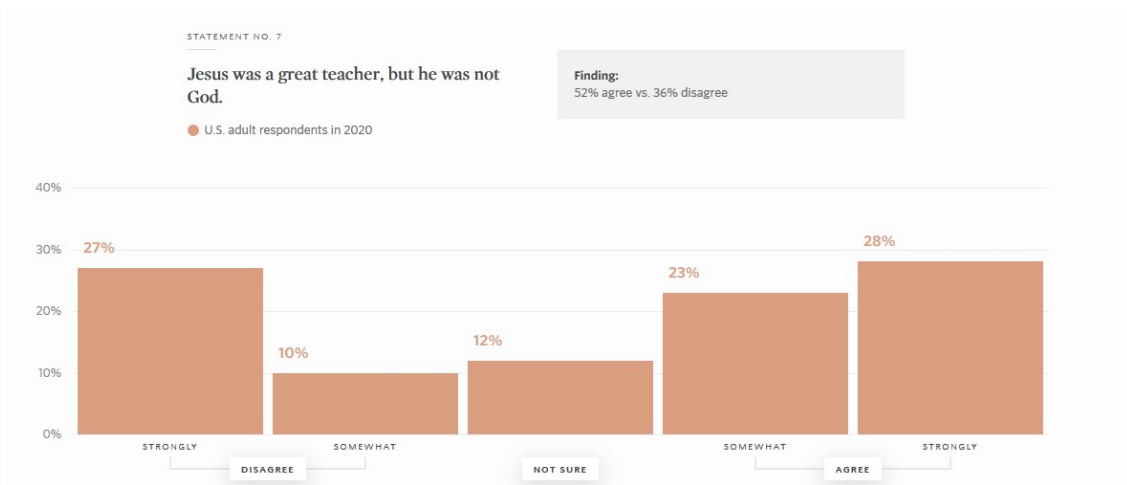


Dear Friends and Family,

Every two years, a survey is conducted to assess the status of theological beliefs in the US. LifeWay and Ligonier Ministries administer the survey and the full report may be accessed at thestateoftheology.com



The most recent survey results have been tallied and the results are alarming.

The 2020 survey reports the following statistics:

52% of Americans believe Jesus was a good teacher, but not God.

34% of adults believe science disproves the Bible.

48% say the Bible contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.

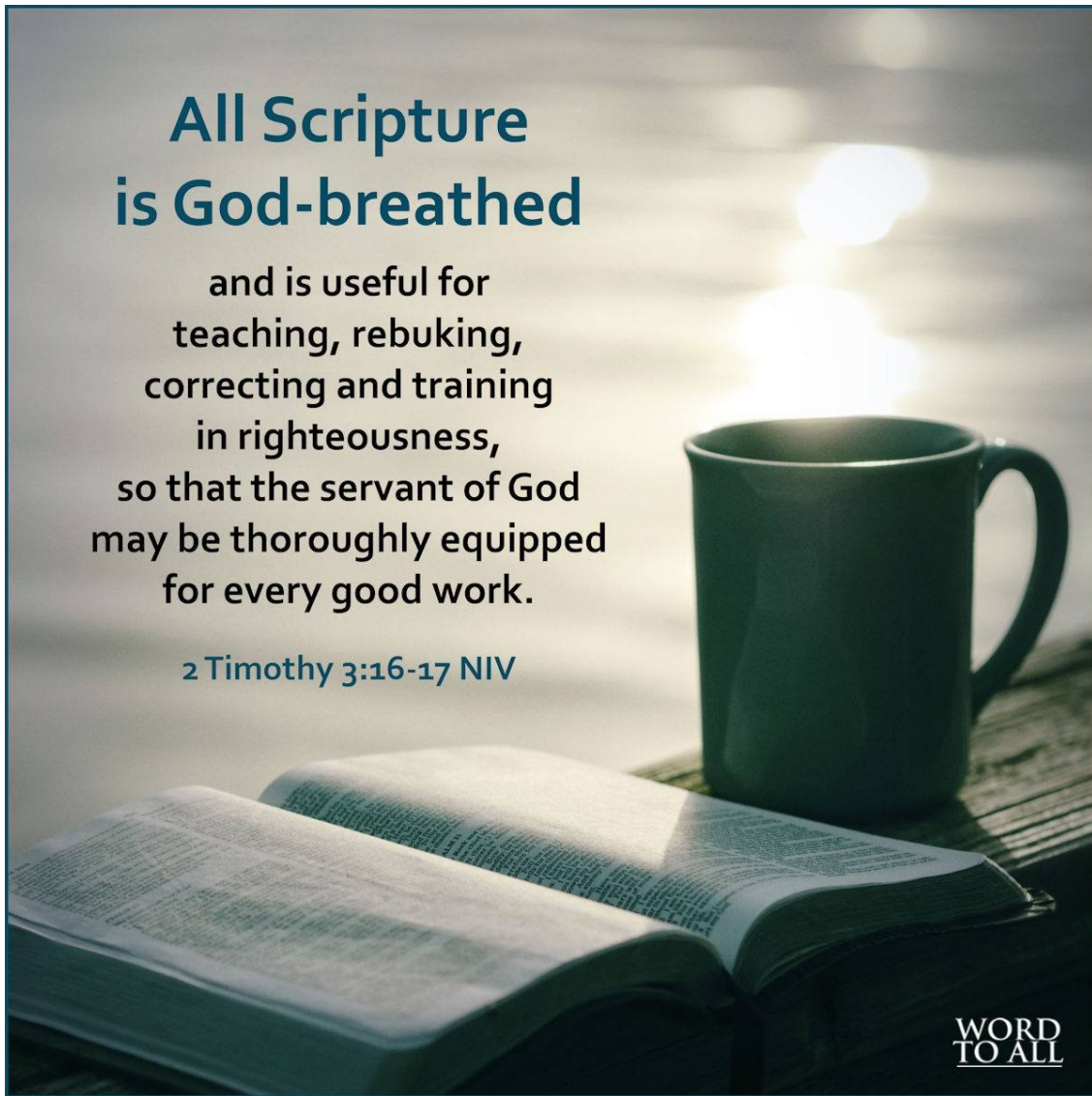
51% say the Bible has no authority to tell us what to do.

Yet, if you are immersed in Scripture, the numerous claims throughout The Bible which assert Jesus as the second member of the Trinity and co-equal to God the Father would be impossible to ignore. (<https://www.moodybible.org/beliefs/positional-statements/deity-of-jesus-christ/>)

All Scripture is God-breathed

and is useful for
teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training
in righteousness,
so that the servant of God
may be thoroughly equipped
for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV



WORD
TO ALL

Just turning to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 answers the authority of Scripture question. “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

And understanding Scripture as the very word of God, not disproven by science but spoken by the one who created science, gives light to the claim that science has more authority than God.

Consumer Christianity



Chris Osmore [Follow](#)

Nov 5, 2019 - 4 min read



The church was not meant to be a better version of Hollywood. The church was meant to fulfill the Great Commission and to heal the broken hearted.- Chris Osmore



“When a local church creates a culture of entertainment in an attempt to build a congregation, it will only be a matter of time before they begin to experience the negative consequences that emphasis will bring.”

But all of these fallacies lead naturally to an equally concerning statistic. This survey was conducted in early March, **before** COVID hit the US. At that time, 58% of Americans believed that worshiping alone or with one’s family was a valid replacement for attending church.

Likewise, 36% of adults believed that churches had to be entertaining for worship services to be effective.

This past Sunday, I posed the question, “Who are we really glorifying?” We may say that God alone is deserving of Glory, but do we live like that? The glory we offer God comes in the form of our worship. When we gather together to worship Him, we do this because HE commanded it to be done(Hebrews 10:25). Worship is not meant to entertain us, but rather is an offering to a holy God. Certainly we can and should enjoy worshiping God. But our heart and mind must

acknowledge Him as God, understanding that what we are doing is putting Him in His proper place of Glory, and placing ourselves in our rightful places, one of reverence and humility.



We must be diligent to remember that when we seek to be entertained ourselves, we glorify ourselves. This heart issue is much like that of the Israelites, when in Exodus 32, they fashioned the golden calf. To us, in this modern age, the idea of creating an idol seems ridiculous and out of our realm of possibility. However, when we become the center of worship, we are stealing it from the rightful recipient. Writing about idol worship, Terence Fretheim states:

At every key point the people's building project contrasts with the Tabernacle that God has just announced. This gives to the account a heavy ironic cast.

- 1) The people seek to create what God has already provided;
- 2) they, rather than God, take the initiative;
- 3) offerings are demanded rather than willingly presented;
- 4) the elaborate preparations are missing altogether;
- 5) the painstaking length of time needed for building becomes an overnight rush job;
- 6) the careful provision for guarding the presence of the Holy One turns into an open-air object of immediate accessibility;
- 7) the invisible, intangible God becomes a visible, tangible image; and
- 8) the personal, active God becomes an impersonal object that cannot see or

Speak or act.

The ironic effect is that the people forfeit the very divine presence they had hoped to bind more closely to themselves. At the heart of the matter, the most important of the commandments had been violated.

Writing about the same text of scripture in his book, *Worship The Ultimate Priority*, John MacArthur states:

Moses was furious. He stood at the gate of the camp and said "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me!" All the sons of Levi-the priests-came. "And he said to them, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, "Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'"" The glory of God was at stake, and those who wanted to defend it were called upon to perform a difficult task. They had to kill people they loved, for the sake of the glory of God. God wanted to show the world for all time that He would share His glory with no one. "About three thousand men of the people fell that day". It was a high price to pay for the glory of God. God will not call us to kill our loved ones for his glory, but He may ask us to forsake them, and He will often call us to take unpopular stands on important issues. He will require us to pay a price to glorify Him. And the one who truly wants to glorify God will be content to do His will at any cost.

May we be a Church in America that is truly a light to a lost and dying world. May we reflect God's glory by worshiping Him in spirit and in truth, by offering worship to Him alone and by living lives set apart for God's glory!

Soli Deo Gloria - To God ALONE be the glory - AMEN!

Pastor Matt

To read an archive of past Pastor's Point of View devotionals please visit <https://mplong.wordpress.com/pastors-point-of-view/>

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Dr. Matthew Long

Senior Pastor

[FBC of Havelock](#)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*



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