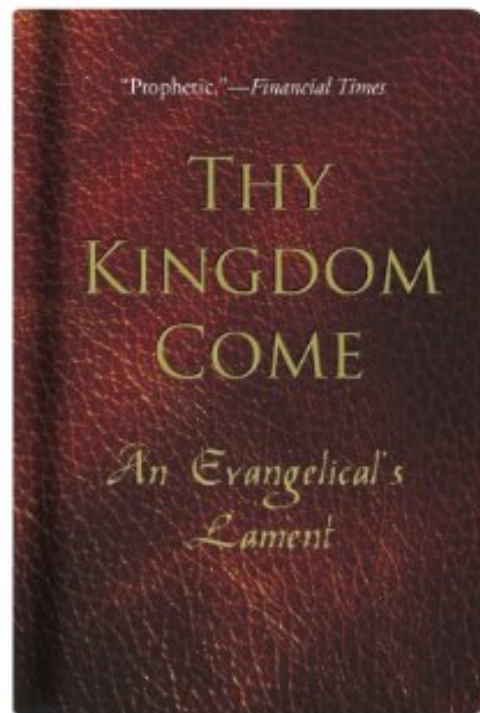


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## Thy Kingdom Come: How the Religious Right Distorts Faith and Threatens America

Randall Balmer

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HOW THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT  
DISTORTS THE FAITH  
AND THREATENS AMERICA

RANDALL BALMER

*Author of* MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR

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For much of American history, evangelicalism was aligned with progressive political causes-the abolition of slavery, universal suffrage, and public education. But contemporary conservative activists have defaulted on this majestic legacy, embracing instead an agenda virtually indistinguishable from the Republican Party platform. How has evangelical Christianity become so entrenched in partisan politics? Randall Balmer, an evangelical Christian and a historian of American religion, deftly combines ethnographic research, theological reflections, and historical context to examine the nature of the Religious Right today-and offers a rallying cry for liberal Christians to reclaim the noble traditions of their faith.

From BooklistDescribing himself as "a jilted lover" whose evangelical faith "has been hijacked by right-wing zealots," Balmer accuses those zealots of distorting the Gospel, ignoring the legacy of nineteenth-century evangelical activism, and failing to appreciate "the genius" of the First Amendment. They quote the Bible out of context while offering literalistic interpretations, in the process poisoning attempts at meaningful conversation and diminishing faith itself. As a political liberal and an evangelical Christian, Balmer doesn't find the two terms mutually exclusive. Yet the voices of his brand of quieter evangelicals are drowned in the din of the vocal Religious Right, for unlike the Pat Robertsons of the world, "we don't have radio or television programs, let alone entire media networks." Balmer insists that evangelicalism is a diverse movement--indeed, the most important social and religious movement in American history, "America's folk religion." In the measured tones befitting that diversity, he discusses abortion, homosexuality, school vouchers, and creationism. If he changes no minds, he still offers a welcome alternative to Religious Right railing. June SawyersCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "(Randall Balmer's) analysis of the deceit and hypocrisy at the heart of the religious right is devastating." The Guardian "Balmer's prophetic, heartbroken new book (is) a short and thorough account of the current state of evangelical Christianity in the US." FT Magazine"About the AuthorRandall Balmer is Professor of American Religious History at Barnard College, Columbia University, and a visiting professor at Yale University Divinity School. Balmer has published ten books, including Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America, which was made into a three-part documentary for PBS. He lives in Woodbury, Connecticut, with his wife, Catharine Randall, who is also a professor and an author.