

Christianish What If Were Not Really Following Jesus At All Mark Steele

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The Emancipation of Robert Sadler Robert Sadler 2012-01-01 Powerful True Story of a Twentieth-Century Plantation Slave Over fifty years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Robert Sadler was sold into slavery at the age of five–by his own father. This is the no-holds-barred tale of those dark days, his quest for freedom, and the determination to serve others born out of his experience. It is a story of good triumphing over evil, of God’s grace, and of an extraordinary life of ministry. An updated edition of a classic title. *Church Reset* Jack Wilkie 2020-04-30 In Church Reset: God’s Design for So Much More, Jack Wilkie traces the problem back to its roots to show how we’ve deviated from God’s plan and how we can get back on track. How can we stop operating as an organization and start living like a family? How do we stop creating church customers and start making dedicated disciples? How do we abandon man-made strategies and rediscover the power of God’s design? Church Reset casts an exciting vision for what Christ’s church can be by pointing back to what it was meant to be from the very start.

Kids’ Travel Guide to the Armor of God Group Children’s Ministry Resources 2004 The Kids’ Travel Guide series takes children from kindergarten through 5th grade on life-impacting explorations that engage them with activities, stories, prayer, and much more. Each of the seven themed Kids’ Travel Guides includes 13 imaginative, interactive Bible lessons. Lead your Sunday school or midweek program on a travel adventure packed with fun activities, creative options, and take-home pages that kids tuck into their very own travel journals. The world is a scary place, but God is greater than it all! Kids’ Travel Guide to the Armor of God is the newest edition of the Kids’ Travel Guide series taking your kids on a 13-week Scripture-based exploration of the armor of God. Lead them to have a faith so bold they’ll be able to stand firm in the midst of terrifying or unclear situations. Children will explore how to be strong in the decisions they make and in relationships with others. It’s an exciting travel experience with pit-stops on prayer, self-discovery, and spiritual commitment. Additional Features include: Tour Guide Tips: Ideas teachers can use to adapt the lesson for different ages. Items to Pack: Supplies and props for the journey. Scenic Routes: to give you more creative options for kids. Fun Facts: Jokes and interesting tidbits related to the lesson. Reproducible Handouts: Games, and journal “souvenirs”. Kids’ Travel Guide Series includes: Kids’ Travel Guide to the Beatitudes (9781470704230) Kids’ Travel Guide to the Lord’s Prayer (9780764425240) Kids’ Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments (9780764422249) Kids’ Travel Guide to the Parables (9780764470134) Kids’ Travel Guide to the 23rd Psalm (9780764440052) Kids’ Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit (9780764423901) Kids’ Travel Guide to the Armor of God (9780764426957)

On Guard William Lane Craig 2010-03-01 Renowned scholar William Lane Craig offers a readable, rich training manual for defending the Christian faith. This concise guide is filled with illustrations, sidebars, and memorizable steps to help Christians stand their ground and defend their faith with reason and precision. In his engaging style, Dr. Craig offers four arguments for God’s existence, defends the historicity of Jesus’ personal claims and resurrection, addresses the problem of suffering, and shows why religious relativism doesn’t work. Along the way, he shares his story of following God’s call in his own life. This one-stop, how-to-defend-your-faith manual will equip Christians to advance faith conversations deliberately, applying straightforward, cool-headed arguments. They will discover not just what they believe, but why they believe—and how being on guard with the truth has the power to change lives forever.

Worship and the Reality of God John Jefferson Davis 2010-10-07 Is God missing from our worship? Obstacles to true worship are not about contemporary or traditional music, electronic gadgetry or seeker sensitivity. Rather it is the habits of mind and heart, conditioned by our surrounding culture, that hinder our faith in the real presence of the transcendent God among his people. Sensing a real need for renewal, John Jefferson Davis offers a theology of worship that uncovers the most fundamental barriers to our vital involvement in the worship of our holy God. His profound theological analysis leads to fresh and bracing recommendations that will be especially helpful to all those who lead worship or want to more fully and deeply encounter the glory and majesty of God.

The Most Important Thing Happening Mark Steele 2013-01-10 Fantastical Stories of Timeless TruthsA boardwalk peddler selling one ounce of God. A game mule who unwittingly triggers a tragic chain of events. Two businessmen declaring war over the Very Last Sandwich in the Entire World. The characters in the eleven short stories of The Most Important Thing Happening move through the whimsical, the mysterious, and the introspective toward the hope your soul longs for. So allow these stories to unfold before you one at a time. Chew on them. Let them haunt you. Go ahead and make a few fictional friends. Take a look at the world in a new way. You may come out the other side transformed.

Holy Disunity Layton E. Williams 2019-10-08 These days, there’s no dirtier word than “divisive,” especially in religious and political circles. Claiming a controversial opinion, talking about our differences, even sharing our doubts can be seen as threatening to the goal of unity. But what if unity shouldn’t be our goal? In Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us, Layton E. Williams proposes that our primary calling as humans is not to create unity but rather to seek authentic relationship with God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us. And that means actively engaging those with whom we disagree. Our religious, political, social, and cultural differences can create doubt and tension, but disunity also provides surprising gifts of perspective and grace. By analyzing conflict and rifts in both modern culture and Scripture, Williams explores how our disagreements and differences—our disunity—can ultimately redeem us.

Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome Reba Riley 2016-03-15 Hardcover edition published under the title: Post-traumatic church syndrome: a memoir of humor and healing

The World-Tilting Gospel Dan Phillips 2011-07-13 The first generation of Christians were not popular. They were ridiculed, persecuted, yet according to Acts 17:6-7, they “turned the world upside down.” As a result, their message was communicated louder and clearer than any message before or since. Even with today’s social media, big-name celebrities, and shiny evangelism techniques that add glitz and glamour to the gospel, today’s Christians fail to communicate as effectively as the first followers of Christ. Simply put, the early church turned the world upside down, but today’s church has been turned upside down by the world.

Christianish Mark Steele 2013-02-15 It may feel like authentic faith. It may even look like the real deal. Yet it’s often easy to settle for the souvenir t-shirt—the appearance of a transformed heart—instead of taking the actual trip through true life-change. We find ourselves settling for a personal faith that’s been polluted by culture, and diluted by other people’s take on spirituality. Christianish tells the story of one man’s journey to move from the in-between to a life that’s centered on Christ. To move forward, author Mark Steele goes back to the beginning, to examine Christ’s life and words. Through stories and insights that are sometimes profound, often hilarious, and always honest, Mark delivers a compelling look at what our faith is all about.

Half-Life/ Die Already Mark Steele 2008 With nonstop humor and out-there insights, Steele suggests the route to real living is dying to self. He chronicles his journey-in-progress with often hilarious results. (Christian)

God Built Steve Farrar 2010-01-01 Our world is in desperate need of bold, passionate men of integrity. Yet such men aren’t born; they’re built, shaped, and formed by God. Best-selling author Steve Farrar will guide you through the story of Joseph, a humble shepherd who overcame tremendous odds to become an influential leader. It’s here you will discover the process that creates true men of God, where He works providentially, strangely, and slowly. Uncover the biblical pattern for growth, gain insights into common frustrations and difficulties, and become equipped for the journey ahead.

God Can’t Sleep Palmer Chinchen 2011 In this follow-up to his debut, True Religion, Palmer Chinchen helps believers develop a God-centered response to suffering. --from publisher description.

Loving God When You Don’t Love the Church Chris Jackson 2007-09-01 Many Christians who experience hurt in the church don’t just leave their own churches; they leave the church altogether. Whether they have been wounded by pastors or people in the pews, these believers have had enough and are jumping ship in massive numbers. Pastor and churchgoer Chris Jackson is honest about his own failings as well as those of the church at large. He identifies with many of the hurts churchgoing Christians have experienced. In Loving God When You Don’t Love the Church, he hopes to provide healing to wounded and disillusioned believers and restore the wonder of a genuine relationship with Jesus and his bride, the church. Jackson’s humility, compassion, and practical advice for healing and restoration will touch those who have left the church and those who love them.

Exploring the Story Adam Barr 2011-04-19 Many people today encounter strange events, names, customs and/or people when they pick up their Bible to read. The world of the Bible can seem very distant to modern readers, even if they are reading a contemporary translation. To help readers gain a better understanding of the world of the Bible, Zondervan has developed a one-volume, handy-size reference resource that will take readers from Genesis to Revelation and provide helpful insights along the way through the use of full-color photos, maps, charts, timelines, character descriptions, special articles on important biblical topics and background information about the nations, and places and customs that they will encounter in their reading of the Bible. What sets this reference resource apart from others is that it is designed to serve as a companion to The Story, a Bible that allows the events, poems, and teachings to the Bible to read like a novel. This reference resource is arranged according to the chapters as found in The Story with each section containing vital information for understanding the biblical text. The Story Reference Companion is a must-have reference volume for teachers and participants engaged in Bible study, especially those teaching through The Story.

The World and the Word Eugene H. Merrill 2011 Three esteemed Old Testament professors introduce students to the first eighty percent of the Bible–freshly illuminating the text as a rich source of theology and doctrine packed with practical principles for modern times.

Unfriend Yourself Kyle Tennant 2012-01-01 Three days. No Facebook. No Twitter. No social media. Just time to detox, discern, and decide. Take a three-day social media fast with Unfriend Yourself and learn to examine your use of social media from a Christian perspective. This book will guide you in evaluating your fast by asking challenging questions such as: What happens when I broadcast myself on the Internet? Do I see a difference between my interactions on social media and my interactions face-to-face? Do I rule my media, or do my media rule me? While reading Unfriend Yourself, you will learn to think critically, biblically, and practically about social media. Whether you choose to leave the social media scene, engage in it less, or engage in it more after your social media fast, your perspective on social media will never be the same. “Without throwing the baby out with the bathwater, Kyle challenges the Christian to a God-honoring approach to social media involvement. Well researched and thought through, Unfriend Yourself avoids the emotional arguments and instead presents a provocative ‘must read’ for any students, young adults, and generations beyond who want to be responsible in approaching social media from a biblical worldview.” – Dr. Bob MacRae, Professor of Youth Ministry at Moody Bible Institute

The Second Christianity John Hick 2009-08-01 In the contemporary world, John Hick argues, there are two Christianities. In one the Bible is seen as uniquely inspired and authoritative, and the Christian worldview is accordingly identified with that of the late first-century church. The gospel is an offer of personal salvation and often a call to us-against-them religious patriotism. In the other, there is an overriding concern for our one world and our common humanity, leading to preoccupation with the global problems of nuclear destruction, the squandering of precious energy resources, the divide between rich and poor in the world and the population explosion. The great religious traditions are seen as representing different awarenesses of and different responses to a divine Reality which transcends all our human thoughts and images, scriptures and cults. Hick’s book describes the religious core of this ‘second Christianity’, the Christianity which is not the tribal religion of one section of humanity over against the rest, but rather one way amongst others of living out our common humanity in relation to a divine Presence which grasps us all. It has grown out of two earlier works, Christianity at the Centre and The Centre of Christianity.

The Peshawar Lancers S. M. Stirling 2003-01-07 In the mid-1870s, a violent spray of comets hits Earth, decimating cities, erasing shorelines, and changing the world’s climate forever. And just as Earth’s temperature dropped, so was civilization frozen in time. Instead of advancing technologically, humanity had to piece itself back together... In the twenty-first century, boats still run on steam, messages arrive by telegraph, and the British Empire, with its capital now in Delhi, controls much of the world. The other major world leader is the Czar of All the Russias. Everyone predicts an eventual, deadly showdown. But no one can predict the role that one man, Captain Athelstane King, reluctant spy and hero, will play...

50 Simple Questions for Every Christian Guy P. Harrison 2013-03-19 Written in a respectful and conversational style, this unique book is designed to promote constructive dialogue and foster mutual understanding between Christians and non-Christians. The author, a skeptic and journalist, asks basic questions about Christian belief. What is the born-again experience? Why would God want to sacrifice his only son for the world? Do miracles really happen? How reliable is the Bible? What is the rapture? Why isn’t everyone a Christian? Each question is followed by commentary and analysis that is skeptical and tough but never argumentative or condescending. Christians will find the book useful as a basis for developing their apologetics, while skeptics will welcome Harrison’s probing rational analysis of religious claims. *The New Atheist Crusaders and Their Unholy Grail* Becky Garrison 2008-01-01 A challenge has been issued on matters of faith and Becky Garrison meets it head on in this witty yet poignant answer to the Anti-God gurus Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett. Becky

Garrison, religious satirist and senior contributing editor for The Wittenberg Door, is taking a stand. Where most Christians assume the character of the Cowardly Lion chanting, "I do believe, I do believe, I do believe," Garrison refuses to simply thrust tracts at these self-proclaimed infidels. Instead, Garrison steels her pen and takes on the ungodly program of the New Atheists, skewering each argument with her sharp satiric wit. Garrison turns aside the atheists’ assault without ignoring its real criticisms, namely, the church’s inadequate response to war, evolution, medical ethics, social justice, and other important issues in the post-9/11 world.

Crazy Good Sex Les Parrott 2009 In this practical guidebook filled with straight talk, psychologist and bestselling author Dr. Les Parrott shares six secrets to help men and their wives experience the best sex they’ve ever had.

Game On Emmitt Smith 2011-08-25 Emmitt Smith, the NFL’s all-time leading rusher of the Dallas Cowboys, Dancing with the Stars champion, and successful real-estate investor, outlines the principles that helped him become a winner on and off the football field. In this book he encourages you to live your God-given dream, now. Emmitt reveals that it’s not only vision and talent that propel us toward our dreams, but also a combination of determination, persistence, humility, courage, and faith. Game On is more than self-help. The book gives readers practical tools to empower them to pursue their God-given purpose with all their mind, heart, and soul.

The Seven Rules of Wall Street: Crash-Tested Investment Strategies That Beat the Market Sam Stovall 2009-03-08 “Sell in May, and then go away.” It’s an old saying, but this Wall Street adage is as relevant today as when it was first uttered. It worked once again during the market decline that began in 2008. In The Seven Rules of Wall Street, Sam Stovall, master investment strategist and expert on stock market history, presents seven familiar sayings that not only convey enduring truths but also serve as superb investment strategies. In this engaging guide, Stovall subjects his chosen sayings to the facts of history and to his own personal experience. When it comes to building a portfolio, for instance, should you “let your winners ride, but cut your losers short”? Absolutely. “On average,” Stovall writes, “the ‘winners’ beat the market by a near two-to-one margin. The winners also beat the losers most years: seven out of every 10 years.” Other Wall Street one-liners that emerge as timeless truisms include: As goes January, so goes the year Don’t get mad–get even Don’t fight the Fed There’s always a bull market someplace To support his conclusions, Stovall complements his sharp insight with the results of detailed back-testing, as well as tables and charts drawing on decades of stock market data. A fun and lively read, The Seven Rules of Wall Street provides an abundance of wisdom in remarkably few words–proving that investing books can be as entertaining as they are educating.

That All Shall Be Saved David Bentley Hart 2019-09-24 A stunning reexamination of one of the essential tenets of Christian belief from one of the most provocative and admired writers on religion today The great fourth-century church father Basil of Caesarea once observed that, in his time, most Christians believed that hell was not everlasting, and that all would eventually attain salvation. But today, this view is no longer prevalent within Christian communities. In this momentous book, David Bentley Hart makes the case that nearly two millennia of dogmatic tradition have misled readers on the crucial matter of universal salvation. On the basis of the earliest Christian writings, theological tradition, scripture, and logic, Hart argues that if God is the good creator of all, he is the savior of all, without fail. And if he is not the savior of all, the Kingdom is only a dream, and creation something considerably worse than a nightmare. But it is not so. There is no such thing as eternal damnation; all will be saved. With great rhetorical power, wit, and emotional range, Hart offers a new perspective on one of Christianity’s most important themes.

Religion without God Ronald Dworkin 2013-10-01 In his last book, Ronald Dworkin addresses timeless questions: What is religion and what is God’s place in it? What are death and immortality? He joins a sense of cosmic mystery and beauty to the claim that value is objective, independent of mind, and immanent in the world. Belief in God is one manifestation of this view, but not the only one.

Touching Wonder John Blase 2012-11-12 This bold retelling of Luke 1–2, based on Eugene Peterson’s Message translation, reads like a novel and invites readers to experience the Nativity with fresh wonder. To Eugene Peterson’s The Message Bible translation, John Blase adds his own storytelling voice, exploring the familiar events from multiple first-person viewpoints. What emerges is the intimate story of unlikely people—a frightened teenage girl, a worried carpenter, a collection of senior citizens, a disillusioned young shepherd—meeting up with the divine as they bumble and stumble toward the realization that the little one just born is the One. This retold story of Word made flesh invites readers to react appropriately—with eyes opened wide in wonder, jaws dropped in amazement, and hearts rejoicing. The beautiful design and Amanda Jolman’s lively line drawings make this book a fitting gift as well as a Christmas tradition that families will treasure for years to come.

Restart Scott L. Engle 2013-06 This guide seeks to help you reenergize your faith by coming to a fuller understanding of the biblical story and essential Christian beliefs.

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Immigration John Zmirak 2018-05-21 The crime statistics. The jobs. The inflated welfare state. The terror threats. The Politically Incorrect Guide to Immigration shines cold light on America’s out-of-control immigration problem with real-life stories and incontrovertible evidence.

Following Jesus Carolyn Slaughter 2008-08-01 First produced by Ginghamburg United Methodist Church, this 12-session study is perfect for groups just beginning their faith walk or for anyone looking for a deeper foundation. Follow Jesus leads adults to rediscover Jesus, grow in the spirit and learn to live in faith and in service to the church, community and world. Part 1 - Rediscovering Jesus Jesus the Messiah Unique Characteristics of Jesus Savior of the World Our Lord Part 2 - Growing in the Spirit The Holy Spirit Understanding Spiritual Fruit Understanding Spiritual Gifts Sharing the Spirit Part 3 - Living in Faith and Service Session Nine: Spiritual Disciplines: Keys to God’s Heart Session Ten: The Church Session Eleven: Understanding God’s Call Session Twelve: God’s Place for You Also available: Following Jesus Leader’s Guide 9780687649488

Amish Prayers 2011-04-01 The Amish as well as other Anabaptist groups have used the same book of prayers for centuries. Now for the first time a selection of these prayers is readily available in English. This exclusive authentic translation from the original German—with an introduction by Beverly Lewis—will give readers insights into the spiritual foundations of the Plain people. Each prayer is paired with a Scripture passage to draw readers closer to God. This hardcover illustrated gift book is perfect for old and new fans of Amish fiction alike. *Secondhand Jesus* Glenn Packiam 2009 Poses an argument that today’s Christians inappropriately count on religious experts to define or set the standards for living one’s faith, arguing that settling for another’s description renders one vulnerable to doubts in the face of difficult challenges, in a guide that offers counsel on how to get to know God for oneself. Original, 10,000 first printing.

Angels Are for Real Judith MacNutt 2012-02-01 Leading Expert Demystifies Angels and How They Interact with People Angels have a vital role in the Kingdom of God—and in the lives of believers. Yet many Christians treat the existence of angels lightly or fail to consider them at all. In Angels Are Real Judith MacNutt pulls back the curtain on this intriguing topic, recounting inspiring, true-life stories and miraculous interactions, revealing what the Bible says about these heavenly beings, and offering insight into the spiritual realm. She draws on solid scriptural support to explore · what angels look like · what they do · why they are important in believers’ lives · the heavenly hierarchy · what fallen angels are · and more. Angels Are Real is an accessible, comprehensive, encouraging guide for Christians. When believers grasp the importance of angels to God—and themselves—they will better understand God’s power and his extraordinary love.

Hunga Dunga Phil Polizatto 2008-11 A "story about that brief but unforgettable time in our history when flower children were sure peace and love would guide the planet." -- Back cover

Traveling Mercies Anne Lamott 2000-09-05 Anne Lamott claims the two best prayers she knows are: "Help me, help me, help me" and "Thank you, thank you, thank you." She has a friend whose morning prayer each day is "Whatever," and whose evening prayer is "Oh, well." Anne thinks of Jesus as "Casper the friendly savior" and describes God as "one crafty mother." Despite—or because of—her irreverence, faith is a natural subject for Anne Lamott. Since Operating Instructions and Bird by Bird, her fans have been waiting for her to write the book that explained how she came to the big-hearted, grateful, generous faith that she so often alluded to in her two earlier nonfiction books. The people in Anne Lamott's real life are like beloved characters in a favorite series for her readers—her friend Pammy, her son, Sam, and the many funny and wise folks who attend her church are all familiar. And Traveling Mercies is a welcome return to those lives, as well as an introduction to new companions Lamott treats with the same candor, insight, and tenderness. Lamott's faith isn't about easy answers, which is part of what endears her to believers as well as nonbelievers. Against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself. As she puts it, "My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers." At once tough, personal, affectionate, wise, and very funny, Traveling Mercies tells in exuberant detail how Anne Lamott learned to shine the light of faith on the darkest part of ordinary life, exposing surprising pockets of meaning and hope.

Flashbang Mark Steele 2005-07 Written in the memoir style of comedic and sometimes poignant life stories, this book includes true accounts of the author suffering 40 days of facial paralysis, soiling himself while performing at the Inauguration of President George W. Bush, receiving treatments of shock therapy from a first-timer, and giving blood in a Mexican hospital for the purpose of saving a woman’s life.

Following (Pastoring for Life: Theological Wisdom for Ministering Well) Jason Byassee 2021-08-10 "[An] insightful exploration of Christian discipleship in the digital age."--Publishers Weekly This book offers theological perspectives on the challenges of discipleship in a digital age, showing how new technologies and the rise of social media affect the way we interact with each other, ourselves, and the world. Written by a Gen X digital immigrant and a Millennial digital native, the book explores a faithful response to today’s technology as we celebrate our embodied roles as followers of Christ in a disembodied time.

Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome Reba Riley 2015-08-18 An important inspirational debut, Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome is much more than a memoir about reclaiming faith and overcoming chronic illness. Written with humor and personality, it tackles the universal struggle to heal what life has broken. This is a book for questioners, doubters, misfits, and seekers of all faiths; for the spiritual, the religious, and the curious. Reba Riley’s twenty-ninth year was a terrible time to undertake a spiritual quest. But when untreatable chronic illness forced her to her metaphorical (and physical) derriere on her birthday, Reba realized that even if she couldn’t fix her body, she might be able to heal her injured spirit. And so began a year-long journey to recover from her whopping case of Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome by visiting thirty religions before her thirtieth birthday. During her spiritual sojourn, Reba: -Was interrogate by Amish grandmothers about her sex life -Danced the disco in a Buddhist temple -Went to church in virtual reality, a movie theater, a drive-in bar, and a basement -Fasted for thirty days without food—or wine -Washed her lady parts in a mosque bathroom -Was audited by Scientists -Learned to meditate with an urban monk, sucked mud in a sweat lodge with a suburban shaman, and snuck into Yom Kippur with a fake grandpa in tow -Discovered she didn’t have to choose religion to choose God—or good For anyone who has ever longed for transformation of body, mind, or soul, but didn’t know where to start, Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome reminds us that sometimes we have to get lost to get found.

Called Susan Robb 2019-02-05 Throughout the Bible, God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never could have imagined on their own! Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life through the stories of ordinary people found in the Bible. Called will examine the lives of the Abraham, Samuel, Esther and Mary Magdalene, Jonah, and the beloved disciple. The same God that called these unlikely characters calls you, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world. Additional components are available for purchase separately to create a six-week group study include a DVD featuring Susan Robb and a comprehensive Leader Guide.

Almost Christian Kenda Creasy Dean 2010-07-16 Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion—the same invaluable data as its predecessor, Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers—Kenda Creasy Dean’s compelling new book, Almost Christian, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. In Soul Searching, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism"—a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God’s love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. Persuasively and accessibly written, Almost Christian is a wake up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.