



Eric Metaxas, *Letter to the American Church*. Washington, DC. Salem Books, an imprint of Regnery Publishing, 2022, 139 pages, \$19.99, hardback; \$14.99 Kindle. ISBN: 978-1-68451-389-5

Why consider reading this book?

Several good reasons come to mind. I, perhaps not unlike you, have had my own deep disappointments in today's American church and I wanted to read another's perspective of the state of the church. I already had an appreciation of Eric Metaxas' understanding of history and his ability to write well so the prospect of reading this book was appealing. In this publication, his most recent of 14 books, he provides a concise, articulate, well-informed historical perspective directed primarily to the American Christian church and its members.

Within our current cultural landscape riddled with challenges threatening to undo us, but particularly for those who may identify as Christians, Metaxas draws heavily on his research and understanding of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the German Lutheran church just prior and during Hitler's domination. He pleads with the American church to wake up and understand the dangerous and ever-growing parallels between the two. He urges a thoughtful response beyond accommodating to the progressive culture that is rapidly becoming a soft form of totalitarianism serving to lessen the power and authority of the historic Christian message.

Similar to authors Douglas Groothuis, *Fire in the Streets* (2022); Pete Hegseth, *Battle for the American Mind* (2022); and Rod Dreher, *Live Not by Lies* (2020), Metaxas provides a critical and claritin message for any with interest in understanding our cultural needs. This is equally an important message for all who are hoping the church becomes a more positive influence in a culture that seems intent on self-destruction.

Finally, my doctoral studies on religious abuse and recovery, along with insights gathered from the many I have life coached over the past three decades harmonizes with many of Metaxas' conclusions about the American Christian church.

I strongly commend this book for your reading.

Patrick J. Knapp, PhD

Co-director of Becoming Free LLC and author of *Understanding Religious Abuse and Recovery: Discovering essential principles for hope and healing* (2021).