

Fr. Perozich comments —

When I was a boy watching TV waiting for cartoons to come on, there were televangelists like Oral Roberts who healed people right there on his show. My Catholic mother, wanting to protect my faith, told me not to watch them because they were fake. We never were curious about what went on at the protestant churches or what their pastors said or thought.

We had a beautiful bible in our home. I don't recall reading it as a family, although we did pray the rosary when it came on the radio and we watched Bishop Sheen together

In Catholic school the sisters told us bible stories and stories of the saints. I was more conversant in the lessons of the catechism without a biblical reference. (The New Baltimore Catechism #3 from Seton Press does include scripture references.) The priest did teach us the biblical lessons at Mass.

Enough people desire to be in charge of others in this world. They make many assertions appealing to authority of themselves due to their office in a church, in politics, their academic degrees, their scientific credentials, and on.

Former president Barak Obama said that America is no longer a Christian nation. He spoke correctly in the sense that the bible, faith in Jesus Christ seem to have faded as authority for public discourse. How else would we be hearing of LGBTQ, transgender, climate, race, socialism, new definitions of "rights, equality, justice, fairness", with new authorities in our society who appeal to themselves in their office or credentials, exerting their opinions to control others, Dreams of My Father, but not our heavenly Father..

Even in my Catholic church I hear priests (which include bishops, cardinals and popes) proclaiming many things with their own authority that I do not find in the bible or in my own common sense and conscience.

While this may be true in non Catholic ecclesial communities as well, sometimes I do find a truth in such a preacher's teaching that I do not find in my own church, and have to go against mom's admonition of not listening to non Catholic ministers.

In this piece below, Greg Laurie calls us to look to the God who made us, rather than the god we make to satisfy ourselves. Laurie teaches that that God is present in the Holy Bible.

I will give a hearing to those with spiritual authority, and will give obedience to them when they preach the God of Sacred Scripture and Tradition, but not to a god or teaching of their own making.

Bad theology: Are you loving the wrong Jesus?

Exclusive: Greg Laurie laments the fact Christians' 'biblical IQ' has never been lower



By [Greg Laurie](#)

Published April 22, 2022 at 6:54pm

In a poll by the Barna Group, half of those who described themselves as Christians didn't believe that Satan exists, and one-third were confident that Jesus sinned while he was on earth.

It seems to me that in the church today, there's a rising biblical illiteracy among professed followers of Jesus. Our biblical IQ, if you will, never has been lower.

As George Barna put it, "Growing numbers of people now serve as their own theologian-in-residence."

What we believe about God and what he says about himself is the most important thing we could focus on and think about. In fact, what we think about God has everything to do with how we live our lives. Our views of God will determine how we react to what comes our way in life.

Yet we don't have to check our brains at the door when we choose to be followers of Jesus Christ, because **Christianity is a reasonable faith. It is a logical faith.**

God says, "Come now, and let us reason together," (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV). A modern version of this verse says, "Come. Sit down. Let's argue this out" (MSG).

We need to think and act biblically, not emotionally. **Far too many people today emote when it comes to God. They feel, but they don't think.** They say things like, "I don't believe in a God of love judging anyone," "My God would never do thus and so," or the classic, **"I'm not into organized religion; I'm just a really spiritual person."**

We need to think carefully about these things. We neglect theology at our own peril, because **experience is never to be the basis for theology. Rather, sound theology should be the basis for our experience.**

C.S. Lewis gave this warning: "If you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones."

The apostle Paul wrote, "Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you" (1 Timothy 4:16 NLT).

Yet someone will say, "Well, I just love Jesus! Can't we just set these things aside?" That is a nice sentiment, but here's the problem: What if you end up loving the wrong Jesus?

For instance, if the Jesus whom you supposedly love sinned while he was on earth, as half of the self-described Christians in the Barna poll believe, then what kind of savior is that? If the Jesus you love is not the Jesus of the Bible, then effectively you're an idolater. You're worshiping another god.

Imagine if you boarded a plane, and just before takeoff, the pilot announced over the intercom, "Fuel schmuel! Let's just see how far this bucket of bolts will go!"

Or, what would you think about a surgeon who said, "Hey, let's just get out the scalpel, start cutting, and see what happens"?

You would be alarmed.

Yet at the same time, when it comes to something that decides their eternal destiny, many people treat it casually, effectively making up the rules as they go.

A. W. Tozer said, "**Nothing twists or deforms the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God.**"

We must have a proper understanding of the character and nature of God, and there is no better place to start than with God himself. **What does the Bible say about God?**

God exists and is the creator of the universe and humanity. Of course, I know there are atheists who have done their level best to undermine the faith of those who choose to believe the Bible. However, most polls would reveal that Americans, by and large, believe in God.

Interestingly, the Bible never tries to prove the existence of God. It simply starts with these words: "In the

beginning God ..." (Genesis 1:1 NLT). This assumes the obvious. It assumes that people know this is true. And frankly, I think it takes far more faith to believe there is no God than to believe there is one.

People today are willing to accept the premise of God, but it seems they want a god in their own image. As Voltaire pointed out, "God made man in His image, and man returned the favor." And that is what we largely have today: a generation that believes in a god of their own making.

We live in a day of information on demand. We can hear and see what we want, when we want it. And we sometimes apply the same approach to God. We customize a god that does what we want him to do and says what we want him to say.

But that is not the way to know God. We don't mold God into our own image; he wants to mold us into his. God said, "I am the Lord, and I do not change" (Malachi 3:6 NLT).

In the beginning God. That is where it starts. And if we eliminate God, we have a big problem. The Bible doesn't tell us where God came from; it just tells us that God is. God always has existed. He did not come from something. He was not invented or created. God always has been there. He has no beginning or ending.

Though times and circumstances change, God never does. Everything except God is changing day by day. We live in a storm-tossed world. These are uncertain times, and we need a real certainty that will help us get through them.

When you believe God, it doesn't necessarily change your circumstances, though sometimes it will. More often than not, it will change you. It will help you to view your circumstances properly.

On the other hand, if we don't understand who God is, if our view of God is warped, then it will affect us in the way that we live. Let's make sure we are worshiping the true God as he is presented to us in the pages of Scripture.