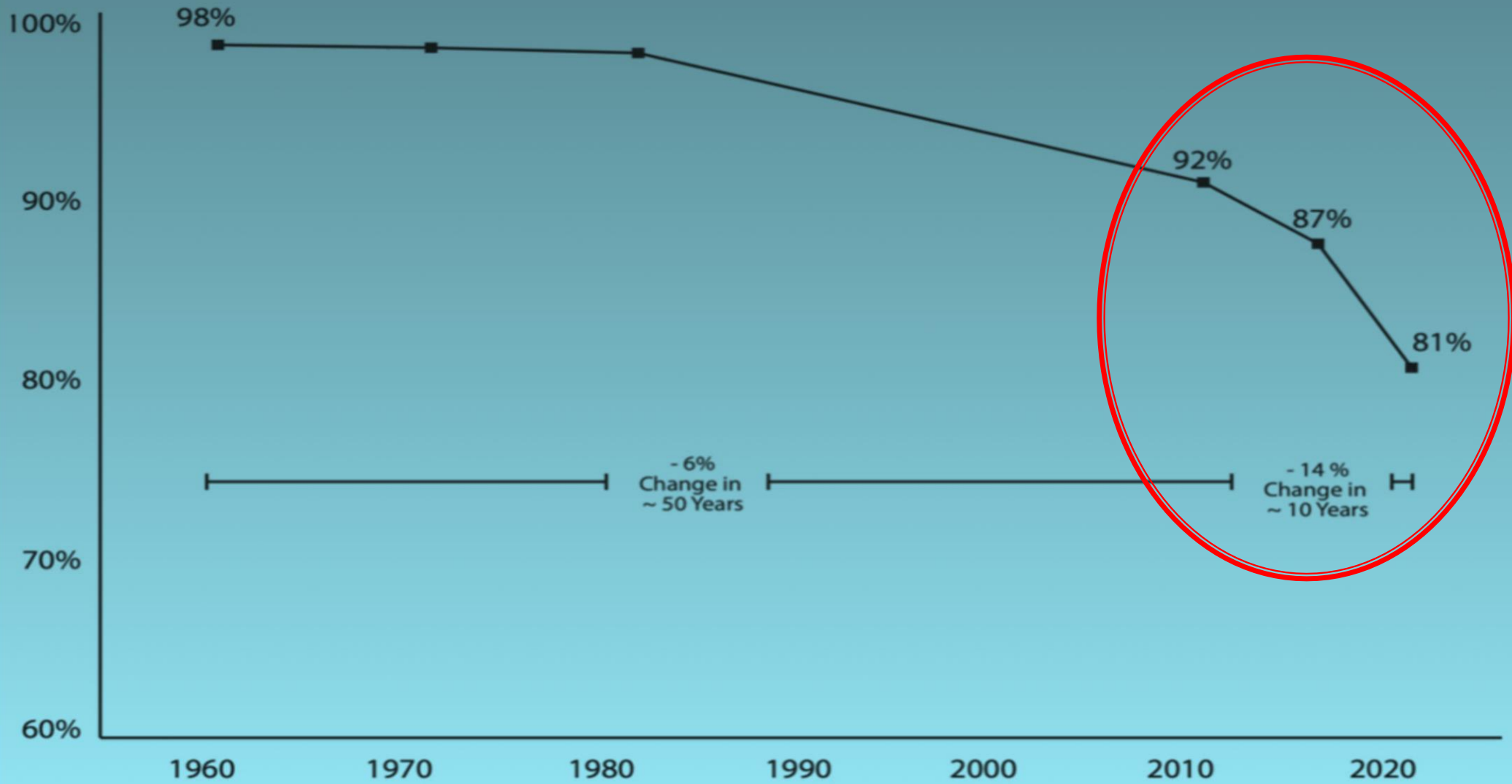


**A Transformed Life
Tries to Reach the
Lost from their
Perspective**

U.S. Belief in God



The "Lost" are not all the same

Some have barriers due to suffering

Some have allegiance to other "gods"

Some think any kind of judgment is wrong

For some, the existence of evil is a barrier

Some think science is a barrier to God

Some point to Christian hypocrisy

Some don't like the Bible's content or don't trust it

Some think you just need to be "good enough"

Acts 17:22-25 (ESV) ²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the

As new generations arise without knowledge of God, are you considering how to best approach the lost where they are at?

your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim

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

He's trying to connect with those in Athens and sees an opening with... "the unknown god".

This was a foreign idea to the people and certainly counter-cultural. An all-powerful, all-knowing God was contrary to their regional and limited gods.

Acts 17:26-29 (NIV2011) ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.

With evolution pervasively taught in schools, the idea that we all came from one couple is foreign to our

Rather than saying, "You shall not build an idol", Paul approaches from a different angle.

The idea God is close was also foreign. Paul quotes Epimenides and Aratus (Cretan and Cilician poets)

Do you invest the time to know where the lost is coming from?

Acts 17:30-34 (ESV) ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ because he has

Knowing that the Holy Spirit is ultimately doing the work in someone's heart, are you willing to reach out to the lost?

raising him from the dead." ³² Now when they heard of the

resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But

some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Repentance is needed for a new life in Jesus. His resurrection is the key to our new life.

We need to recognize that some will reject while others will embrace the Spirit's prompting.

A physical resurrection was foreign to Roman religion, but the resurrection is the focal point of Christianity.