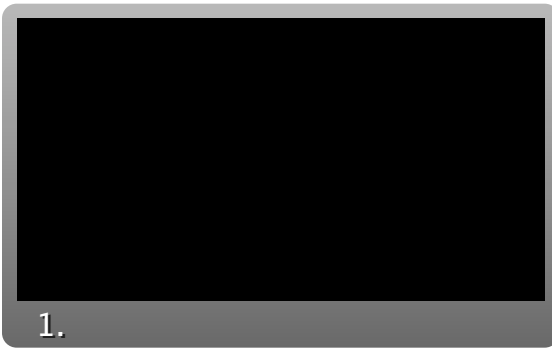


08.02.2015

Almost Christianity - Week 1

Acts 2

1. When you think of culture wars, what issues come to mind?
2. In the sermon, three aspects of American Christianity were presented: Cultural, Congregational, and Convictional. What has been your experience with each of those categories? How have the first two impacted Christianity in this country?
3. Why is the end of "Christian America" or "American Christianity" not necessarily a bad thing?
4. Jesus presented the world as a field white unto harvest, but sometimes we see them as weeds to be cut down. Why is our perspective about those around us so important?
5. Why are the Great Commandment and Great Commission so important?
6. Considering that the early church centered their ministry around the resurrection, what implications does this have for the way the modern church should operate?

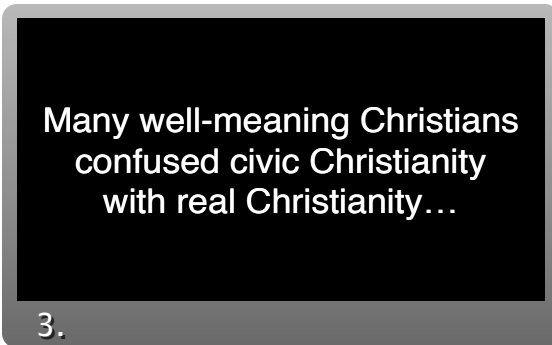


1.



The Culture War

2.



Many well-meaning Christians  
confused civic Christianity  
with real Christianity...

3.



Jesus + The American Dream

4.



Recently some have  
announced the end of  
"Christian America" as though  
it was something new.

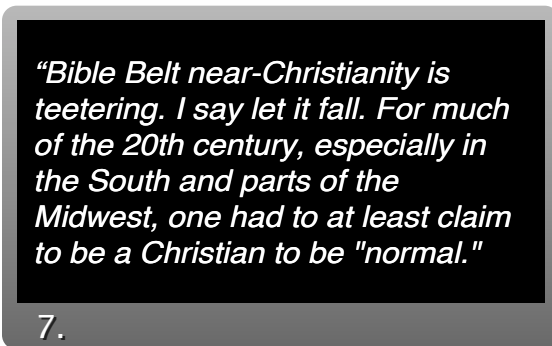
5.



Christianity in America

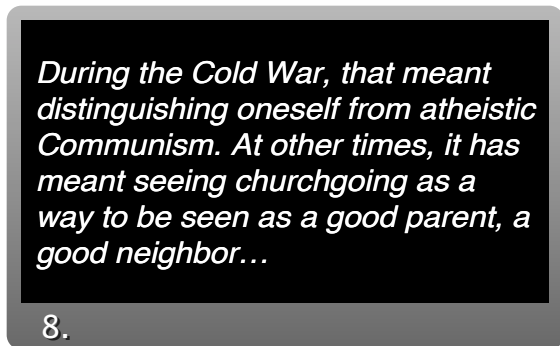
Cultural  
Congregational  
Convictional

6.



*"Bible Belt near-Christianity is  
teetering. I say let it fall. For much  
of the 20th century, especially in  
the South and parts of the  
Midwest, one had to at least claim  
to be a Christian to be "normal."*

7.



*During the Cold War, that meant  
distinguishing oneself from atheistic  
Communism. At other times, it has  
meant seeing churchgoing as a  
way to be seen as a good parent, a  
good neighbor...*

8.

*and a regular person. It took courage to be an atheist, because explicit unbelief meant social marginalization. Rising rates of secularization, along with individualism, means that those days are over — and good riddance to them.”*

- Russell Moore

9.

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16 NIV

10.

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 16:17 NIV

11.

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18 NIV

12.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 NIV

13.

Then he said to his disciples, “The enemy is plentiful but the soldiers are few. Ask the Lord of the Battle to send out soldiers onto the battlefield.”

Matthew 9:37 NIV

14.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37-38 NIV

15.

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

Matthew 10:16 NIV

16.

“Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils & be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.”

Matthew 10:17 NIV

17.

“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 10:22 NIV

18.

The Great Commandment  
&  
The Great Commission

19.

30 A.D.  
Jesus is executed

20.

50 Days Later 33 A.D.  
The Church is Launched

21.

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Acts 2:22 NIV

22.

This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Acts 2:23 NIV

23.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Acts 2:24 NIV

24.

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

Acts 3:14 NIV

25.

Then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead

Acts 4:10 NIV

26.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all

Acts 4:33 NIV

27.

35 A.D.  
The 1st Persecution Begins

28.

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

Acts 28:30 NIV

29.

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Acts 28:31 NIV

30.

57 A.D.  
A Known Christian in Rome's Senatorial Class

31.

66 & 67 A.D.  
Apostles Paul and Peter are martyred for their faith

32.

112 A.D.  
Pliny writes to Trajan

33.

Essence of Christianity

A New Commandment  
A New Mission  
A New Covenant  
A New Creation  
A New Hope

34.

Authentic Christianity speaks  
uncompromising truth,  
gives undeserving grace, and  
expresses undeniable love.

35.

313 A.D.  
Constantine Legalizes  
Christianity

36.

*"Vicisti Galilae"*  
*("You Galileans [Christians]  
have conquered.")*  
- Emperor Julian

37.

Almost Christianity goes the  
way of convenience & power,  
while Authentic Christianity  
goes the way of Jesus.

38.

39.