

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

April 14, 2021

Book reviewed: **Radical** by Dr. David Platt

Reviewed by: **Mike Luckey**

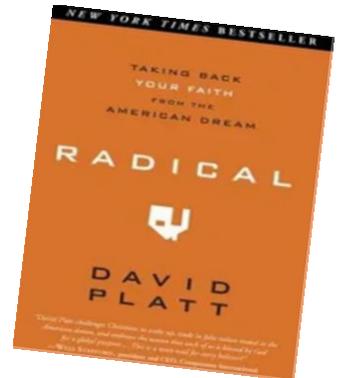
Radical was written by Dr. David Platt. He is president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and received his doctorate degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The subtitle for this book is — “Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream.” In this book, Dr. Platt challenges today’s Christians to consider how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences.

He shows what Jesus actually said about being his disciple by using the stories in Luke 16:19-25 and Matthew 19:16-22. If you remember, in Luke, the Bible tells about a rich man who had everything he wanted and Lazarus, a diseased leper who had nothing. The rich man was sent to hell when he died because he refused to help Lazarus. In Matthew another rich man asks Jesus how he can have eternal life. Jesus tells him that he must keep the commandments, sell all his possessions, give this money to the poor, and then follow Jesus. This rich man went sadly away because of all that he possessed. In Radical, Dr. Platt compares these two rich men to today’s ordinary American Christians by presenting this fact—if we have running water in our homes, shelter over our heads, food to eat daily, and some type of transportation, then we are in the top 15% of the world’s people in wealth.

The book Radical asks us what are we doing with our “riches”? Are we refusing to help people like Lazarus or walking away from Jesus because of our possessions? This book describes the dramatic story of what is happening as a suburban church decides to get serious about the gospel according to Jesus. Dr. Platt tells us of this church’s “Radical Experiment” — a one year journey to authentic discipleship that will transform how today’s American Christians should live in a world that desperately needs the “Good News of Jesus”.

On a personal level, the book Radical has impacted Judy and my life greatly. We first read this book when Dr. Dennis Cowley suggested our Bethel mission team read it in preparation for our first mission trip to Haiti. After reading this book and then serving in Haiti, we decided to try Dr. Platt’s “Radical Experiment” for one year. By the grace of God that year so blessed our lives that we have vowed to continue this “Experiment” for the rest of our lives.



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APRIL 17, 2021

Lifeway Women | events

Women’s conference: BBC is hosting a virtual conference with Lifeway Women on **Saturday, April 17**. Registration will begin at 8:45 am. Coffee, juice & pastries will be available in the morning, with the event beginning at 9:30 am EST. This will be an all-day event. Lunch will be provided, as well as snacks throughout the day. The cost is \$15. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those ladies interested in coming. Sign-up is not necessary, just helpful in planning purposes! Contact Jessica Libey or Melody Perez for more information. We are looking forward to a time of purposeful fellowship & renewal in Christ!

We are grateful for the encouraging weekend of interviews and ministry exposure with the Dodd's. Thank you for your participation, questions and prayers. Our plan for moving forward in determining God's direction is as follows:

- Continue to collect impressions, concerns and questions from our church family to get a sense of how the Lord is leading us as a church family. Please reach out to any of the elders to share your impressions or questions.
- This Sunday the 18th we plan to have a combined adult SS class to teach and practice bible reading skills. At the beginning of the class, we will take some time for a Q&A regarding the Associate Pastor process.
- The Church Council meets Wednesday night the 21st to consider both congregational input and the possibility of extending an invitation to the Dodd's to officially candidate on Sunday May 9th. If that invitation is given and accepted, there would be a congregational Q&A and vote during the SS hour that Sunday. The Council will also review and approve an offer letter which includes details of compensation and work responsibilities.

Please continue to pray for the process, the Dodd's and the church leadership that we will together sense the leading of God. We will keep you updated as the process moves forward.

Bethel Elders

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Alyssa Kreitl: Alyssa (daughter of Jeff & Susan Braun) has been diagnosed with a very rare form of slow-moving cancer. She is also pregnant. Pray for a healthy & joy-filled pregnancy and that the doctors will have wisdom in her treatment plans.
- Brad Carling: Continue in prayer for Brad as he continues with his treatments.
- Joie Grenner: Thank you for continuing to pray for Joie and her family. She will be in the hospital for about another week for a stronger form of chemo. Doctors are cautiously optimistic as they move forward.
- Randy Hutton: Randy had a tumor removed from around his eye. He will be seeing an oncologist to determine the next steps. Thanks for praying for wisdom & discernment.
- Evan Hass: Evan is a close family friend of Matt & Tarrah Ledford. He is currently battling a severe case of Covid, on a ventilator and in an induced coma. Pray for the family, as they are not able to visit due to guidelines. Pray that Matt & Tarrah would be a blessing of Christ during this time.
- MaryAnn Fritz: MaryAnn had her hip surgery Tuesday. So thankful that the surgery went well! Pray for her as she begins the recovery process, for minimal pain and a full recovery.
- Connie Davis: Remember Connie as she is doing her chemotherapy. Pray for God's strength for her body.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Today, Wednesday April 14—Simple Supper @ 5:30 pm; Family Night classes @ 6:00 pm**
- **Saturday, April 17—Women's Conference**
- **Sunday, April 18—Worship service @ 9:15 am; Sunday School Hour @ 10:30 am**
- **Sunday, April 18—Bridal Shower for Alex McKay @ 2:00 pm**
- **Monday, April 19—Men's Bible Reading @ 7:30 pm**

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Sunday, May 2—Church softball game/picnic at the Winamac Town Park @ 4:00 pm**
- **Sunday, May 9—Mother's Day**
- **Sunday, May 16—BBC Graduate Recognition**
- **Sunday, May 23—Dr. Vanderwier to speak in the morning Worship Service**
- **VB\$—July 12-16**

When you visit the church website, <https://www.bethelbiblechurch.org/>, you can access the church directory? Go to the "About" tab and click on "Church Directory". You will need a password, which is: bbcwinamac.

