

Radical Review

David Platt's book "*Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*" has had a profound impact on me personally and on our church family. David Platt is a young Southern Baptist pastor of Brookhills Church in Alabama, who has led his church to embrace global disciple-making. The thesis of his book is that the American church has become complacent and materialistic and has hoarded the gospel. Instead of taking the gospel to unreached people groups around the globe, many Christians are content with accumulating stuff and thereby continuing to fuel the American dream of prosperity, success, and hedonism.

Platt reminds us of Jesus' words in Luke 14:25-35 to give up everything to follow Him. We must be will to commit to *believe* what Jesus actually says about the cost of following Him and then to subsequently commit to *obey* Him as our Lord. God's passion is for His glory among the nations and there is no plan B in getting the gospel to unreached people groups—we are God's plan. God has charged us with the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

Platt challenges us to be missional in all areas of life and to take a careful inventory of how we have bought into the American dream of materialism while the majority of the world lives in abject poverty. Chapter 6 may be the most "uncomfortable" chapter which steps on our toes in that it exhorts us to think about how much we can personally "give up" so that others who have never heard the name of Jesus can hear.

He concludes his book with a call to risk all for the glory of the gospel. He encourages readers to adopt the Radical Experiment which is a commitment to make some life changes for at least one year. Overall, the book is challenging, makes you uncomfortable, and can help churches gain a paradigm shift in world view when it comes to Biblical global disciple-making.

Many of our small groups have gone through this book and it has challenged our people to get more excited about global missions, to see the need to help the poor and outcasts, and to be a global student of what God is doing around the world. I encourage all pastors to lead your church through this book as it will be used by God to shake things up for His glory. For more information you can go to: www.radicalthebook.com