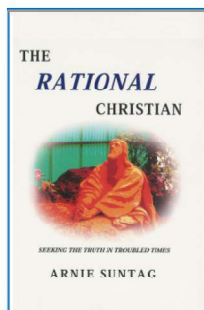


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Professional Reviews

The Rational Christian

Seeking the Truth in Troubled Times

Bookwire Review

(February 03, 2006; 9780974852706)

"The Rational Christian: Seeking The Truth In Troubled Times" by Arnie Suntag is a voyage of enquiry for all Christians, one that honors the foundation of the religion even as it reveals a raft of misinformation and questionable practices that have come to dog the faith over the years. "We cannot live our lives in accordance with God's word if we base our knowledge of it on false teachings or dubious spiritual experiences," writes Suntag at the very outset of his book. Living as humanity is on the brink of the Last Days, Suntag warns Christians that it is now more important than ever to extract the real truth from the Bible and live according to that. Suntag uses his extensive knowledge of the Bible to draw many relevant parallels to modern-day life. For example, he uses the inference to pestilence in Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11, quotes from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and reveals the alarming fact that "the majority of extensive locust swarms have occurred over the past decade alone." Suntag points to other modern phenomena like disease, environmental pollution, economic upheavals and moral decay as irrefutable signs, laid out so clearly in the Bible, that the end of the world is near. "It is," Suntag says, "time to repent." Part of that repentance is a conscious realization that many of the "popular" ideas being propagated in the name of Christianity are flagrantly false. Suntag examines, for instance, the highly lucrative "Left Behind" series of Christian instruction, points out numerous inconsistencies and errors in the series, and writes, "the distorted perception of Biblical truth that has become mainstream is affecting all denominations in the body of Christ." One of the basic tenets of Christianity that is being forgotten today, Suntag maintains, is observing the Sabbath, which was handed down as a Commandment by God in Exodus. "A vast segment of Christendom has fallen victim to a lust for worldly possessions and illicit relationships. Most have forsaken the Sabbath." The author uses that as a starting point to detail other modern infractions in society, such as "the steadily growing trend...to inject government back into religion by legislating morality." Another controversial practice, "speaking in tongues," asserts Suntag, "is not the result of God's divine influence but, rather, the almost whimsical interpretation of His word by those who unwittingly embrace pagan ritualism." He also looks at how garish and raucous our cities seem to have become, and how driven by frivolity many people are today. "How could we have wandered so far astray from the simple teachings of Jesus Christ?" he deplors. In a subsequent chapter, titled "Adversity may be a blessing," the author examines his own life, and how, his diagnosis with a fatal cancer, financial difficulties, and an accident involving his wife and daughter proved to be trials through which the Lord patiently helped him at every step. Suntag ends "The Rational Christian" on an eminently positive note, though, with clear guidance on how every Christian can re-establish an intimate relationship with God. "If we honestly love the Lord," he writes, "everything we do should be directed towards glorifying and honoring Him." Only by re-connecting with that merciful and loving God, Suntag explains, can we hope to find His favor when we are to be judged. Copyright 2006

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