**Church History Outline 49: American Christianity Today**

I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has resulted not so much in the decrease of religious belief in America as in a greater \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between those who are indifferent toward religion and those who make it the center of their lives.

II. Mainline churches continue to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in membership and influence.

 A. They have been hurt by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between their modernist and evangelical elements over issues such as homosexuality and the ordination of women.

 B. Their largely tolerant attitude toward secularism give increasingly secular Americans few \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to join them or remain in them.

III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have become the most visible American Christians.

 A. Evangelicals offer a firm spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Americans disillusioned with the emptiness of secularism.

 B. Evangelicals have been criticized for often giving people what they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than proclaiming the true gospel.

 1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gospel is a teaching among some evangelicals that God will always bless His followers in every way.

 2. Church services sometimes appear more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 C. Over the last thirty-five years, evangelicals, with other conservative religious people, have become known for aggressively promoting traditional \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 1. This was stimulated especially by the Supreme Court’s legalization of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1973.

 2. Efforts have been focused particularly on abortion and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 3. Evangelicals have forged strong ties to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Party.

 4. A message of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sometimes appears to replace the message of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.