

Divine Nobodies Shedding Religion To Find God And The Unlikely People Who Help You Jim Palmer

Most of us, at some point, experience the sense of Gods absence. Michael Card says that rather than letting the distance widen, this is exactly the time for a deeper pursuit of God. The method he proposes is recovery of the profound, biblical practice of lament. Relates the story of the prickly friendship between Orioles pitcher Jim Palmer and manager Earl Weaver

This book is about Divine Humanity, man's creative collaboration with God in the world. Nikolai Berdyaev's reflections on Divine Humanity lead him to outline a dramatic philosophy of destiny, a philosophy of existence which unfolds in time and passes over into eternity, into a state which is not death but transfiguration. He describes his method as existentially anthropocentric and spiritually religious; the dialectic of this book is a dialectic not of logic but of life, a living existential dialectic. He emphasizes that man must not only await a divine-human revelation, but work creatively to achieve one. The final book of the Bible, Revelation prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the "Beast" will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self.

If we're being honest, most of us live comfortable, safe, and relatively easy lives. We enjoy a quality and ease of living that most of the world could not even imagine, let alone pursue. After all, even the poorest people in America are amongst the top five percent of the wealthiest people in the world, and the faces of those who suffer the most across the globe are distant and unfamiliar to us. As we busily navigate the path towards the American Dream, another dream has been forgotten--the hope that what is broken in this world may be restored to its intended fullness. The truth is we know we should help those less fortunate than us, but the needs of the world are so overwhelming. Where do we start? Where can we make the most impact? This compelling, story-driven book urges readers to open their eyes to the needs of a hurting world. It is a gripping, to-the-point challenge to get involved in realistic, positive change--one life at a time. Building on more than twenty years of experience in humanitarian relief efforts and community development around the world, author Noel Brewer Yeatts urges readers to realize that working to build a better world is not about guilt, handouts, or charity. It is about justice, compassion, and personal investment. She encourages readers to live a life fully awake . . . and doing a world of good. Featuring some of the most beautiful and profound prayers in the English language, The Pocket Book of Prayer is a superb companion for daily intercession and meditation. Drawing from the deep well of the history of Christian faith, this pocket-sized tome offers prayers from poets, theologians, church leaders, authors, and oral traditions. Here's a small sample of text: Lord of the excluded, Open my ears to those I would prefer not to hear, Open my life to those I would prefer not to know, Open my heart to those I would prefer not to love, And so open my eyes to see Where I exclude You. -Iona Abbey Prayer Appealing to a wide range of readers within the Judeo-Christian tradition, readers will want to buy multiple copies for their friends and relatives. The Anabaptist Vision, given as a presidential address before the American Society of Church History in 1943, has become a classic essay. In it, Harold S. Bender defines the

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spirit and purposes of the original Anabaptists. Three major points of emphasis are: the transformation of the entire way of life of the individual to the teachings and example of Christ, voluntary church membership based upon conversion and commitment to holy living, and Christian love and nonresistance applied to all human relationships.

The two-volume Cambridge History of Atheism offers an authoritative and up to date account of a subject of contemporary interest. Comprised of sixty essays by an international team of scholars, this History is comprehensive in scope. The essays are written from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including religious studies, philosophy, sociology, and classics. Offering a global overview of the subject, from antiquity to the present, the volumes examine the phenomenon of unbelief in the context of Christian, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and Jewish societies. They explore atheism and the early modern Scientific Revolution, as well as the development of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and its continuing implications. The History also includes general survey essays on the impact of scepticism, agnosticism and atheism, as well as contemporary assessments of thinking. Providing essential information on the nature and history of atheism, The Cambridge History of Atheism will be indispensable for both scholarship and teaching, at all levels.

My wife and I love our sons unconditionally and equally. Talking with one of them about his atheism has brought me to a new dimension in my relationship with him, to a review of my own christian beliefs, to a more critical examination of the church, and to a different understanding of ministry in today's world. As personal as I make this all sound, my family represents a thousand families, a hundred thousand and more, who have sat in painful silence because religious differences have taken away their voice. They tire of confrontation, angry discussions, verse hurling and jabbing one another with theories over every conceivable divisive issue. It is a powerful idea that those who do not share our faith should know that we do, not so much in our argument as in our love. It is time to listen.

The popular pastor and New York Times bestselling author of Love Wins and What We Talk About When We Talk About God shows us how to pursue and realize our dreams, live in the moment, and joyfully do the things that make us come alive. Each of us was created for something great—we just need to figure out what it is and find the courage to do it. Whether it's writing the next great American novel, starting a business, or joining a band, Rob Bell wants to help us make those dreams become reality. Our path is ours and ours alone to pursue, he reminds us, and in doing so, we derive great joy because we are living our passions. How to Be Here lays out concrete steps we can use to define and follow our dreams, interweaving engaging stories, lessons from biblical figures, insights gleaned from Rob's personal experience, and practical advice. Rob gives you the support and insight you need to silence your critics, move from idea to action, take the first step, find joy in the work, persevere through hard times, and surrender to the outcome. Like Stephen Pressfield's classic The War of Art, How to Be Here will inspire readers to seek the lives they were created to lead.

"Yvonne Perry's book enrages and inspires: it leaves you with the feeling that something must be done, that it can be done, and that it will be done-because we will do it. This book changes the equation." -Don C. Reed, Roman Reed Spinal Cord Injury Research Act It is such a pleasure to work with a writer like Yvonne Perry. She has truly researched the research and spent hundreds of hours to find the facts to share with the readers of RIGHT TO RECOVER. Over the years I have read literally thousands of articles and documents from around the world about this subject and RIGHT TO RECOVER is the most complete work I have ever read. It provides an honest evaluation and asks readers to consider the facts and then form their own opinion instead of listening to people who have never researched the subject. -Reverend Dan Bloodworth, The Brian Bloodworth Stroke and Head Injury Research Foundation In a world

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confused with chaos in regard to Stem cell research. Yvonne Perry has moved beyond the political to the healing in her new book " Right to Recover Winning the Political and Religious Wars over Stem Cell Research in America" This educational book sheds light on the way Americans view embryonic stem cell and provides well-researched facts about all types of stem cell treatments throughout the world. This book will shed light on the future, today. -Dr. Eric S. Kaplan, Author of Dying to be Young, From Botox to Botulism and Lifestyles of the Fit and Famous Finally, the truth about stem cell research. I search the Internet daily for articles on stem cell research to pass along to other advocates. It's so maddening to constantly read the oppositions blatant lies concerning stem cell research. -Diane Wyshak, Stem Cell Battles.com

In this bold and provocative new book, the author of *In the Beginning* and *The Reenchantment of Nature* challenges the widely held assumption that the world is becoming more secular and demonstrates why atheism cannot provide the moral and intellectual guidance essential for coping with the complexities of modern life. Atheism is one of the most important movements in modern Western culture. For the last two hundred years, it seemed to be on the verge of eliminating religion as an outmoded and dangerous superstition. Recent years, however, have witnessed the decline of disbelief and a rise in religious devotion throughout the world. In *THE TWILIGHT OF ATHEISM*, the distinguished historian and theologian Alister McGrath examines what went wrong with the atheist dream and explains why religion and faith are destined to play a central role in the twenty-first century. A former atheist who is now one of Christianity's foremost scholars, McGrath traces the history of atheism from its emergence in eighteenth-century Europe as a revolutionary worldview that offered liberation from the rigidity of traditional religion and the oppression of tyrannical monarchs, to its golden age in the first half of the twentieth century. Blending thoughtful, authoritative historical analysis with incisive portraits of such leading and influential atheists as Sigmund Freud and Richard Dawkins, McGrath exposes the flaws at the heart of atheism, and argues that the renewal of faith is a natural, inevitable, and necessary response to its failures. *THE TWILIGHT OF ATHEISM* will unsettle believers and nonbelievers alike. A powerful rebuttal of the philosophy that, for better and for worse, has exerted tremendous influence on Western history, it carries major implications for the future of both religion and unbelief in our society.

Divine Nobodies Shedding Religion to Find God (and the unlikely people who help you) Thomas Nelson

A practical study of all the key aspects of listening – listening to myself, listening to others, listening to the world and listening to God.

Author and former pastor Jim Palmer should be dead. Over the course of a year that included two near-death experiences, as Palmer set out to disentangle Jesus from the religious machinery of Christianity, he discovered a profound and unexpected answer to the question on his mind: What would Jesus do? Exploring what it really means to be Jesus in his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, Palmer learns that Jesus was special not because he was more divine than the rest of us, but because he was courageously more human than most. Unfortunately, this realization crystallized for him while he was hanging upside down in his overturned car, expecting to die. When Palmer was miraculously pulled from the wreckage alive, he emerged with a new courage to embrace his life as never before. In *Being Jesus in Nashville*, Palmer shares his personal stories, ideas, concepts, and an innovative approach to humanity as he learns that being Jesus means seeing people as they truly are; letting it happen, not making it happen; being at peace, whatever happens; putting no limitations on God; living without separation from God; following your own path; living as everyones neighbor. With spiritual insight and refreshing theological glimpses, Palmer shares how he traded in his Christianity for Jesus and how this brought him closer to God.

A guide to living an authentic Christian life urges readers to seek an expression of faith that is

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personal, rather than in accordance with the belief systems of others, in a handbook that cites the examples of Jesus while offering a perspective on the unlimited nature of God.

“Dictionary, n: A malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic. This dictionary, however, is a most useful work.” Bierce’s groundbreaking Devil’s Dictionary had a complex publication history. Started in the mid-1800s as an irregular column in Californian newspapers under various titles, he gradually refined the new-at-the-time idea of an irreverent set of glossary-like definitions. The final name, as we see it titled in this work, did not appear until an 1881 column published in the periodical *The San Francisco Illustrated Wasp*. There were no publications of the complete glossary in the 1800s. Not until 1906 did a portion of Bierce’s collection get published by Doubleday, under the name *The Cynic’s Word Book*—the publisher not wanting to use the word “Devil” in the title, to the great disappointment of the author. The 1906 word book only went from A to L, however, and the remainder was never released under the compromised title. In 1911 the Devil’s Dictionary as we know it was published in complete form as part of Bierce’s collected works (volume 7 of 12), including the remainder of the definitions from M to Z. It has been republished a number of times, including more recent efforts where older definitions from his columns that never made it into the original book were included. Due to the complex nature of copyright, some of those found definitions have unclear public domain status and were not included. This edition of the book includes, however, a set of definitions attributed to his one-and-only “Demon’s Dictionary” column, including Bierce’s classic definition of A: “the first letter in every properly constructed alphabet.” Bierce enjoyed “quoting” his pseudonyms in his work. Most of the poetry, dramatic scenes and stories in this book attributed to others were self-authored and do not exist outside of this work. This includes the prolific Father Gassalasca Jape, whom he thanks in the preface—“jape” of course having the definition: “a practical joke.” This book is a product of its time and must be approached as such. Many of the definitions hold up well today, but some might be considered less palatable by modern readers. Regardless, the book’s humorous style is a valuable snapshot of American culture from past centuries. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

One of the great spiritual writers of our times, Jim Palmer, is calling for anarchy - inner anarchy! Since 2005, Palmer has been exploring the terrain of spirituality beyond the mindsets of organized religion, and has written four books, including the widely acclaimed works, *Divine Nobodies*, and *Notes from (Over) the Edge*. In his provocative new book *Inner Anarchy*, Palmer shows how the Christian religion has twisted the true life and message of Jesus, and has preached a powerless gospel that is preventing millions of people from being free. He challenges the reader to inner anarchy, "We must dethrone and tear down the mindsets and ideologies that are ruling our world from within us and taking us further down a road of certain doom." Whether you are a Christian, Atheist, or whatever religious or spiritual background you may have, Palmer offers a hopeful place for all human beings to explore the possibility of birthing a new reality in our world. He writes, "Jesus announced the inauguration of a new age-the likes of which we have never seen but have dreamed of. His words are compelling and fascinating. He implied that this age is hidden in the human heart and is now ready to be birthed into existence. Jesus said it would come in the midst of great turmoil and

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would be led not by religious preachers and Bible scholars, but by those who open up their minds, become like a child and trust what is deep inside their hearts." "Inner Anarchy is not a book; it's smelling salts." - Jacob Byrne "An admonition to the Christian church, an invitation to birth a new world, and a challenge to tear down what is ruling us from within." - Maria Armstrong "...brings God out of the sky to the center of our lives. Inner Anarchy shows the way to the future." - Jim High "It has changed everything I thought I knew about God." - Byron Johnson "Remember the sixties? Inner Anarchy could spark a movement that finishes the job!" - Carson Kavanagh "Gritty. Deep. A message to rattle your cage, and change the world." - Lucas Farrell "... will speak to you at your core and trust the truths that lie within you." - Reuben Goff

Ronald Reagan is hailed today for a presidency that restored optimism to America, engendered years of economic prosperity, and helped bring about the fall of the Soviet Union. Yet until now little attention has been paid to the role Reagan's personal spirituality played in his political career, shaping his ideas, bolstering his resolve, and ultimately compelling him to confront the brutal -- and, not coincidentally, atheistic -- Soviet empire. In this groundbreaking book, political historian Paul Kengor draws upon Reagan's legacy of speeches and correspondence, and the memories of those who knew him well, to reveal a man whose Christian faith remained deep and consistent throughout his more than six decades in public life. Raised in the Disciples of Christ Church by a devout mother with a passionate missionary streak, Reagan embraced the church after reading a Christian novel at the age of eleven. A devoted Sunday-school teacher, he absorbed the church's model of "practical Christianity" and strived to achieve it in every stage of his life. But it was in his lifelong battle against communism -- first in Hollywood, then on the political stage -- that Reagan's Christian beliefs had their most profound effect. Appalled by the religious repression and state-mandated atheism of Bolshevik Marxism, Reagan felt called by a sense of personal mission to confront the USSR. Inspired by influences as diverse as C.S. Lewis, Whittaker Chambers, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, he waged an openly spiritual campaign against communism, insisting that religious freedom was the bedrock of personal liberty. "The source of our strength in the quest for human freedom is not material, but spiritual," he said in his Evil Empire address. "And because it knows no limitation, it must terrify and ultimately triumph over those who would enslave their fellow man." From a church classroom in 1920s Dixon, Illinois, to his triumphant mission to Moscow in 1988, Ronald Reagan was both political leader and spiritual crusader. God and Ronald Reagan deepens immeasurably our understanding of how these twin missions shaped his presidency -- and changed the world.

Henri Nouwen wisely said, "The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there." Jesus has "been there" and knows how to lead us out--but first, he just may lead us in. He meets us in the desert and does his best work in us there. We look for an easier way in vain. I myself reluctantly entered the desert and eventually received unimagined gifts there--gifts I didn't ask for, deserve, or want--gifts hidden in such painful loss that I despaired--and yet, looking back now, these "desert gifts" were the best thing that ever happened to me. I entered the desert, and years later, found my way out. It's not a new way, it was just new to me. Jewish and Christian sages had been living it for thousands of years. Somehow, in recent generations, we managed to forget it. In this collection I mean to

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begin to make those riches available to you. I'm hoping that like me, you'll discover something that you didn't know you wanted or needed--and something now you wouldn't give up at any price.

When a group of people practice something for two thousand years, the expectation is that they'd eventually get whatever it was they were committed to doing right. But the fact is that we as individuals and as a corporate community are still struggling with many of the issues that plagued the early church. Larry Shallenberger takes a fresh look at the book of Acts to help you gain a deeper understanding of how God moved in the early church and what that means for you today.

Jim Palmer's critically acclaimed *Divine Nobodies* was only half the story - the deconstruction and shedding of a religious mentality that hindered his knowing God. In his next book, Jim takes the reader along into the wide open spaces of exploring and experiencing God beyond religion. Jim writes, "It is no secret that God can be lost beneath the waving banner of religion. *Divine Nobodies* is my story of how this happened to me. Sometimes you have to disentangle God from religion, even Christ from Christianity, to find the truth. With the help of some unsuspecting nobodies, I uncovered a new starting line with God. As I've put one foot in front of another, I've experienced God in ways that are deeply transforming." Each chapter revolves around a central question related to knowing God on fresh terms: Is God a belief system? Is the Bible a landing strip or launching pad? Can what we're feeling inside be God? Are we too religiously minded to be any earthly good? Brian McLaren wrote, "I am tempted to say that Jim Palmer could well be the next Don Miller, but what they have in common, along with an honest spirituality and extraordinary skill as storytellers, is a unique voice." The Library Reviews said of him, "Jim Palmer's casual, yet compelling writing style cuts through the religious rhetoric and gets to the real issues...readers will love this author! His sense of humor is alternately mixed with shocking sentences and poignant moments. Laced throughout is a refreshing honesty that ties his ideas together with a ribbon of reality...each turn of the page strips away a little more of the contrived mystery of Christianity until the simplicity and sincerity of it stands in realistic splendor." More and more people seek a deeper spirituality beyond status-quo religion. Others are left empty and weary from a shallow and narrow pop-Christianity. Palmer says that God's kingdom of love, peace, and freedom can be a present reality in any person's life. He proclaims that God is indeed in the process of birthing something deep and wide among unlikely people in unconventional ways, which is changing the world...one "nobody" at a time.

The Scriptures say, "In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God. And the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning" (John 1:1). John's gospel calls Jesus the Word of God. He presents Him as the personal Word of God, which indicates that in these last days God has spoken to us through His Son. The Scripture also revealed that Jesus Christ is the manifold wisdom of God and the perfect revelation of the nature and person of God. Just as a person's words reveal his or her heart and mind, with Christ, it is the same, as the Word reveals the heart and mind of God. All those who know Jesus Christ, earnestly desire to know Him more and more. Our Lord said, "Before Abraham was born, I Am," which means that Abraham is a creature of God, just as Adam and Eve; and Jesus Christ is the Creator; He is the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Mediator and the Messiah, predicted by the Old

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Testament prophets long before Abraham was born. Jesus Christ is the manifestation of God's wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the universe. "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossian 1:17). God will show His love for you in an active way, in a big way, in a way that you cannot imagine or think, or comprehend. At the present time, your most holy duty and task is to draw close to the Lord and continue in faithful obedience to His commandments, to His Word and to the control and direction of the Holy Spirit. Gain a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and grow in knowledge, strength and truth through this uplifting read.

"Gives helpful hints, practical tips, and step by step instructions on how to positively impact the local community and the world at-large with whatever time a person has"--Provided by publisher.

Christopher Hitchens, described in the London Observer as "one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time" takes on his biggest subject yet—the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the tradition of Bertrand Russell's *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris's recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope's awesome view of the universe, and Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

Life can often be brutal, unjust, and fraught with emotional trauma. As a first responder chaplain for over 23 years, Nick Vleisides has experienced countless scenes of unbearable grief and pain. When asking the brokenhearted, "Do you have a faith to help you through?" the response in some form is almost always, "Well, we used to go to church." Blending first-hand accounts of tragedy with opportunity for raw self-examination and reflection, Vleisides delves into the realm of spirituality and belief amid loss and despair. For the "spiritual but not religious," who want to pursue God outside the walls of organized religion, *Used to Go to Church* is an invitation to rethink faith and open up to a life centered on grace, mercy, and love. The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." – Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned," the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, "to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small." Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

The second book in The Outlaw Preacher series finds James, aka Nine Ball facing intense spiritual and physical warfare from page one! There is no grace period from Outlaw to

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Evangelist and the enemy is a sore loser. The preacher is the target and the collateral damage begins immediately. This is hard core evangelism and it's not for the closet Christian or mamby pamby wishy washy, it's for contemporary warriors who recognize that we've been called to fight evil in our world. The Outlaw Preacher is a rough character who lives and loves at high speed. You will either love or hate this guy, but you cannot deny his love for the Lord or his woman, nor his devotion to his club.

Evangelicals have been scandalized by their association with Donald Trump, their megachurches summarily dismissed as "religious Walmarts." In *The Subversive Evangelical* Peter Schuurman shows how a growing group of "reflexive evangelicals" use irony to critique their own tradition and distinguish themselves from the stereotype of right-wing evangelicalism. Entering the Meeting House – an Ontario-based Anabaptist megachurch – as a participant observer, Schuurman discovers that the marketing is clever and the venue (a rented movie theatre) is attractive to the more than five thousand weekly attendees. But the heart of the church is its charismatic leader, Bruxy Cavey, whose anti-religious teaching and ironic tattoos offer a fresh image for evangelicals. This charisma, Schuurman argues, is not just the power of one individual; it is a dramatic production in which Cavey, his staff, and attendees cooperate, cultivating an identity as an "irreligious" megachurch and providing followers with a more culturally acceptable way to practise their faith in a secular age. Going behind the scenes to small group meetings, church dance parties, and the homes of attendees to investigate what motivates these reflexive evangelicals, Schuurman reveals a playful and provocative counterculture that distances itself from prevailing stereotypes while still embracing a conservative Christian faith.

Winner of an Award of Merit in the Christianity Today Book Awards, History/Biography category On January 17, 1776, one week after Thomas Paine published his incendiary pamphlet *Common Sense*, Connecticut minister Samuel Sherwood preached an equally patriotic sermon. "God Almighty, with all the powers of heaven, are on our side," Sherwood said, voicing a sacred justification for war that Americans would invoke repeatedly throughout the struggle for independence. In *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War*, James Byrd offers the first comprehensive analysis of how American revolutionaries defended their patriotic convictions through scripture. Byrd shows that the Bible was a key text of the American Revolution. Indeed, many colonists saw the Bible as primarily a book about war. They viewed God as not merely sanctioning violence but actively participating in combat, playing a decisive role on the battlefield. When war came, preachers and patriots alike turned to scripture not only for solace but for exhortations to fight. Such scripture helped amateur soldiers overcome their natural aversion to killing, conferred on those who died for the Revolution the halo of martyrdom, and gave Americans a sense of the divine providence of their cause. Many histories of the Revolution have noted the connection between religion and war, but *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War* is the first to provide a detailed analysis of specific biblical texts and how they were used, especially in making the patriotic case for war. Combing through more than 500 wartime sources, which include more than 17,000 biblical citations, Byrd shows precisely how the Bible shaped American war, and how war in turn shaped Americans' view of the Bible. Brilliantly researched and cogently argued, *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War* sheds new light on the American Revolution.

Author and former pastor Jim Palmer should be dead. Over the course of a year that included two near-death experiences, as Palmer set out to disentangle Jesus from the religious machinery of Christianity, he discovered a profound and unexpected answer to the question on his mind: "What would Jesus do?" Exploring what it really means to "be Jesus" in his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, Palmer learns that Jesus was special not because he was more divine than the rest of us, but because he was courageously more human than most. Unfortunately, this realization crystallized for him while he was hanging upside down in his

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overturned car, expecting to die. When Palmer was miraculously pulled from the wreckage alive, he emerged with a new courage to embrace his life as never before. In "Being Jesus in Nashville," Palmer shares his personal stories, ideas, concepts, and an innovative approach to humanity as he learns that being Jesus means seeing people as they truly are; letting it happen, not making it happen; being at peace, whatever happens; putting no limitations on God; living without separation from God; following your own path; living as everyone's neighbor. With spiritual insight and refreshing theological glimpses, Palmer shares how he traded in his Christianity for Jesus and how this brought him closer to God."

So you say youre not a perfectionist. Your idea of a perfectionist is someone who is well on their way to being perfect, and that does not describe you. Perfectionism is so cleverly disguised by its symptoms and ripple effects, but the problem is the same at the heart idolatry. The Heavens of Idolatry challenges Christ followers to consider the possibility that other gods may have set up a throne in their heart. As believers we may find ourselves living to please these gods, with our identity and worth hanging in the balance of acceptance. Or, being the diligent Christians that we are, we may have elevated ourselves by setting impossible standards for someone else. It is the striving and confusion that ensue that causes big problems in a persons life. Lisa Stough writes to fellow perfectionists as well as all Christians who are tired of hiding inside their Sunday clothes, who have given up on God all together, or who might be wondering what the big deal is about perfectionism. She brings Scripture, insight, and experience together into a journey you can call your own.

The decline of religion in the Western world used to be regarded as a direct consequence of development, and it was assumed that this would also occur in the global South once the same levels of economic development had been reached. The current flourishing of religion in the global South and the increased awareness of its significance in the global North prove that religion continues to play a crucial role. In those contexts where religion frames reality, development cannot ignore religion. This collection of essays by scholars and development practitioners from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin and North America explores the fascinating interface between religion and development as well as the negative and positive potential of religion in development. With contributions by Karel Th. August, Michael Biehl, Carlos Bonilla, Theresa Carino, Andreas Heuser, Eberhard Hitzler, Lindora Howard-Diawara, Martin Junge, Rebecca Larson, Michael Martin, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan'a Mphahlele), Johnson Mbillah, Ambrose Moyo, Kenneth Mtata, Samuel Ngun Ling, Kjell Nordstokke, Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro, Claudia Warning abd Vítor Westhelle.

This Christian classic tells the stories of brave men and women who were martyred for their faith in the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries.

The Doctrine of Sola-Scriptura (Bible Only) teaches that Scripture (the Bible) alone is the sole source of authority for the Christian and the Church. Coined and promulgated by Martin Luther and John Calvin (1500's), this doctrine has become the ground-floor upon which all of the doctrine of Protestant-Christianity has been built. If it can be proven that Sola-Scriptura is in error and that it is an innovation to orthodox Christianity, the entire body of purely Protestant doctrine will be, subsequently, rendered void. Using Scripture itself, reason, and a spoon full of humor, David L. Gray (also called Yoseph Daviyd) brilliantly reduces the doctrine of Sola-Scripture to absolute absurdity; thus rendering all of Protestantism Dead on Arrival. This book is a must have for all Christians who love sacred Scripture and desire to use it as God intended. This the Second Edition - The changes to the text from the previous version include additional material, modification to images, and correction of typos.

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In *The Spiritual Child*, psychologist Lisa Miller presents the next big idea in psychology: the science and the power of spirituality. She explains the clear, scientific link between spirituality and health and shows that children who have a positive, active relationship to spirituality: * are 40% less likely to use and abuse substances * are 60% less likely to be depressed as teenagers * are 80% less likely to have dangerous or unprotected sex * have significantly more positive markers for thriving including an increased sense of meaning and purpose, and high levels of academic success. Combining cutting-edge research with broad anecdotal evidence from her work as a clinical psychologist to illustrate just how invaluable spirituality is to a child's mental and physical health, Miller translates these findings into practical advice for parents, giving them concrete ways to develop and encourage their children's—as well as their own—well-being. In this provocative, conversation-starting book, Dr. Miller presents us with a pioneering new way to think about parenting our modern youth.

What does a Hip-Hop artist, Waffle House waitress, tire salesman, and disabled girl have to do with discovering spiritual truth? What if embracing authentic Christianity is a journey of unlearning? Welcome to Jim Palmer's world! Don Miller meets Anne Lamott meets Brian McLaren in this tale of shedding religion and plunging into uncharted depths of knowing God. Jim Palmer, emergent pastor, shares his compelling off-road spiritual journey and the unsuspecting people who became his guides. "Perhaps God's reason for wanting me," writes Palmer, "is much better than my reason for wanting him. Maybe God's idea of my salvation trumps the version I am too willing to settle for. Seeing I needed a little help to get this, God sent a variety pack of characters to awaken me." For all those hoping there's more to God and Christianity than what they've heard or experienced, each chapter of *Divine Nobodies* gives the reader permission and freedom to discover it for themselves. Sometimes comical, other times tragic, at times shocking, always honest; Jim Palmer's story offers an inspiring and profound glimpse into life with God beyond institutional church and conventional religion. "I am tempted to say that Jim Palmer could well be the next Donald Miller, but what they have in common, along with an honest spirituality and extraordinary skill as storytellers, is a unique voice . . . *Divine Nobodies* is a delight to read, and it was good for my soul to read it." -BRIAN MCLAREN Author of *The Secret Message of Jesus* "You hold in your hands an amazing story of a broken man finding freedom in all the right places—in God's work in the lives of some extraordinarily ordinary people around him. You will thrill to this delightful blend of gut-wrenching honesty and laugh-out-loud hilarity, and in the end you'll find God much closer, the body of Christ far bigger and your own journey far clearer than you ever dreamed." -WAYNE JACOBSEN Author of *Authentic Relationships*

The Discipline of Religion is a lively critical journey through religious studies today, looking at its recent growth as an academic discipline, and its contemporary political and social meanings. Focusing on the differences between religious belief and academic religious discourse, Russell T. McCutcheon argues that the invention of religion as a discipline blurs the distinction between criticism and doctrine in its assertion of the relevance of faith as a credible object of study. In the leap from disciplinary criticism to avowal of actual cosmic and moral meaning, schools of religious studies extend their powers far beyond universities and into the everyday lives of those outside, managing and curtailing specific types of speech and dissent.

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The election year of 2028 holds no great surprises. The current married, lesbian U.S. President has been a popular figure in the White House during her eight-year term. She has endorsed her Muslim Vice President to succeed her, and he is the odds-on favorite to continue the Administration's progressive policies. Pastor James Glazier faces other concerns than politics and the condition of the country, unaware of the dangers that Islam poses through America's next president. His beloved wife, Janna, lies dying of cancer. His church, falling apart under his stewardship, wants him out. More critically, these and other challenges sorely test James' faith. He's moving toward the point of dismissing God in his life altogether. When James joins forces with another pastor, who opens his eyes to the danger of their out-of-control federal government and the Islamicization of America, his life turns from difficult to impossible. Christian persecution rivals Nazi treatment of the Jews in the 1930s. Violence and anarchy, fostered by the government itself, are on the rise. Whether he wants to or not, James must confront this situation. Nothing goes right for James. Then God whispers into his unwilling ears. The Trauma of Doctrine investigates the difficult relationship between traumatic experiences, maximalist religious beliefs, and the experience of God. The book highlights the dynamic and conflictive interplay between the timeless realities of abuse, divine control, and the psychology of religious participation.

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