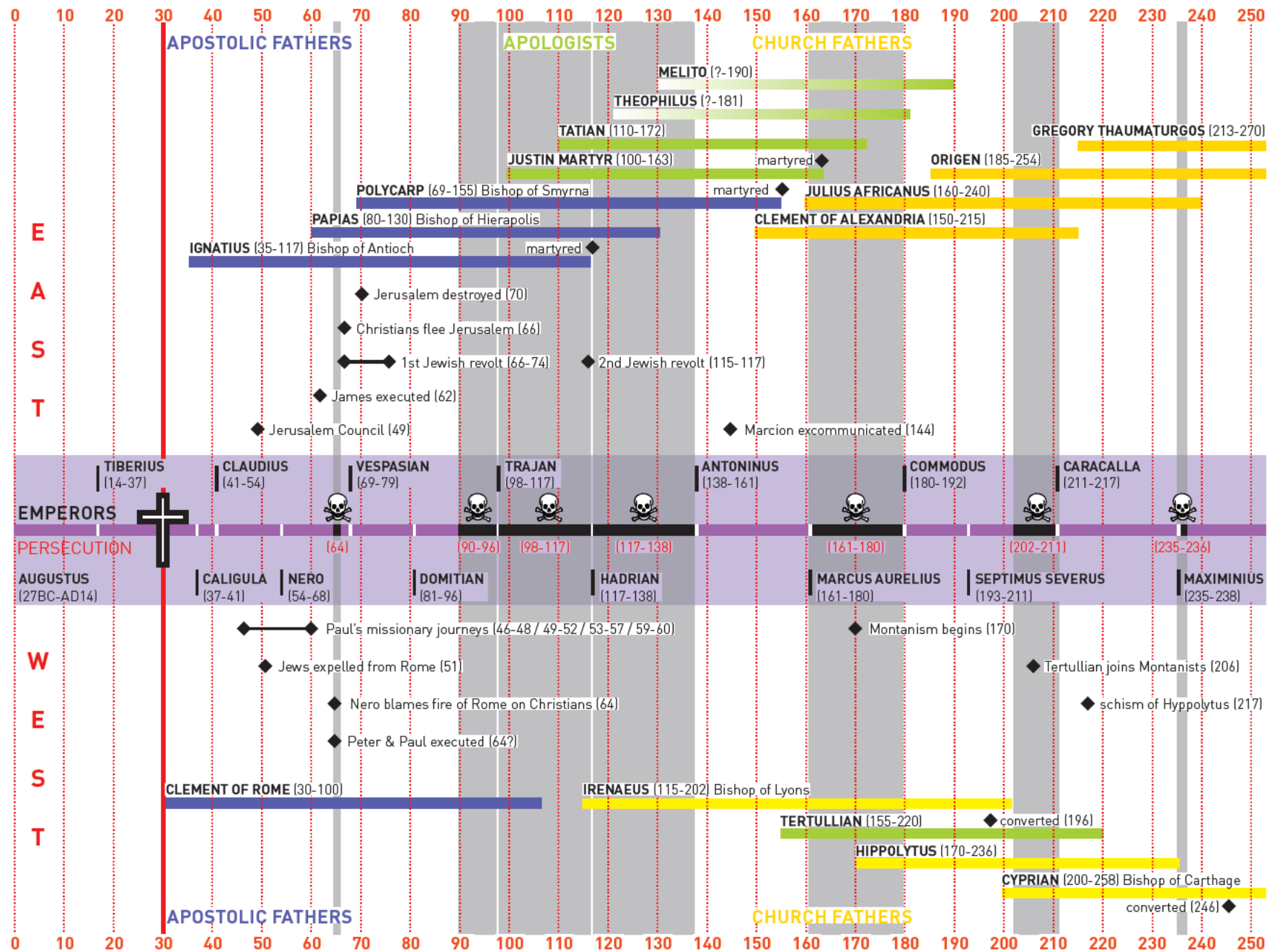
1. CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY
2. THE PROBLEM OF FALSE TEACHING
3. APOSTOLIC AND EARLY CHURCH FATHERS
4. CHURCH HISTORY

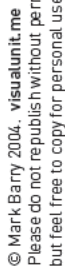




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EARLY CHURCH HISTORY 0 - AD 250





This timeline illustrates the Roman Empire from 250 to 500 AD, divided into the Eastern and Western Empires. It highlights major events, the lives of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, and the development of Christianity.

Timeline of the Roman Empire (250-500 AD)

Eastern Empire (East)

- Emperors:**
 - DIOCLETIAN (284-305)
 - LICINIUS (308-324)
 - CONSTANTINE I (307-337)
 - CONSTANTINE II (337-361)
 - CONSTANS (350-361)
 - CONSTANTIUS (350-361)
 - VALENS (364-378)
 - THEODOSIUS I (379-395)
 - THEODOSIUS II (408-450)
 - MARCIAN (450-457)
 - LEO I (457-474)
- Major Events:**
 - split by Diocletian (286)
 - reunited by Constantine (324)
 - split after Jovian's death (364)
- Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers:**
 - EUSEBIUS (263-339) - writes church history (303)
 - ATHANASIUS (296-373) - Bishop of Alexandria (328) - writes monastic rules (370)
 - THEODORE OF MOPSUESTIA (350-428)
 - JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (347-407) - Bishop of Constantinople (398)
 - GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS (330-390)
 - GREGORY OF NYSSA (330-394)
 - BASIL (329-379) - writes monastic rules (370)
 - CYRIL (376-444)
- Other Key Events:**
 - Arianism condemned at Alexandria (318)
 - NICEA (325) - Jesus' divinity debated (Athanasius vs Arius)
 - Constantinople: new capital for East (330)
 - Arianism & Apollinarianism condemned (381)
 - Christianity: a state religion (380)
 - Christianity: official state religion (394)
 - prohibition of paganism (391)
 - EPHESUS (431) - Pelagianism & Nestorianism condemned
 - CHALCEDON (451) - Monophysitism condemned

Western Empire (West)

- Emperors:**
 - DECIDIUS (249-251)
 - VALERIAN (257-260)
 - MAXIMIAN (286-305)
 - CONSTANTINE (307-337)
 - VALENTINIAN (307-337)
 - HONORIUS (395-423)
 - VALENTINIAN (425-455)
- Major Events:**
 - Novatian schism (251)
 - Synod of Carthage (256) - Cyprian vs Stephen
 - Edict vs Manichaeans (297)
 - Edict of Tolerance (311)
 - Edict of Milan recognising Christians (313)
 - Goths & Vandals convert to Arianism (340?)
 - Apollinaris condemned at Rome (377)
 - Alaric the Goth sacks Rome (410)
 - Attila the Hun attacks Italy (451)
 - Vandals sack Rome (455)
 - Vandals persecute Christians (478)
 - Western Empire collapses (476)
- Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers:**
 - LACTANTIUS (240-320)
 - HILARY (291-371)
 - AMBROSE (340-397) - defies empress (385)
 - JEROME (345-420) - Vulgate translation (382-405)
 - AUGUSTINE (354-430) - converted (386) Bishop of Hippo (396) Confessions (400) City of God (427)

CONTEND
EARNESTLY
FOR THE
FAITH



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PEOPLE

CHRISTIANS YOU SHOULD KNOW


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Activists




CATHERINE BOOTH
1829–1890

Catherine Booth
Compelling preacher and
co-founder of the
Salvation Army




ELIZABETH FRY
1782–1845

Elizabeth Fry
Prison reformer




HARRIET TUBMAN
1825–1913

Harriet Tubman
The "Moses" of Her
People




JOHN WOOLMAN
1734–1791

John Woolman
Quaker mystic and
abolitionist




LORD SHAFTESBURY
(ANTONY ASHLEY COOPER)
1801–1885

Lord Shaftesbury
(Antony Ashley
Cooper)
Godly English statesman




SOJOURNER TRUTH
1797–1875

Sojourner Truth
Abolitionist and women's
rights advocate




WALTER
RAUSCHENBUSCH
1861–1918

Walter
Rauschenbusch
Champion of the social
gospel




WILLIAM BOOTH
1829–1912

William Booth
First General of the
Salvation Army



WILLIAM GLADSTONE
1809–1898


William Gladstone
Prime Minister of
impeccable morals



WILLIAM
WILBERFORCE
1769–1833


William
Wilberforce
Antislavery politician

Denominational Founders




AIMEE SEMPLE
MCIPHERSON
1892–1935

Aimee Semple




ALEXANDER
CAMPBELL
1792–1868

Alexander



FRANCIS ASBURY
1772–1845

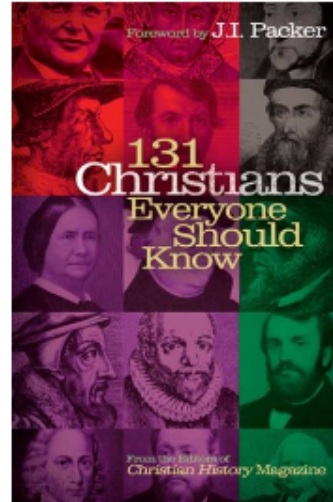
Francis Asbury



GEORGE FOX
1624–1691

George Fox

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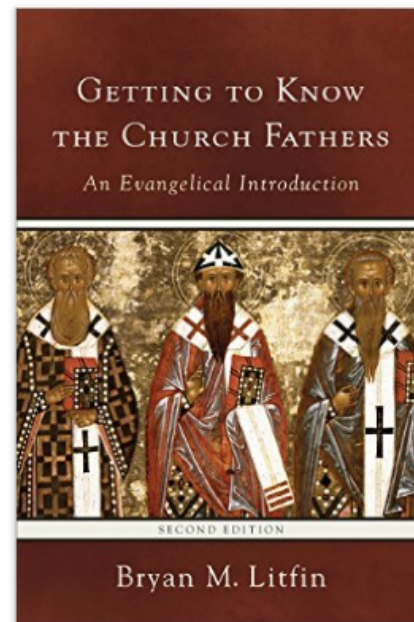
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- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

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- M.A. AND M.DIV. (REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY)
- PH.D. (UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE)

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These videos explore the background and context of early and medieval Church History. Each of the lectures is a graduate, seminary-level lecture—the backbone of my lectures at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

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6

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