

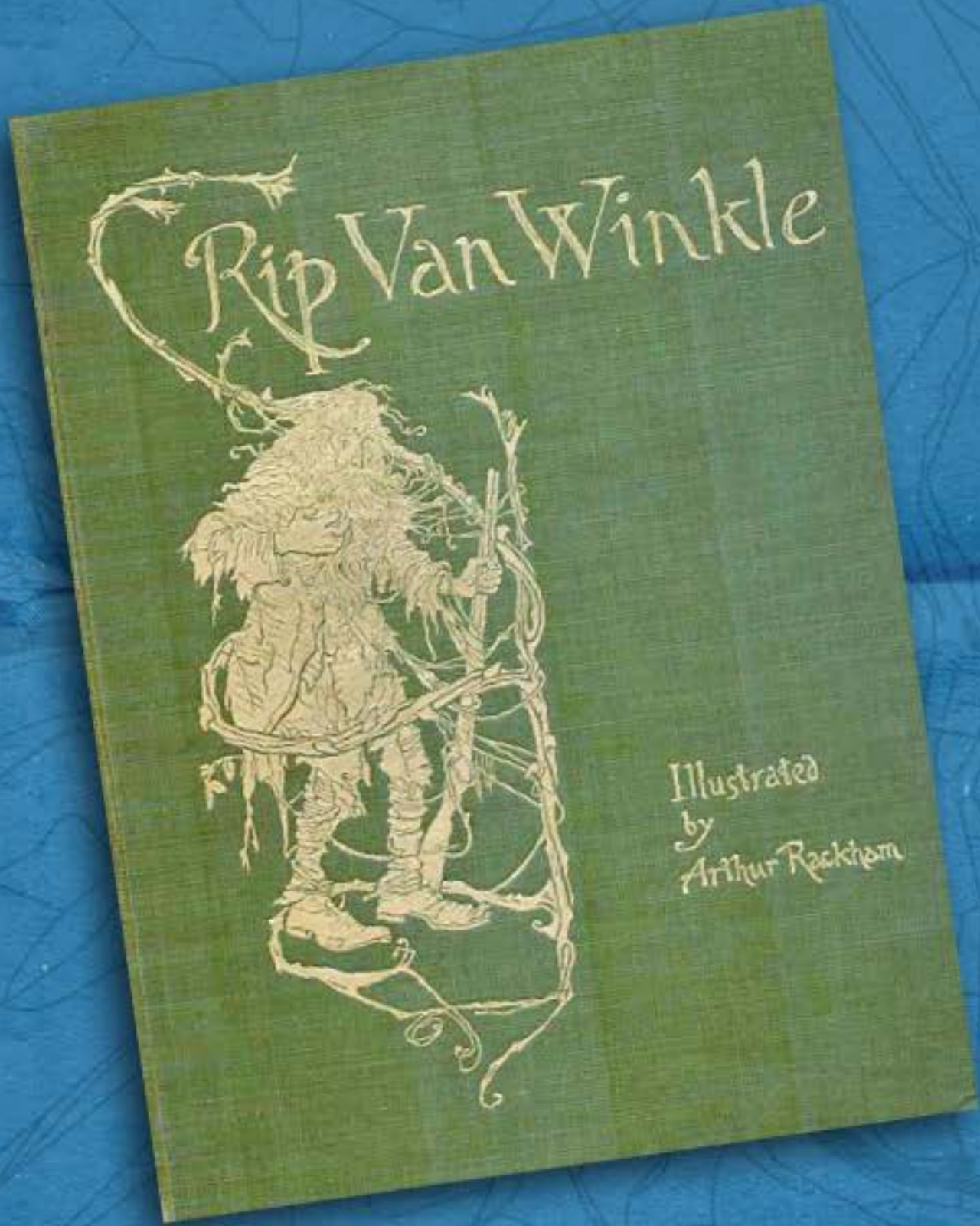


# EMBRACING EXILE

HOPE IN A STRANGE LAND











*State of the Digital Church Series*

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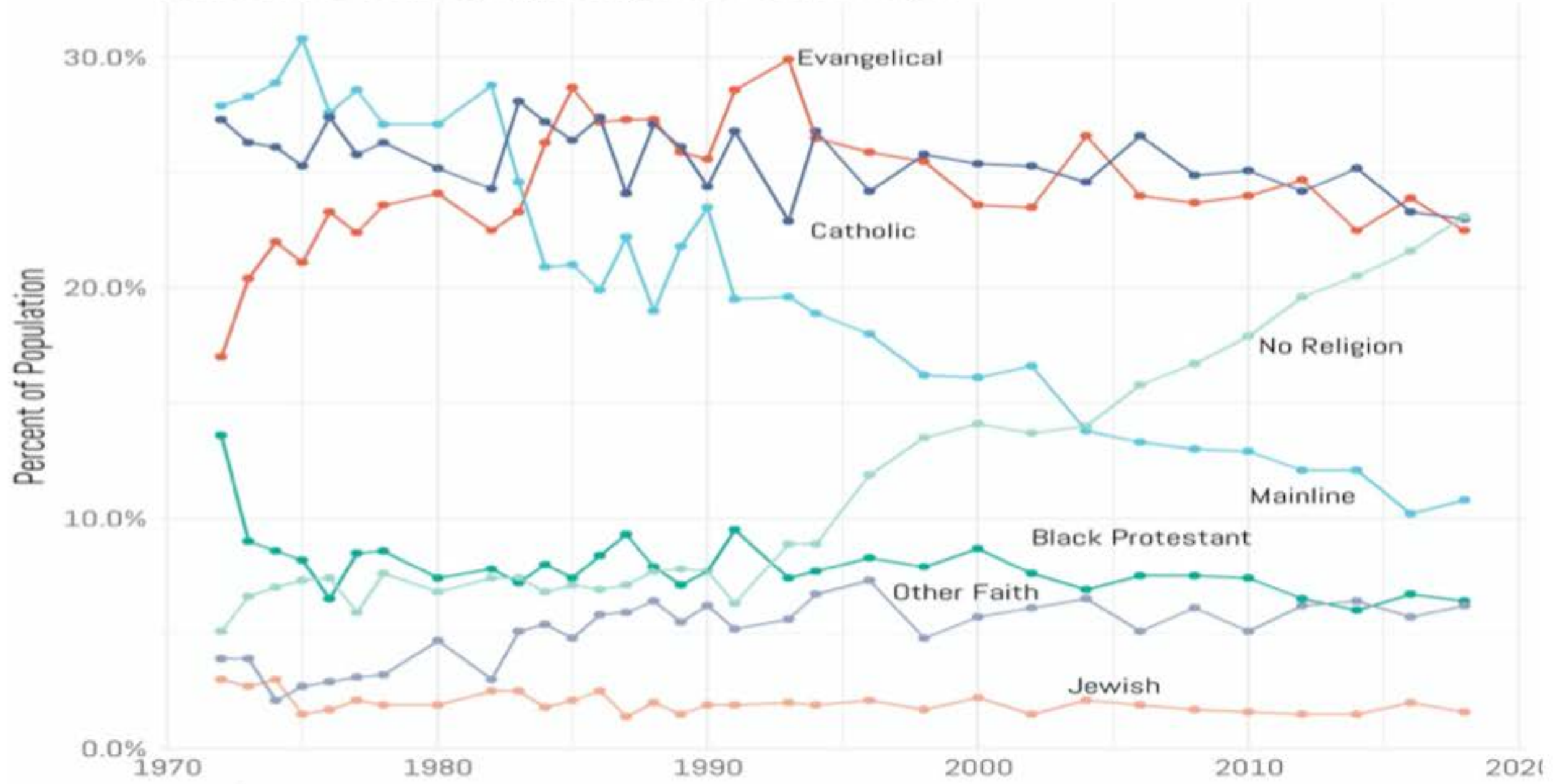
**Barna**

Six Questions About the Future of the  
**Hybrid Church  
Experience**





### America's Changing Religious Landscape



SPAN BURGE IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

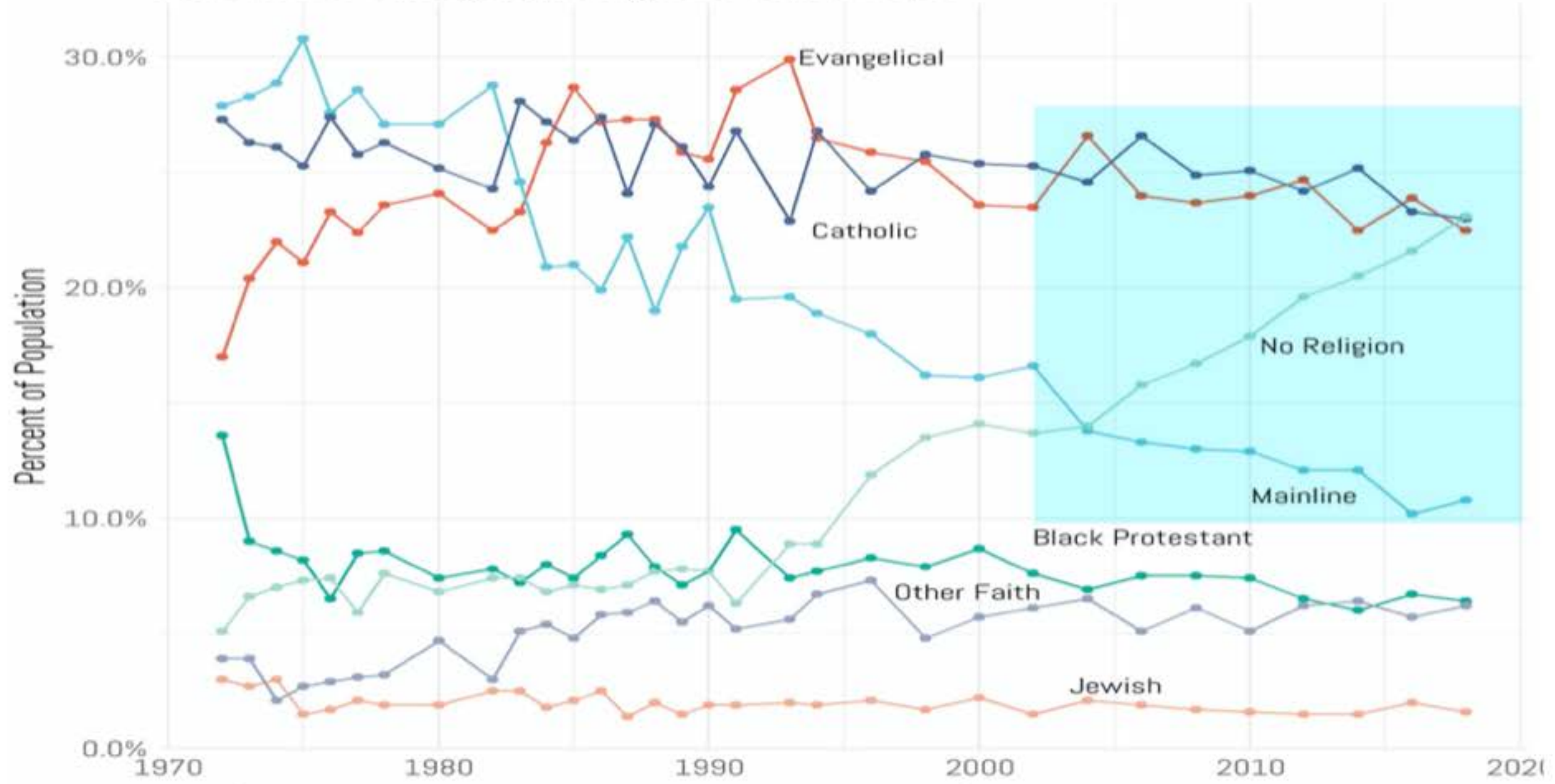
Data: GSS 1972-2018







### America's Changing Religious Landscape



RYAN BURDE IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Data: GSS 1972-2018





# The rise of evangelical 'nones'

Ed Stetzer, special to CNN

🕒 Updated 3:35 PM ET, Fri June 12, 2015





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## Beliefs

# Pew study: More Americans reject religion, but believers firm in faith

*(RNS) Americans as a whole are growing less religious, but those who still consider themselves to belong to a religion are, on average, just as committed to their faiths as they were in the past.*





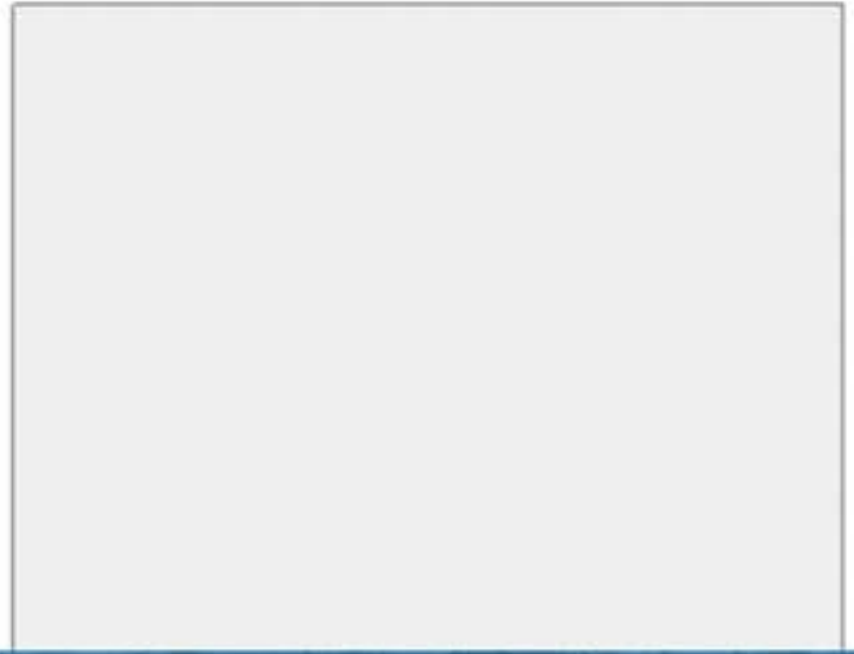
Sections

Acts of Faith

# In a dramatic shift, the American church is more evangelical than ever

Among Americans:

## Regular churchgoers who are evangelical vs. mainline





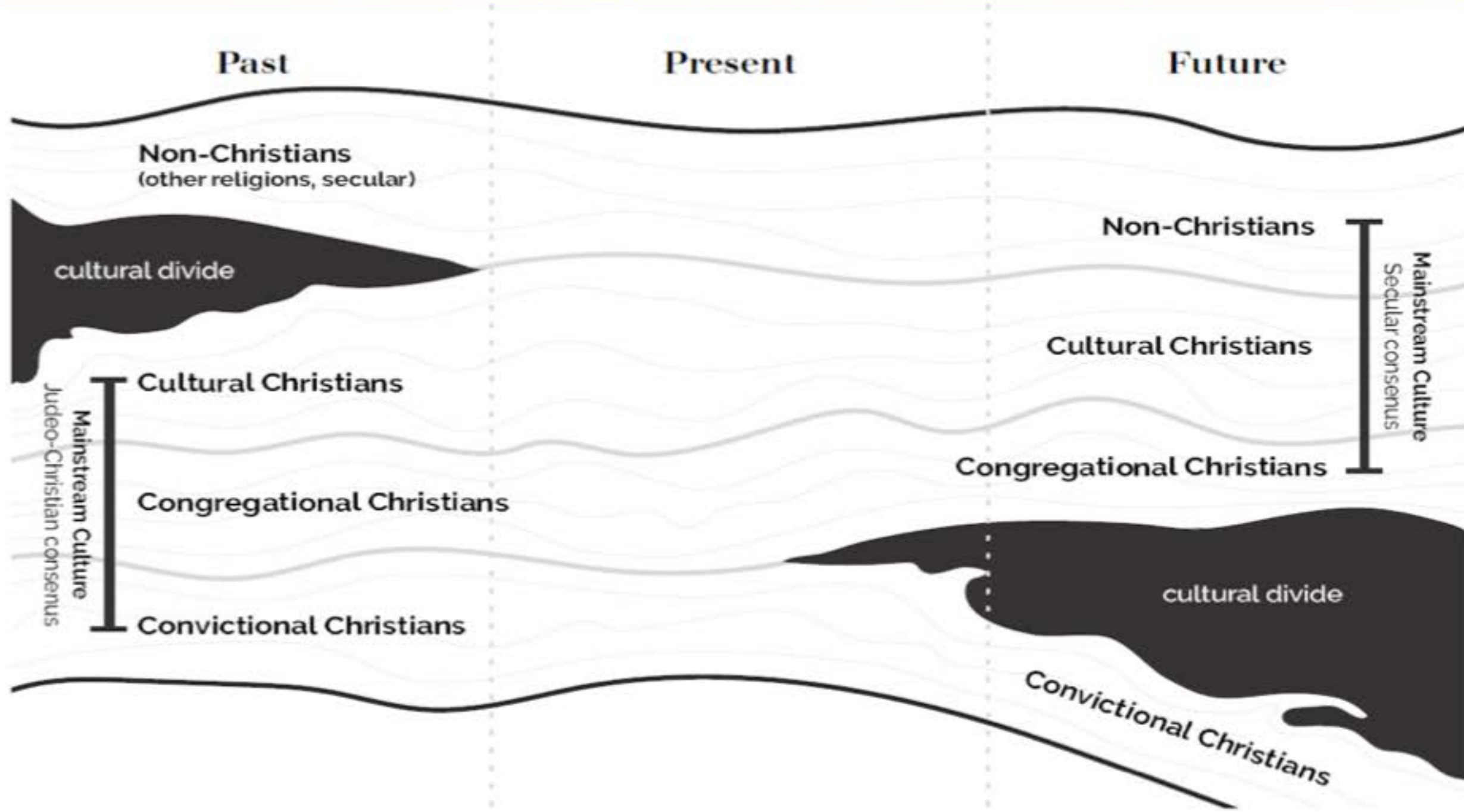


# Convictional Christians are going to be a minority in the emerging America

...and due to COVID, we're going to get there  
a little sooner than we thought.











**How do we engage with a nation  
when our views are so polarized?**





# Our Role as MEDICs

**MOURN** We grieve what's been lost.

**EXPECT** We trust the battle plan.

**DISCERN** We make wise decisions on the battlefield.

**INFLUENCE** We influence from the second chair.

**CONTRIBUTE** We seek God's blessing as citizens of another land.





IN EXILE WE VALUE  
**ENGAGEMENT**  
OVER  
**OUTRAGE**





**JEREMIAH 29:4-7**

**This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”**





In exile, Christians don't condemn, copy, condone, or consume the culture...

**but create a new culture through our presence, our influence, and our prayers.**





**So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums, or your sorcerers who tell you, “You will not serve the king of Babylon.” They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands; I will banish you and you will perish.**





**When we respond to outrage  
with outrage,  
we ruin our witness**







**Are you willing to engage with  
this nation as it is,  
not as you would like it to be?**





## THE SERENITY PRAYER

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.**