

Are there many honest evangelicals alive at this time in history who would not admit they have felt tempted to let their chaotic world “go to hell in a handbasket”? Historian Robert D. Linder (1933-2021) said evangelicals have always had two impulses: proselytize and improve. But now, many are tempted to dissociate or withdraw. “Jesus is the answer,” we say. “But please, God, don’t send us into the line of fire!” I suspect few know how to process the dizzying number of problems and issues paraded before us every day.

In this book Thomas K. Johnson shows that evangelical reluctance is neither a necessity nor an option for those who represent Christ. He does not merely dismantle our comfortable idolatries. Instead, he provides a comfort and compass we evangelicals need badly. Johnson’s sound, reasoned, and biblical approach is appropriate to the turbulent world of the pandemic age without the rhetoric of impending doom and hopelessness. After all, we have potent guides, the prophet Amos, the apostle Paul, and the magisterial reformers among them.

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ISBN 978-3-86269-233-0

ISSN 2197-9057 (World of Theology Series)



9 783862 692330

sponsored by:



Verlag für Kultur und Wissenschaft
(Culture and Science Publ.)

Thomas K. Johnson Christian Ethics in Secular Cultures Volume 2

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