

the  
**Message**  
of  
the **Cross**



# The Next Generation

Reaching and Developing Those Who Come Next

They {the priests} serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.

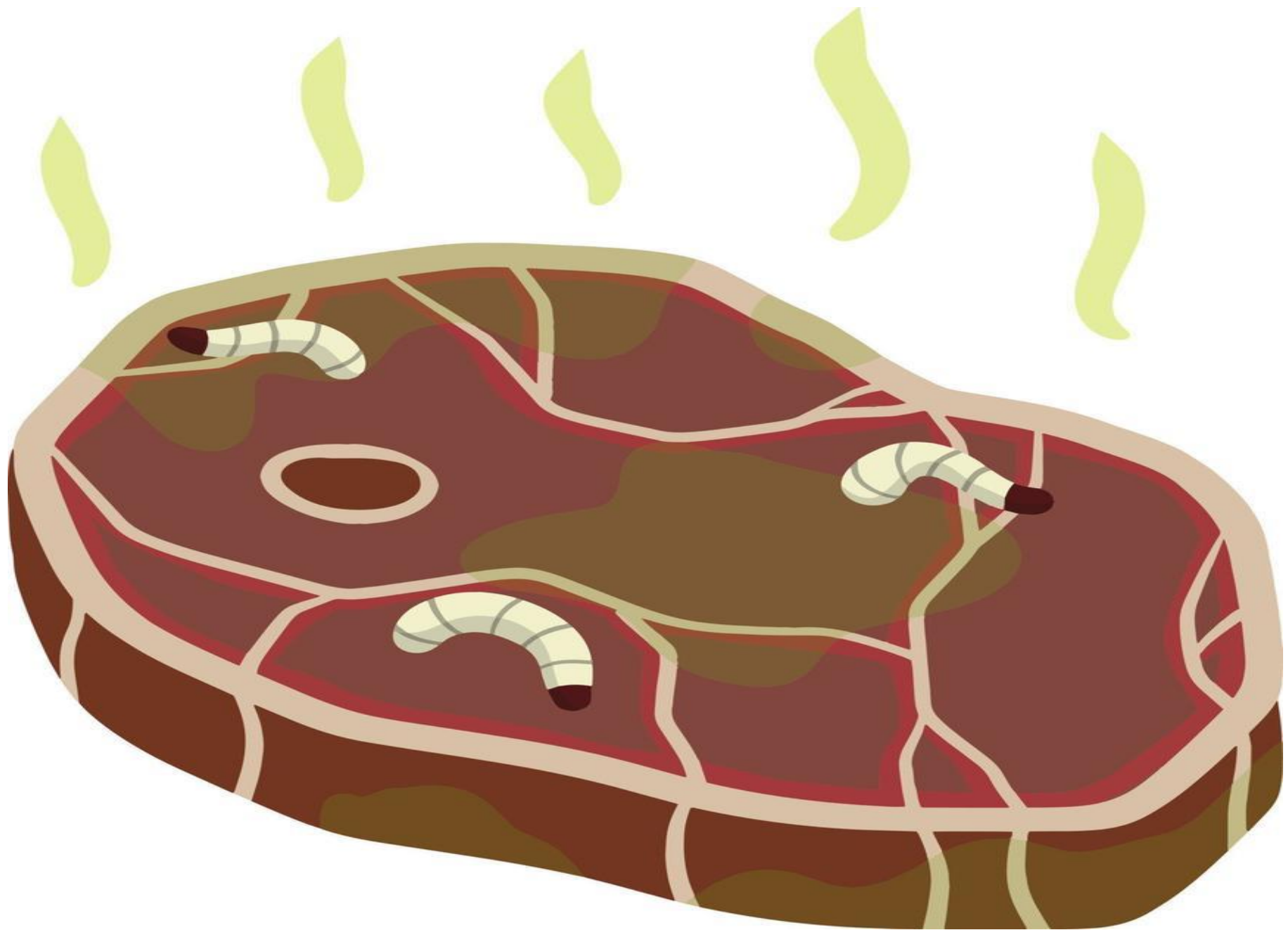
For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying,  
“See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 8:5

22 Then it **seemed good** to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas...

25 “It has **seemed good** to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you...”

Acts 15:22,25























**For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:18**



For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the  
discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

1 Corinthians 1:19

**Where is the one who is wise?**

**Where is the scribe?**

**Where is the debater of this age?**

**Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**1 Corinthians 1:20**



**...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.**

**1 Corinthians 1:21**

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach **Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:22-23

**But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:24**



**For the foolishness of God is wiser than men,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than  
men.**

**For consider your calling, brethren: not many  
of you were wise according to worldly  
standards, not many were powerful, not many  
were of noble birth.**

**1 Corinthians 1:25-26**

**But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;  
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.**

**1 Corinthians 1:27-28**

**So that no human being might boast in the presence of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:29**



**He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,  
whom God made our wisdom and our  
righteousness and sanctification and  
redemption.**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

**Therefore, as it is written,  
“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

**1 Corinthians 1:31**


**The message of the cross might seem foolish and weak to people who don't believe, but it's actually very wise and very powerful. God uses things that others think are silly to show how their own wisdom is actually foolish. Christ is the ultimate wisdom and power of God, and no one can truly boast because Salvation and all of the good that it brings to our lives comes from Him.**



# BUILDING STRATEGY FROM THE THEOLOGY



# **The Presence and Power of God**



**The Presence and  
Power of God**

**The Wisdom and  
Truth of God**



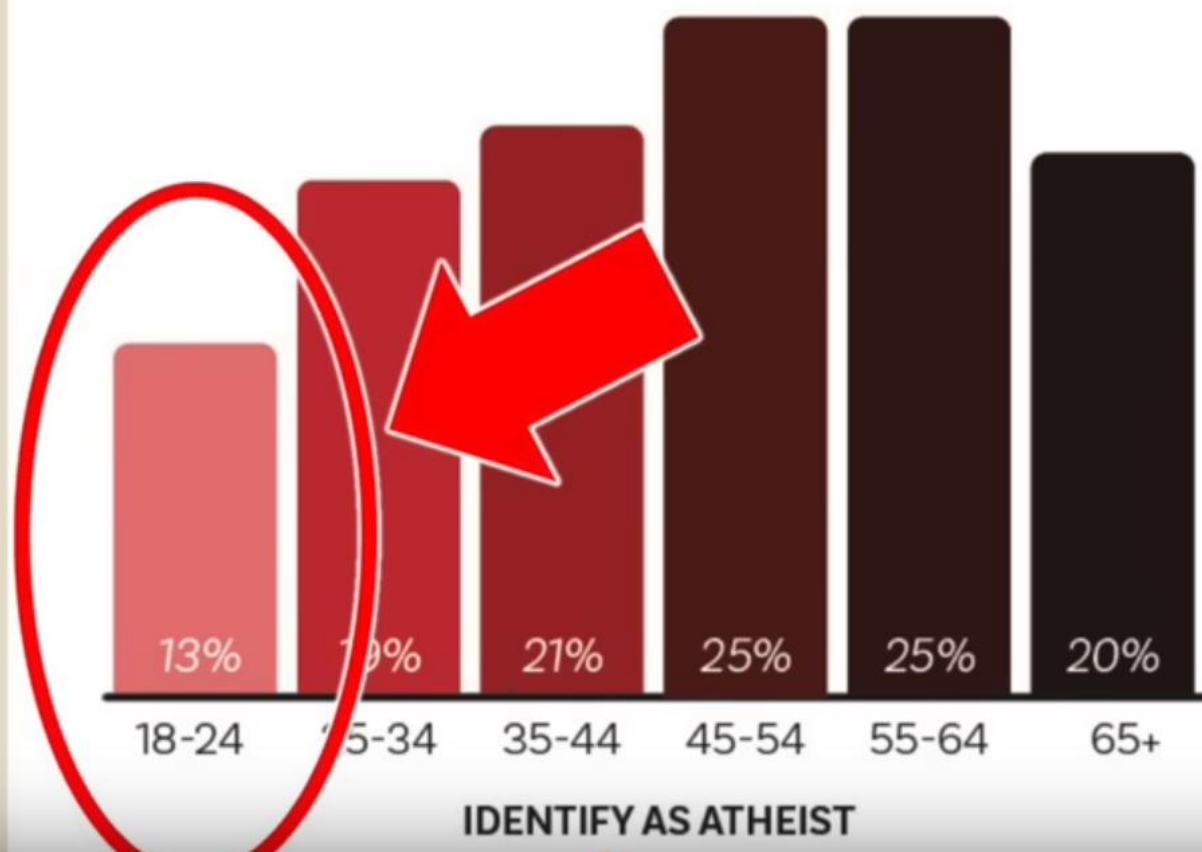
# **The Message of the Cross**



**The Presence and  
Power of God**

**The Wisdom and  
Truth of God**

## ATHEISM SEEMS TO REACH A PEAK AMONG 45-65 YEAR OLDS



# **The Message of the Cross**



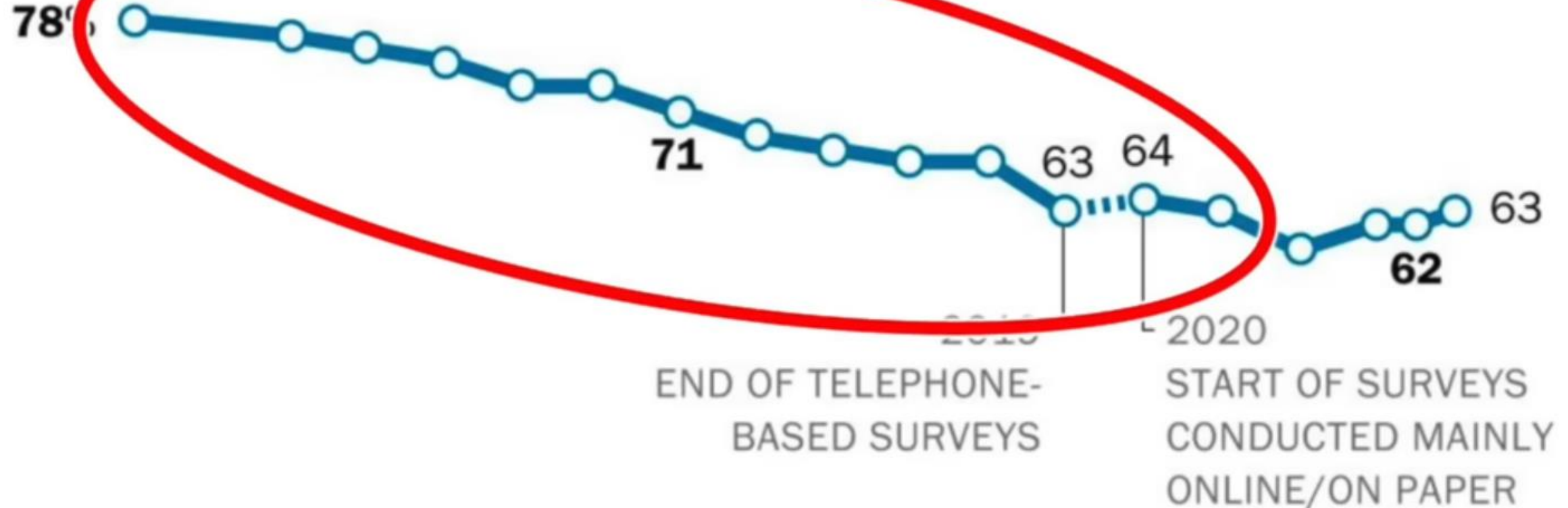
**The Presence and  
Power of God**

**The Wisdom and  
Truth of God**



# After years of decline, the Christian share of the U.S. population stabilizes

*% of U.S. adults who identify as Christian*



**Theology:**

The Presence and  
Power of God

**Strategy:**

Worship, Singing,  
Prayer, etc

**Theology:**

The Wisdom and  
Truth of God

**Strategy:**

Preaching, Teaching,  
Study, etc

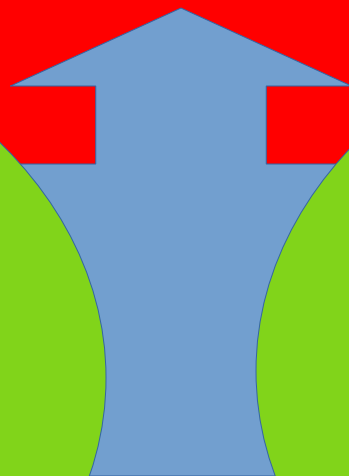
# The Message of the Cross

## Theology:

The Presence and  
Power of God

## Strategy:

Worship, Singing,  
Prayer, etc



## Theology:

The Wisdom and  
Truth of God

## Strategy:

Preaching, Teaching,  
Study, etc

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, **you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.**

Acts 2:22-23



**22 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.**

**Acts 2:24**

**37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

**38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 2:37-38**

<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about **three thousand souls**.

Acts 2:41

- God
- Creation
- Sin and Judgment
- A Promised Saviour



<sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, **“What does this babbler wish to say?”** Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because **he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.**

Acts 17:18

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Acts 17:18

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:24-25

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **he commands all people everywhere to repent,** <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this **he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.**" <sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked.** But others said, **"We will hear you again about this."**

Acts 17:30-32



<sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst.

<sup>34</sup> But **some men joined him and believed**, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Acts 17:33-34



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