



who  
we  
are



ONE  
THE  
VILLAGE

003

002

73

47

2020


2019

1



*who  
we  
are*

In the moment, adversity doesn't build  
your character, it reveals your character.

- 
1. Love for Neighbor
  2. Faithfulness to Truth
  3. Public Witness
  4. Missional Intentionality

## **Psalm 119:9-16**

How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to Your word.

With my whole heart I seek You; do not let me stray  
from Your commandments. I treasure Your word  
in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.  
Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

## **Psalm 119:9-16**

With my lips I declare all the ordinances of Your mouth. I delight in the way of Your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and fix my eyes on Your ways. I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

## 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

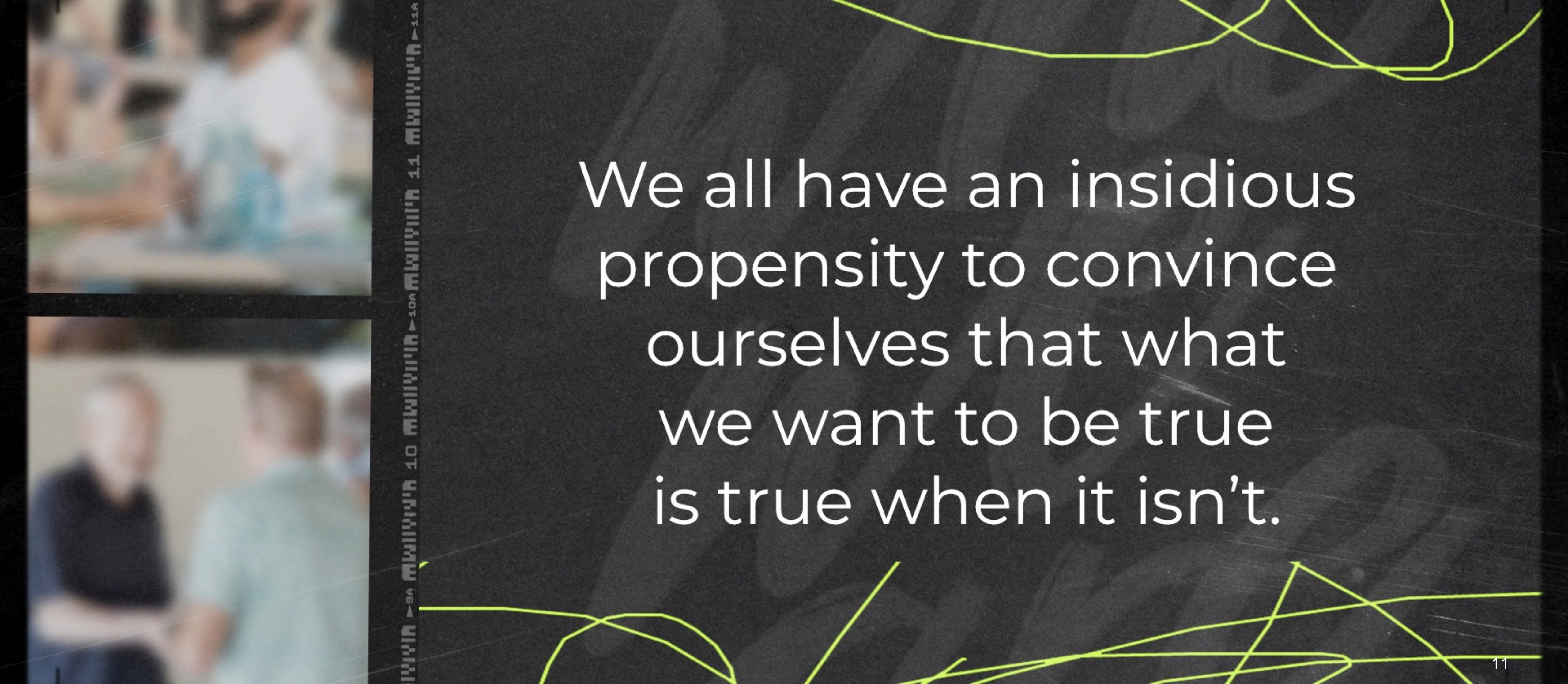
For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## **Matthew 5:11-12, 17-20**

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you... Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.”

## **Matthew 5:11-12, 17-20**

“Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



We all have an insidious  
propensity to convince  
ourselves that what  
we want to be true  
is true when it isn't.

## Genesis 2:16-17


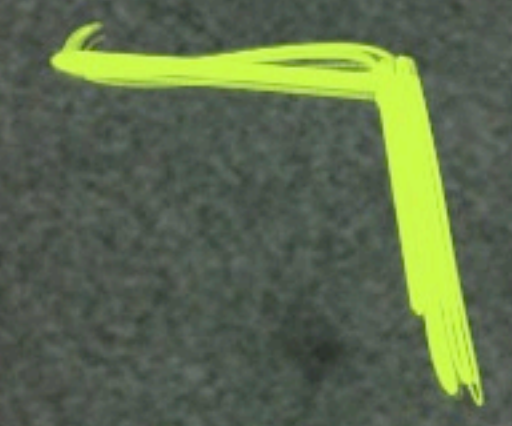

And the Lord God commanded the man,  
“You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;  
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil  
you shall not eat, for in the day that you  
eat of it **you shall die.**”

## **Genesis 3:6**

“The tree was good for food... it was a delight to the eyes... the tree was to be desired to make one wise...”


## **Genesis 3:4-5**

The serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



*who  
we  
are*

There are things we're asked to obey simply  
because God said so, trusting He knows better.



**Science** - When I find research that supports my opinion.

**Skeptic** – When the research contradicts my personal beliefs.

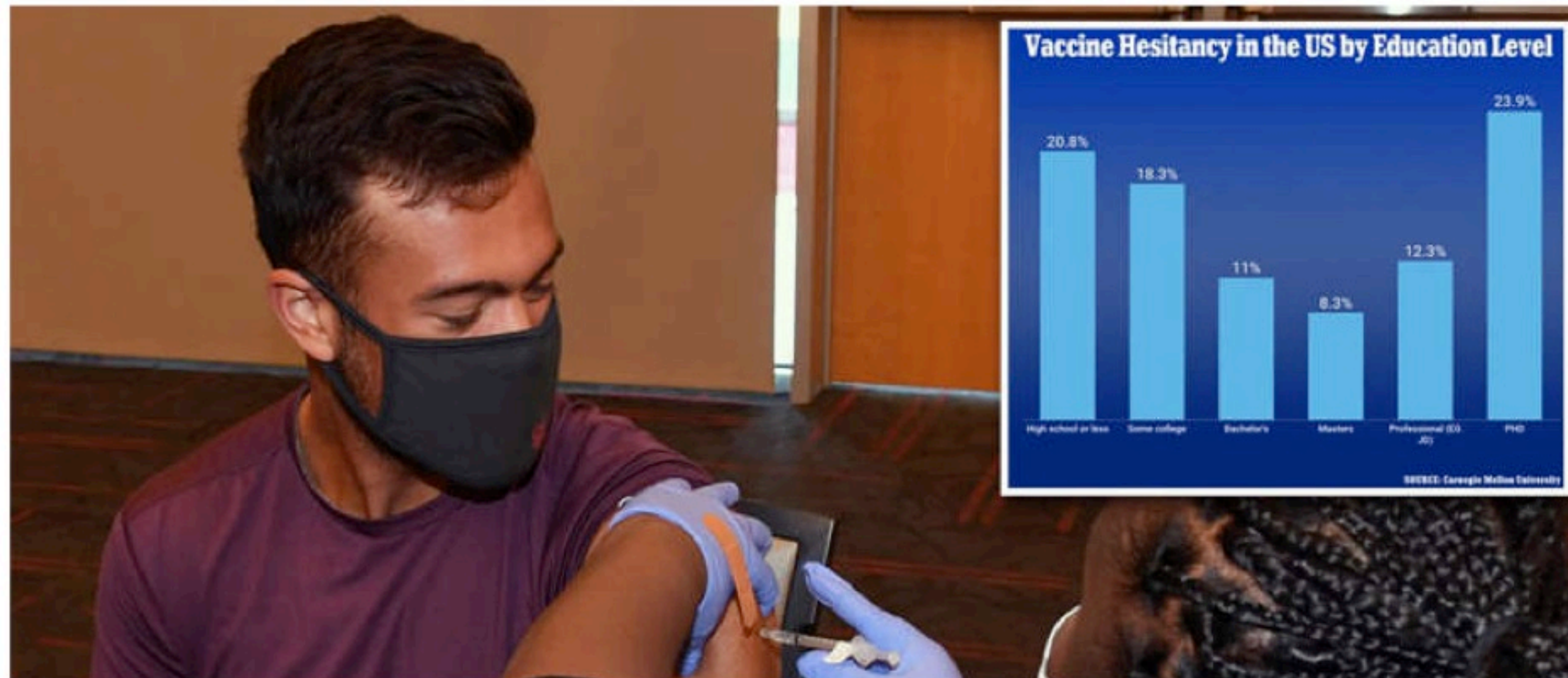
# Americans with PhDs are most reluctant to get vaccinated against COVID

Shannon Thaler For Dailymail.Com - 3 days ago

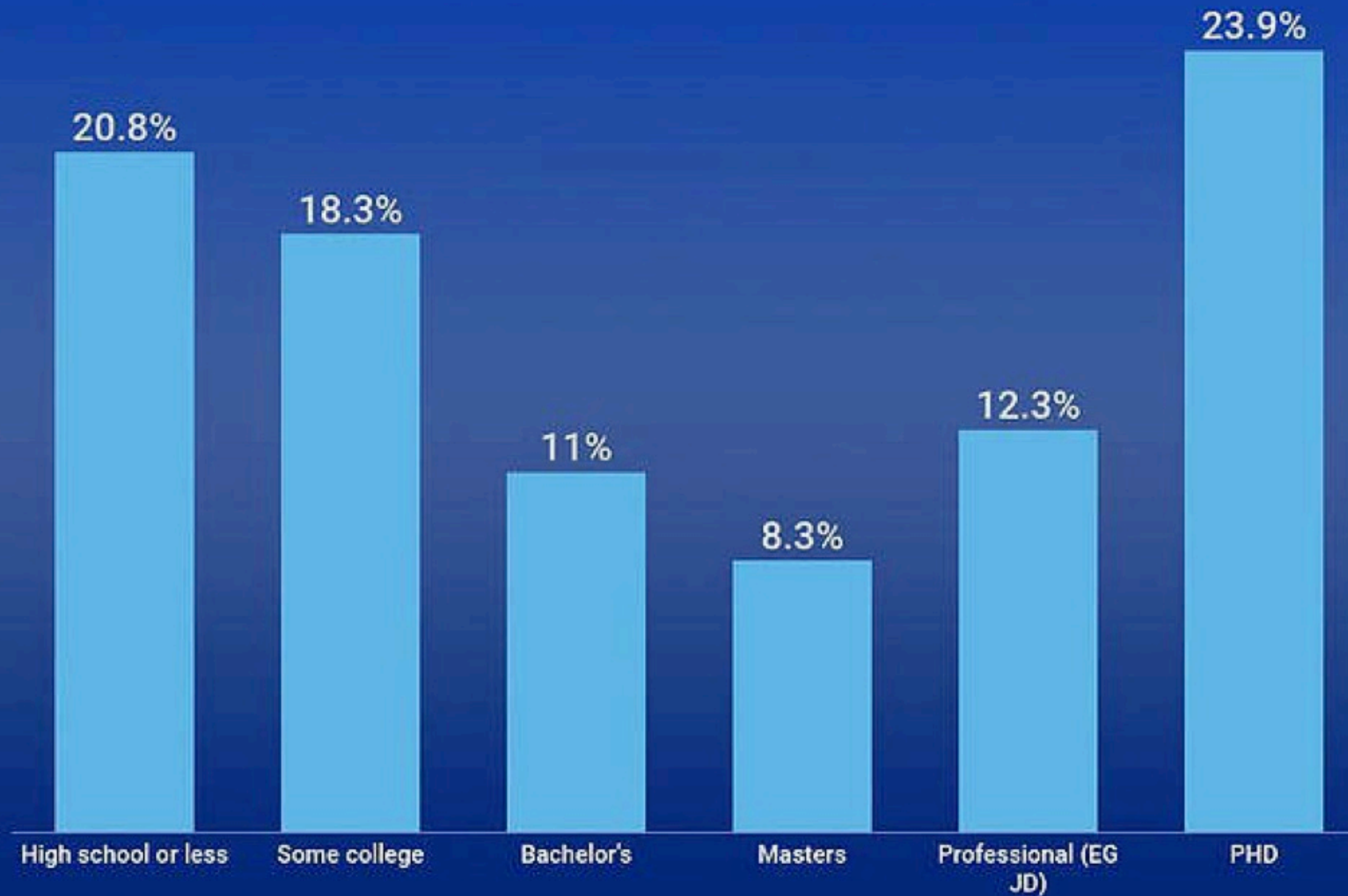


Like | 837

People with a PhD are the most hesitant when it comes to getting the Covid-19 vaccine, according to a paper by researchers from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.



# Vaccine Hesitancy in the US by Education Level



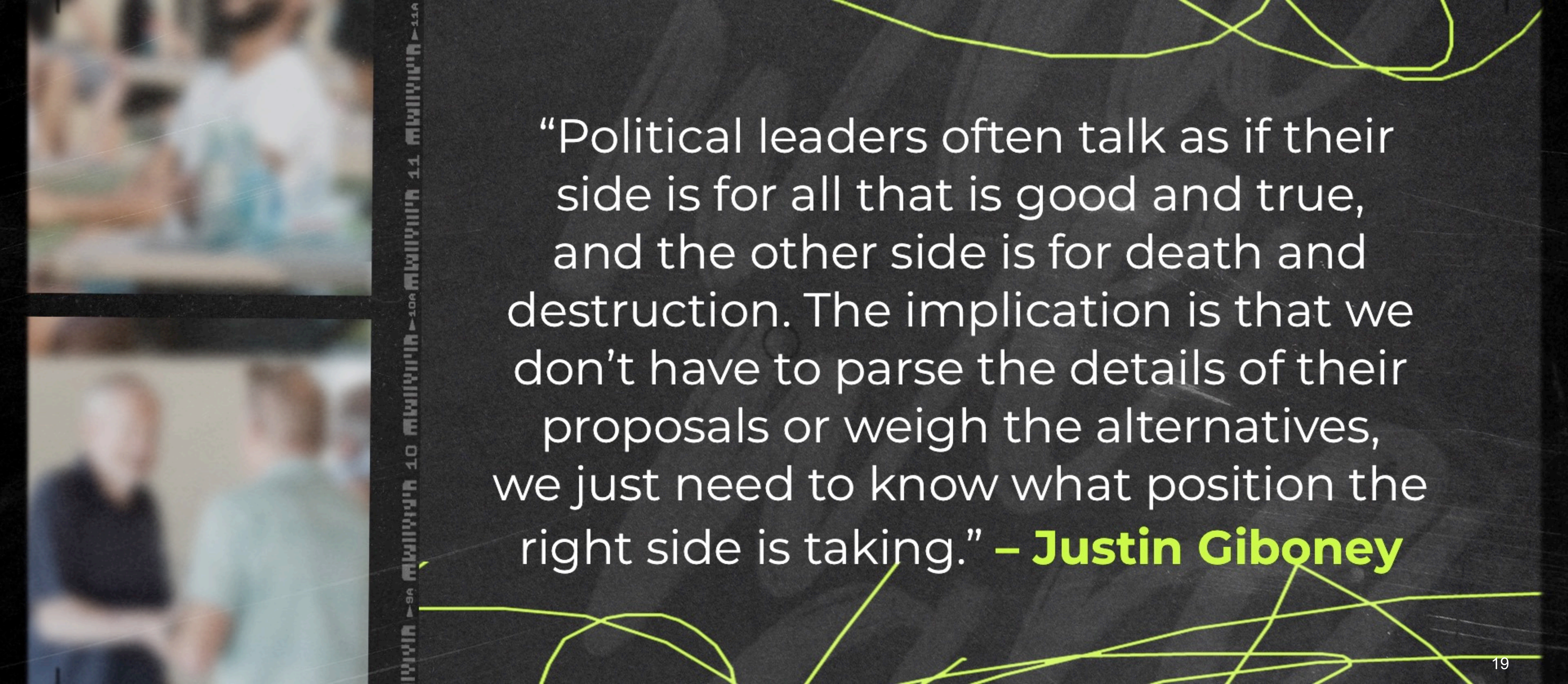
SOURCE: Carnegie Mellon University

**Science** – When I find research that supports my opinion.

**Skeptic** – When the research contradicts my personal beliefs.

**Revisionist** – When history contradicts my personal beliefs.

**Partisan** – When choosing a political side is easier than honestly acknowledging the nuance or admitting the facts.



“Political leaders often talk as if their side is for all that is good and true, and the other side is for death and destruction. The implication is that we don’t have to parse the details of their proposals or weigh the alternatives, we just need to know what position the right side is taking.” – **Justin Giboney**

**Conservative** – When I don't want to acknowledge change is best or progress could help.

**Progressive** – When I don't like the inherited wisdom of tradition, elders, or institutions.

**Libertarian** – When I don't want to give up my freedoms.

**Feelings** – When I carve out exceptions in the truth that justify my broken desires or beliefs.

“Just because something feels spiritual or enjoyable or liberating doesn’t mean it’s permissible, good, or wise. In fact, the most beautiful things are often not for human consumption. The forbidden tree in Eden was ‘good for food and pleasing to the eye.’ Was the fruit bad? No! Was the tree evil? No! God created it. Did the fruit probably taste good? Absolutely!”

“The problem wasn’t the tree’s badness. God simply had not given the humans permission to experience it. In a culture of emotivity, we assume that anything good, beautiful, tasty, and enjoyable is for human consumption. I mean we were made for this, right? But the early chapters of Genesis actually offer a critique of beauty and taste as the sole metric for discerning good from bad.” - AJ Swoboda

**Science** – When I find research that supports my opinion.

**Skeptic** – When the research contradicts my personal beliefs.

**Revisionist** – When history contradicts my personal beliefs.

**Partisan** – When choosing a political side is easier than honestly acknowledging the nuance or admitting the facts.

**Conservative** – When I don't want to acknowledge change is best or progress could help.

**Progressive** – When I don't like the inherited wisdom of tradition, elders, or institutions.

**Libertarian** – When I don't want to give up my freedoms.

**Feelings** – When I carve out exceptions in the truth that justify my broken desires or beliefs.

# **Faithfulness to God's truth no matter the cost.**

Jesus taught a moral vision for all our lives -  
our politics, money, bodies, careers,  
sexuality, families, marriages,  
friendships, enemies, everything.

who  
we  
are

Jesus told His disciples, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves [*self-denial*] and take up their cross [*self-sacrifice*] and follow Me. **Matthew 16:24**



**Jesus:** “Never deny God, even if that means denying yourself.”

**Today:** “Never deny yourself, even if that means denying God.”

“In a popular 2011 TED talk, “Atheism 2.0,” School of Life founder Alain de Botton advocated a new kind of atheism that could retain the goods of religion without the downside of belief. He salivated over the black American preaching tradition and the enthusiastic response of congregants: “Thank You Jesus, thank You Christ, thank You Savior!”

“Rather than abandoning rapture, de Botton suggested secular audiences respond to atheist preaching by lauding their heroes: “Thank you Plato, thank you Shakespeare, thank you Jane Austen!” One wonders how Shakespeare, whose world was fundamentally shaped by Christianity, would have felt about being cast as an atheist icon.”

“But when it comes to Jane Austen, the answer is clear: a woman of deep, explicit, and abiding faith in Jesus, she would be utterly appalled. Likewise, at the 2016 “Reason Rally,” designed to mobilize atheists, agnostics, and “nones,” multiple speakers invoked Martin Luther King’s March on Washington—as if a rally that despised Christianity would have pleased one of the most powerful Christian preachers in American history.”

“In the same year, I stumbled upon an Atlantic article that promised to explain “Why the British Tell Better Children’s Stories.” As a Brit living in America, I read it eagerly, only to find it arguing that American children’s stories are less compelling because they are more Christian.”

“The author cited The Lord of the Rings and The Chronicles of Narnia as examples of stories shaped by paganism, failing to note that Tolkien and Lewis were passionate Christians who grounded their stories in the death-and-resurrection truth claims of Jesus.”

“J. K. Rowling, another author referenced on the side of good-old British paganism, chose not to disclose her fragile Christian faith until the last Harry Potter book was published, precisely because of its Christian influence: she feared it would give the story away.”

**- Rebecca McClaughlin, PhD in Renaissance Literature from Cambridge**

“Many highly educated people who hover at the doorway of a church or synagogue are like my Augustine-reading friend. They relate to religion on a communal or philosophical level. They want to pass on a clear ethical inheritance to their children. They find certain God-haunted writers interesting or inspiring, and the biblical cadences of the civil rights era more moving than secular defenses of equality or liberty.”

**Ross Douthat, NY Times**

## Next Week!

- How did the Bible get compiled together?
- How do we know they picked the right books?
- What about all the lost books that didn't make it?
- Isn't it unscientific?
- Aren't there errors and contradictions?
- Why do so many people have different interpretations?
- How do I read it?
- What's the point of it?

**(1) Read, study, and discuss in community.**

**Historic Christianity** – The great saints who came before us.

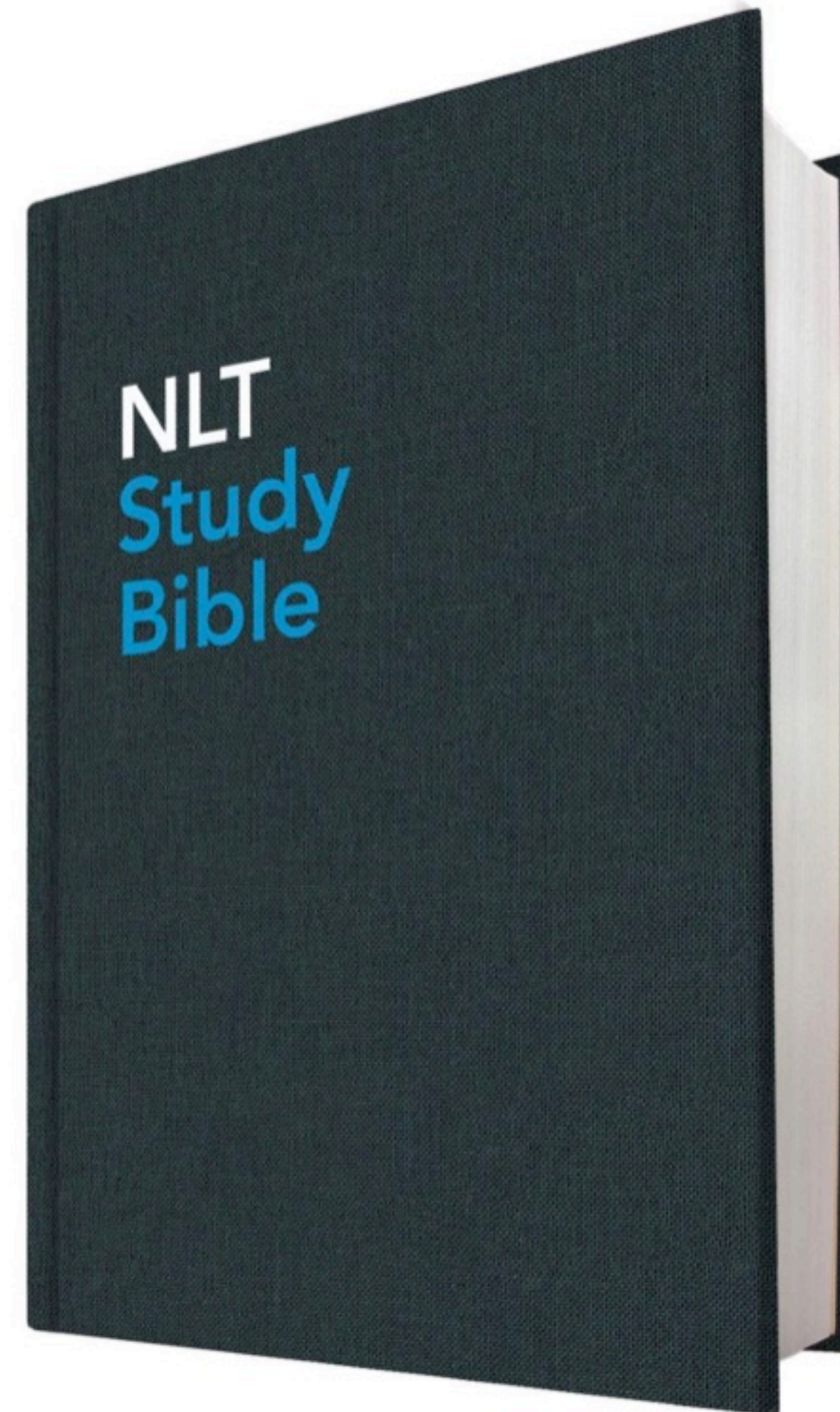
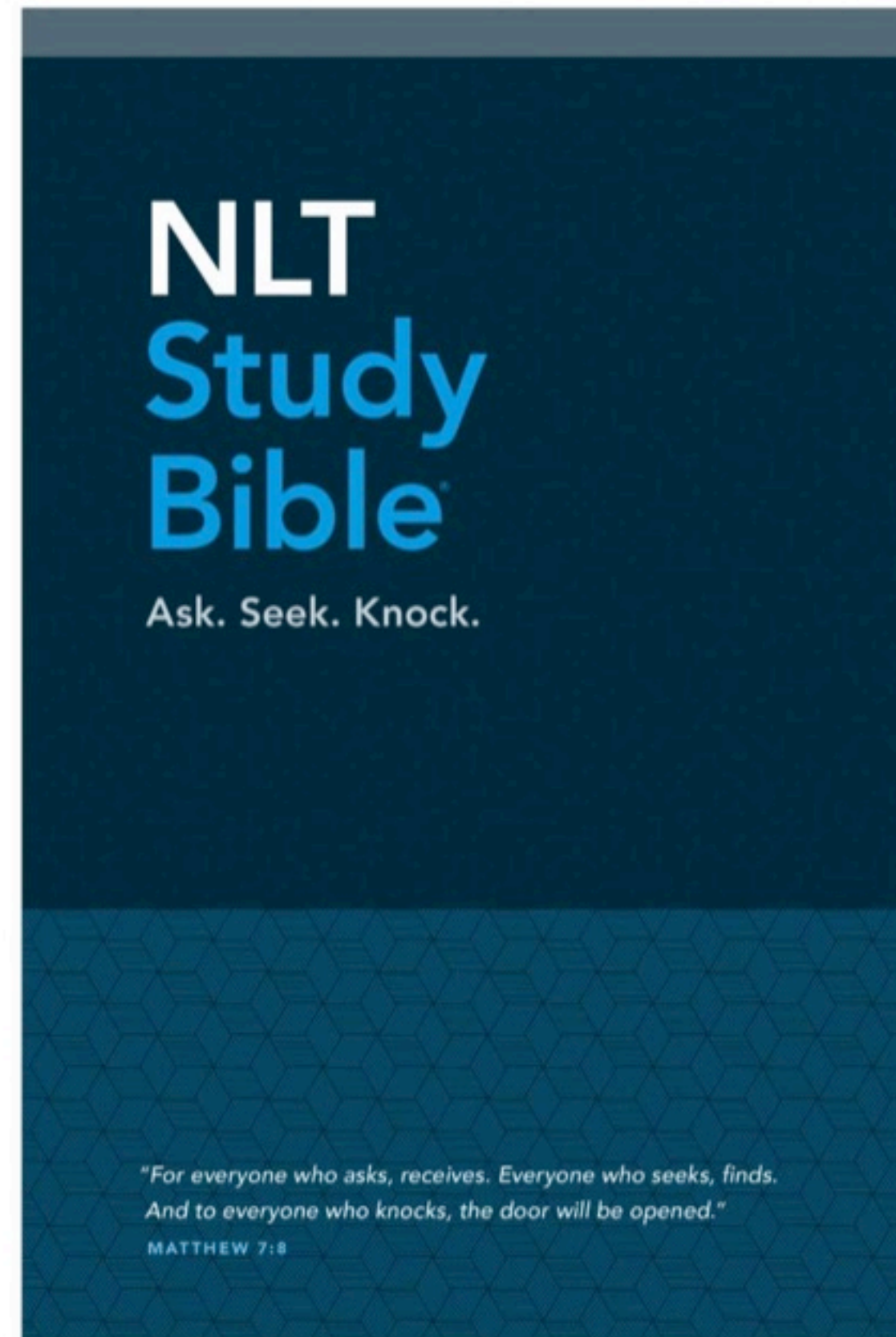
**Global Christianity** – Christians from countries and cultures not like mine.

**My Local Church** – My Leaders in my Church.

**My Inner Circle** – Those in Christ walking with me.

## **(2) Fight for focus!**

- Train the time.
- Read the Bible translation you'll read.
- Read books about the Bible.



What if Jesus was Serious, Skye Jethani  
Who Is This Man, Jon Ortberg  
Liturgy of the Ordinary, Tish Harrison Warren  
Burden is Light, Jon Tyson  
Ruthless Elimination of Hurry, Jon Mark Comer  
Holier Than Thou, Jackie Hill Perry  
Deeply Formed Life, Rich Villodas  
Lead Like It Matters to God, Rich Stearns  
From Weakness to Strength, Scott Sauls

Confronting Christianity, Rebecca McClaughlin

After Doubt, AJ Swoboda

Liturgy of Politics, Kaitlyn Schiess

Compassion & Conviction, The AND Campaign

Color of Compromise, Jemar Tisby

Reading While Black, Esau McCaulley

Generous Justice, Tim Keller

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Pete Scazzero

"The Bible Project", Google it.

**(3) You don't have to be a jerk.**  
Conviction + Compassion.