

WHY DOES OUR WORLD NEED THE GOSPEL?

List some things that would indicate that the world we live in today is not going as well as people would like it to go.

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A short quiz concerning the spirituality of the United States.¹

1. The three largest mission nations in the world today are: _____, _____, and _____.
2. The nation with the largest “Christian” church in the world? _____
3. The nation with the second largest “Christian” church in the world? _____
4. Country with the world’s largest Muslim training center? _____
5. Country with the largest Buddhist temple in the world? _____
6. In a study by George Barna in 2001 a survey was done on how many people in the United States defined their Christianity as fulfilling the following requirements: (1) they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their lives today, (2) believe that when they die they will go to heaven because they have confessed their sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, (3) sharing their faith with non-Christians is a personal responsibility, (4) they believe Satan exists, (5) salvation is by grace not works, (6) Jesus lived a sinless life on earth, and (7) God is an all-knowing, all-powerful, perfect deity who created the world and rules it today. What percentage of people living in the United States would agree with these seven concepts? a. 34% b. 21% c. 7% d. 3%
7. What percentage of the approximately 350,000 “Christian” churches in the United States did not lead a single person to faith in Christ all year? a. 50% b. 40% c. 30% d. 20%
8. What percentage of the population of the United States knows Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount? a. 44% b. 34% c. 24% d. 14%
9. What percentage of our population has no clue what John 3:16 is about? a. 70% b. 50% c. 30% d. 10%
10. Approximately how many know what “the gospel” means? a. 75% b. 67% c. 50% d. 33%

Based on this information what conclusions might we be able to draw about the religious condition of the United States?

¹This quiz information comes from Chris Altrick, *Preaching to Pluralists*, (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004), 3-6, 15.

GOD MAKES A DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOU



As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:16-18)

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ... Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Rom 10:14-17)



It has been said that evangelism makes both the Christian and the non-Christian nervous. Most Christians I have talked with would agree, but those who are seeking a relationship with God often hunger and thirst for what those who belong to Christ have been blessed with. Jesus has given us a message that changes lives not just today, but for all eternity. God can make a difference with each of our lives.

I. STATE OF SPIRITUALITY IN NORTH AMERICA.

Spiritual but uninformed is a good description of many of our neighbors.

What are indications that our neighbors are spiritual, but not informed about Christianity?

II. PURPOSE OF THESE STUDIES

These studies are meant to be a useful tool to help you share Christ with others. They will start with the table of contents of the Bible and progress through a series of lessons dealing with Jesus, the Scriptures, faith in God, the fellowship of God's people, being a disciple of Jesus, and how to enter into a relationship with God through Christ.

III. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NON-CHRISTIANS AROUND US

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why would this "great commission" still apply to us?

What has helped you recognize a need to share the good news of Jesus with others?

Where do we meet people so that we can share the good news?

This week make a list of ten people who you can pray for an opportunity to share Jesus with.