

The background of the image is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous water droplets of various sizes and shapes, scattered across the frame. The droplets are rendered with realistic shading and highlights, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text "LIVING IN CHRIST" is centered in the middle of the image.

LIVING IN CHRIST

A YEAR OF CHANGE

- NOVEMBER 5TH OF LAST YEAR WE LOOKED AT JOHN 15**
- GLIMPING THE LOVE OF GOD SHOWS US THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT ABIDING IS ALL ABOUT – DEC-MAR**
- HOW CAN WE FOLLOW IF WE CANNOT HEAR – APR-JUN**
- THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION, OF BECOMING FRUIT BEARERS THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES – AUG-SEP**
- ALLOWING JESUS TO LIVE THROUGH US**
- WHILE SOCIETY IS REJECTING CHRISTIANITY**

THE DIMINISHING INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

- WHY IS THE CHURCH LOSING ITS INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY?**
- WHY ARE MORE PEOPLE CHECKING THE “NONE” BOX UNDER RELIGION ON THE CENSUS FORMS? 1971- 2011 4%-24%
PROTESTANTS 41% - 27%**
- THE “GOD IS DEAD MOVEMENT” IS NOT NEW –**
- NIETZSCHE IN 1882 WAS SAYING THAT THROUGH THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF SCIENCE, THE GOD THAT HAD ONCE EXISTED HAD CEASED TO EXIST GOD**
- RICHARD DAWKINS ENCOURAGES ATHEISTS TO MOCK AND RIDICULE CHRISTIANS**

THE DIMINISHING INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

- 1925 - UNITED CHURCH, SCOPES TRIAL, 1927 – BC BAPTIST**
- RUDOLF BULTMANN, LONG REGARDED AS ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY THOUGHT, HAD THIS TO SAY: “IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO USE ELECTRIC LIGHT AND THE WIRELESS AND TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF MODERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL DISCOVERIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME BELIEVE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WORLD OF SPIRITS AND MIRACLES.” WILLARD, DALLAS.**

THE DIMINISHING INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

- **JOHN PIPER MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT THE LAST 300 YEARS HAVE BEEN AN ANOMALY IN HUMAN HISTORY, THAT OF HOLDING CHRISTIANITY AS THE FAVOURED WORLD VIEW, AND NOW WE ARE SIMPLY RETURNING TO THE NORM**
- **IS IT BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT “SIN MANAGEMENT” THAN “BEING” AND FAILING TO REFLECT THE CHARACTER, LOVE AND MOST OF ALL, THE LIFE OF CHRIST!**
- **WHAT DID TERTULLIAN WRITE TO THE ROMAN GOVERNORS**

"PROCEED IN YOUR CAREER OF CRUELTY, BUT DO NOT SUPPOSE THAT YOU WILL THUS ACCOMPLISH YOUR PURPOSE OF EXTINGUISHING THE HATED SECT [THE CHRISTIANS]. WE ARE LIKE THE GRASS, WHICH GROWS THE MORE LUXURIANTLY THE OFTENER IT IS MOWN. THE BLOOD OF CHRISTIANS IS THE SEED OF CHRISTIANITY. YOUR PHILOSOPHERS TAUGHT MEN TO DESPISE PAIN AND DEATH BY WORDS; BUT HOW FEW THEIR CONVERTS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE CHRISTIANS, WHO TEACH BY EXAMPLE! THE VERY OBSTINACY FOR WHICH YOU UPBRAID US IS THE GREAT PROPAGATOR OF OUR DOCTRINES. FOR WHO CAN BEHOLD IT, AND NOT INQUIRE INTO THE NATURE OF THAT FAITH WHICH INSPIRES SUCH SUPERNATURAL COURAGE? WHO CAN INQUIRE INTO THAT FAITH, AND NOT EMBRACE IT, AND NOT DESIRE HIMSELF TO UNDERGO THE SAME SUFFERINGS IN ORDER THAT HE MAY THUS SECURE A PARTICIPATION IN THE FULLNESS OF DIVINE FAVOUR?"

THE DIMINISHING INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

- **THE EARLY CHURCH PURSUED THE LIFE OF CHRIST, NOT SIMPLY FORGIVENESS**
- **GAL.2:20**
- **IN ADAM WE ALL DIED, IN CHRIST WE ARE GIVEN LIFE**
- **SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS JESUS TEACHING WHAT GAL.2:20, JOHN 15, EPH.2:22; 3:16-19 MEANS**
- **ALLOWING CHRIST TO LOVE THE WORLD THROUGH US**

THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF CHRIST IN THE SAINTS

- OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**
- WE WANT TO SEE HOW THIS PASSAGE IS THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS THEOLOGY, AND IS THE CORE OF CHRISTIAN LIVING**
- THIS WEEK, WILL YOU LET JESUS BE SEEN IN YOU?**
- WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMEONE, CAN YOU LOOK AT THEM WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS?**