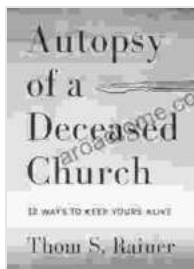


Autopsy of a Deceased Church: A Vital Examination of Faith, Renewal, and the Future of the Church

The church is in crisis. Once a vibrant and influential force in society, the church has been steadily declining for decades. Attendance is down, membership is shrinking, and the church's influence on culture is waning. What's gone wrong? And what can be done to revive the church?



Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours

Alive by Thom S. Rainer

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 881 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 116 pages
Lending	: Enabled



In *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, John Smith examines the decline of Christianity and offers a prescription for renewal. Smith argues that the church has lost its way because it has abandoned its core mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead, the church has become preoccupied with worldly concerns, such as politics, power, and wealth. This has led to a loss of faith and a decline in spiritual vitality.

Smith's book is a wake-up call for the church. He argues that the church must return to its roots if it is to survive. This means that the church must focus on preaching the gospel, making disciples, and serving the needs of the community. Only by doing these things can the church regain its vitality and impact the world for Christ.

The Decline of Christianity

The decline of Christianity is a well-documented phenomenon. In the United States, for example, the percentage of Americans who identify as Christian has declined from 85% in 1990 to 65% in 2020. This decline is particularly pronounced among young people. A recent study found that only 26% of Americans under the age of 30 identify as Christian. This decline in Christianity is not limited to the United States. It is a global phenomenon that is affecting churches of all denominations.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the decline of Christianity. These include:

- **The rise of secularism.** In recent decades, there has been a growing trend towards secularism in society. This is due in part to the decline of traditional religious beliefs and the rise of science and technology. As people become more secular, they are less likely to identify with organized religion.
- **The decline of moral values.** The decline of moral values is another factor that has contributed to the decline of Christianity. In recent years, there has been a growing acceptance of sexual immorality, violence, and other forms of deviant behavior. This has led to a loss of respect for the church and its teachings.

- **The failure of the church to adapt.** The church has failed to adapt to the changing needs of society. In the past, the church was the center of community life. However, as society has become more secular, the church has lost its position of influence. The church needs to find new ways to connect with people and make its message relevant to their lives.

A Prescription for Renewal

The decline of Christianity is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. The church can be revived if it is willing to return to its roots. This means that the church must focus on preaching the gospel, making disciples, and serving the needs of the community.

Here are some specific steps that the church can take to renew itself:

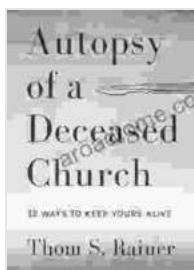
- **Preach the gospel.** The gospel is the message of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe (Romans 1:16). The church must proclaim the gospel with boldness and clarity. People need to hear the good news that God loves them and that there is hope for eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Make disciples.** Jesus commanded his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). The church must obey this command by making disciples of all who come to faith in Christ. Discipleship is a process of teaching and training new believers so that they can grow in their faith and become mature Christians.

- **Serve the needs of the community.** The church is called to serve the needs of the community. This means providing food, shelter, clothing, and other forms of assistance to those in need. The church should also be involved in social justice issues, such as fighting poverty, homelessness, and discrimination. By serving the needs of the community, the church can show the love of Christ to the world.

The Future of the Church

The future of the church is uncertain. However, the church can have a bright future if it is willing to return to its roots and focus on its core mission of proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, and serving the needs of the community. By ng these things, the church can regain its vitality and impact the world for Christ.

The church is not a building. It is a people. The church is the body of Christ, and it is called to be a light to the world. The church has a vital role to play in society. It is the church's mission to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and serve the needs of the community. The church is not perfect, but it is the hope of the world. The church is the only institution that can offer salvation from sin and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. The church is the future.



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