

**Future Church pt. 2: The Bible in America**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
**January 4-5, 2020**

**2 TIMOTHY 3:12-16 NLT**

*Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS USEFUL TO TEACH US WHAT IS TRUE AND TO MAKE US REALIZE WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES. IT CORRECTS US WHEN WE ARE WRONG AND TEACHES US TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.*

**2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4 NLT**

*For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.*

**3 Major Shifts Happening in America:**

1. Increased skepticism
2. A new moral code: self-fulfillment
3. Digital access

**New Moral Code of America:**

*“To be fulfilled in life, you should pursue the things you most desire.”*

Agree: 91% all adults 76% practicing Christians

*“People can believe anything they want as long as those beliefs don’t affect society.”*

Agree: 79% all adults 61% practicing Christians

*“The highest goal in life is to enjoy it as much as possible.”*

Agree: 84% all adults 67% practicing Christians

*“The best way to find yourself is by looking within yourself.”*

Agree: 91% all adults 76% practicing Christians

*“Any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable.”*

Agree: 69% all adults 40% practicing Christians

### **Americans and the Bible:**

*Americans who consider the Bible a Holy book:*

All Adults: 81%

Men: 77%

Women: 85%

Millennials: 71%

Gen-Xers: 79%

Boomers: 87%

Elders: 88%

*The Bible is a comprehensive guide to a meaningful life:*

All Adults: 68%

Men: 64%

Women: 74%

Millennials: 56%

Gen-Xers: 66%

Boomers: 74%

Elders: 79%

**Today in America, 1/3 of American adults read the Bible at least once a week.**

Elders highest: 49%

Millennials lowest: 24%

### **Bible Literacy Test:**

“To thine own self be true.” — 17%

“God helps those who help themselves.” — 13%

“The truth will set you free.” — 24%

“God works in mysterious ways.” — 36%

### **The Future Church and the Bible:**

1. The Bible will be the key to set young people apart.

### **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5 NLT**

*You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. STAY AWAY FROM PEOPLE LIKE THAT!*

### **Teens with high levels of Bible engagement:**

- have better relationships with parents and purpose for living
- engage in significantly less sexual activity, substance abuse, crime, lying, and physical aggression
- are 9 times more likely to believe the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth
- are 10 times more likely to find their faith is important to them

- are nearly 4 times more likely to believe that prayer can change what happens in life

2. The Bible will be our guide for cultural discernment.

### **2 TIMOTHY 3:13-17 NLT**

*But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS USEFUL TO TEACH US WHAT IS TRUE AND TO MAKE US REALIZE WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

3. The Bible will be the truth we can build our lives on.

**Pluralism:** many different paths to God, many different paths to Truth

- Doctrine of Multiplicity: There is no one correct logic over another.
- For emerging generations: A NEW DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPTS OF TRUTH AND AUTHORITY, WHICH ARE UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR EVERY PERSON

**Syncretism:** a union of different religious thoughts and philosophies combined to form a belief system; blending of two or more religious belief systems into a new system

### **JOHN 8:31-32 NKJV**

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

**JOHN 17:14-17 NKJV**

*“I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your TRUTH. YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.”*