

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*A righteous man who falters before the wicked  
Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.*

~Proverbs 25:26 NKJV

## WHAT'S UP WITH THE EVANGELICALS?

1 Peter 4:17-18 NKJV

Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

## INTRODUCTION

Evangelical Church is in a very precarious situation.

- Once – respected place in eyes of Christian community
- Now –questionable place in terms of integrity & representing Christ and the Gospel.

Goal Today:

- Give insight into what is happening in the evangelical church.
- Encourage us to pray.

Reason:

- Where the church is headed is very serious as it relates to the integrity of the representation Christ in the World.

*“Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong.*

*And Right is right, even if no one is right!”*

~Bishop Fulton Sheen

*“Nobody is more dangerous to the work of God*

*than a leader who is outside the Will of God!”*

~Warren Wiersbe

## WHAT IS EVANGELICALISM AND WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH?

### A. EVANGELICALISM

† “Evangelical” (Greek: *euangelion*) - means “the good news” or the “gospel.”

† Thus, the evangelical faith focuses on the “good news” of salvation brought to sinners by Jesus Christ.

## B. WHAT IS THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH?

An “evangelical” church – can mean different things to different people.

- Narrow application – refers to the denomination called the Evangelical Church.
- Most common – refers to theologically conservative individuals or churches that affirm biblical inspiration and salvation as a personal faith experience in Jesus Christ.

**The National Association of Evangelicals** – large network of American evangelical churches. They define the evangelical movement as one that holds to the following beliefs:

- **Conversionism** – the belief that lives need to be transformed through a “born-again” experience and a lifelong process of following Jesus.
- **Activism** – the expression and demonstration of the gospel in missionary and social reform efforts.
- **Biblicism** – a high regard for and obedience to the Bible as the ultimate authority.
- **Cruci-centrism** – a stress on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as making possible the redemption of humanity.

**Legitimate Evangelicals unequivocally believe the Truth of Gospel as stated in the Word of God!**

**We believe...**

**In other words, a legitimate evangelical puts a preeminent premium on the Truth, because Jesus is the Truth — John 14:6**

## C. SO, WHAT’S HAPPENING IN WITH THE CHURCH TODAY?

Recent Barna survey:

- 9% of all American adults have a biblical worldview.
- 60 subgroups of respondents — Those who said they have a personal commitment to Jesus Christ — Labeled as “born again Christians.”
- Among born again Christians, less than one out of every five (19%) had such an outlook on life.
- 79% of those identifying as “born again Christians” firmly believe the Bible is accurate in all its teachings.
- 46% of these “born agains” believe in absolute moral truth.
- 40% percent believe Satan is real.
- 47% percent strongly reject the idea that you can earn your way to heaven.
- 62% of the born-again Christians surveyed strongly believe Jesus was sinless.

Barna survey demonstrates over the last generation:

- NOT ONLY HAS AMERICA BECOME LESS CHRISTIAN,
- BUT PROFESSING CHRISTIANS HAVE BECOME LESS CHRISTIAN!!!
- This is the direct result of evangelicalism’s relentless prioritization of what seems USEFUL over what is TRUE.

That's why they can support a President who has a love affair with Lying, almost every time he opens his mouth he lies.

**John 8:39-44 NKJV**, Jesus said to the Pharisees...

Because of their willingness to overlook his lying, they have fallen under the influence of the *other spirits* that influence Donald Trump, such as:

- The Spirit of Racism
- The Spirit of Division
- The Spirit of Revenge
- The Spirit of Narcissism
- The Spirit of Immorality

**The No. 1 question that younger evangelicals asking,**

“How do they relate to their parents and mentors who want to talk about the culture-war, politics and internet conspiracy theories, instead of prayer or the Bible?”

These young people are committed to their Christian faith, but feel despair and cynicism about the Church's future.

## **D. EIGHT COMMON PROBLEMS FACING THE CHURCH TODAY**

- Vision and strategy that are not aligned (Matt 28 & Mk 16)
- A culture that works against the vision (Proverbs 29:18)
- A structure that restricts growth instead of releasing it (Matthew 23:15)
  - Lack of a clear outreach focus (Luke 14:23)
  - Failure to authentically disciple people (Matthew 28:19)
  - Uncertainty around digital ministry, including our internal and external communications (Romans 12:17)
  - Imbalanced church leadership teams (1 Timothy 3:6)
  - Ineffective training & releasing of new leaders (2 Timothy 2:2)

## **CONCLUSION**

What are the best things to do?

- 1) Stop Criticizing (James 4:11-12 NLT)
- 2) Start petitioning the Throne (James 5:16 NKJV)
- 3) Start Individually Obeying the Word (Joshua 1:8-9 NKJV)



ECCLESIA WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE  
Week of March 10, 2024



**WHAT'S UP WITH THE EVANGELICALS?**

1 Peter 4:17-18 NKJV

Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

Things every ECF Disciple should do to REMAIN IN COMMUNITY:

- ⇒ **COMMIT** to be a part of one *weekly* STUDY GROUP (<https://www.ecclesiachurch.com/bibleStudy.html>)
  - Click “I’m New” to access **Biblical Bases** for new believers
  - Click “**Sunday School**” to access **Sunday Sch Classes**
  - Click “**Study Groups**” to access **Youth, Young Adults** and **Sermon Notes** groups
  - ==> Email [huggs@gmail.com](mailto:huggs@gmail.com) if you wish to join a group
- ⇒ **CONNECT** with your Study Group on a weekly basis.
- ⇒ **INVITE** your family, neighbors, and friends to join a Study Group.

*Young Adults HUGG!* meets Tuesdays, **7:00pm**. Ages 18-40!

*New Members HUGG!* Wednesdays, **7:00pm**. Open to All! Special Invite to all Base Class Grads

*Men's Book Study!* Kingdom Disciples, 1st Sat, 8am, **Apr 6:** <https://www.ecclesiachurch.com/newsEvents.html>

**TAKE IT TO PRAYER:**

- ⇒ Pray for your family and friends and needs of group members throughout the week.
- ⇒ Pray for Pastor Beckley, our Ecclesia Leaders and these prayer needs:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Kim Allen & Fam, Elder      | Deacon Marian Black, healing & strength       |
| Ken Braden & Fam, Elder     | Mother Lola Wilson, healing & strength        |
| Alton R. Green & Fam, Elder | Deacon Rikke Van Johnson, healing & strength  |
| Reggie Varner & Fam, Elder  | Thurman & Julie Ferebee, blessings & strength |
- ⇒ Pray for your Oikos: **All group members**, call out each name on your Oikos list.

**TAKE IT TO WORSHIP:** *We Are One in the Spirit*, Beyond the Walls Choir ([https://youtu.be/bL5bT\\_Ezeg8](https://youtu.be/bL5bT_Ezeg8))

**(Steps to completing your study guide):**

1. Please use the translation indicated on the sermon outline.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you understanding.
3. Read, study, and meditate on 1 Peter 4:17-18 NKJV.
4. Highlight, underline, note anything that “jumps out” at you.
5. Watch sermon: “**What’s Up With The Evangelicals?**” by Dr. Beckley, Senior Pastor, [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=ecf+online](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ecf+online)
6. Answer each question giving as much detail as you can. Include other related verses.

**TAKE IT TO THE GROUP:** (Share your questions, discoveries, and answers in your group discussion)

1. Share your thoughts on the Quote of the Week, Proverbs 25:26 NKJV,  
*A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.*

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2. Read John 14:6 NKJV aloud and explain the implications for today's church.

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3. What stood out to you from Barna's survey statistics (see page 2) and why?

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4. Read John 8:39-44 NKJV aloud and explain why this mindset is detrimental to the Church.

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5. As you grew up, what was your perception of the Christians around you?

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6. Based on conversations you have had with younger generations, what do they think about Christianity today?

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7. Summarize each of these verses that provide vision for the Church:

Proverbs 29:18 - \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:18-20 - \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:15-18 - \_\_\_\_\_

8. As a member of the Church, explain how you can apply these verses to your Christian life:

James 4:11-12 NLT - \_\_\_\_\_

James 5:16 NKJV - \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 1:8-9 NKJV - \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER TIME!** The Lord left believers in the world and commissioned them to *impact* the world for Jesus Christ. As a group, pray for believers to fulfill John 13:34-35 and impact the world as Jesus prayed in John 17:11 and John 17:17-18.

**Sunday, March 24, 2024 - 1 & 2 Chronicles**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89775027654> Phone: 1-669-900-9128 ID: 897 7502 76

**2024 Bible Challenge Reading Schedule**

<https://www.ecclesiachurch.com/publications/bibleReadingPlan.pdf>