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Know What You Believe and Why You Believe it

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For Immediate Release:

Christless Christianity: The Alternative Gospel of the American Church

New book examines ----- What happens when we take Christ out of Christianity?

October 2008, Escondido, CA – Churches are transforming the Faith into a form of consumerism, marketing, pragmatism, politics, entertainment and therapy. *Christless Christianity* reveals the big problem with American religion: countless sermons in churches across the country are focusing on moralistic concerns and personal transformation rather than Jesus Christ crucified and risen again.

Christians have always had their differences, but never in church history have there been so many statistics that indicate that many Christians today are practicing what can only be described as “Christless Christianity.” Michael Horton insightfully explores the ways in which consumerism and market values have influenced contemporary Christian thought and practice.

At the core of just about every major religion is something we call advice, or a set of instructions intended to help people live better lives. But is that what lies at the heart of the Christian faith -- tips and instructions for personal transformation? Whatever happened to the Christian *gospel*? Has Christ gotten lost in the shuffle? Too often, churches in our day focus our attention on Christian experiences, personal transformation, Jesus as a good moral guide (WWJD), or use the pulpit as a platform for politics. And in doing so, these churches have managed to avoid one of the most central teachings of the Bible; namely Jesus’ atoning sacrifice for sinners. Michael Horton’s analysis of the contemporary church points believers back to the power of a gospel that should never be assumed. Visit www.christlesschristianity.org for more details.

About the Author

Dr. Michael S. Horton is professor of apologetics and systematic theology at Westminster Seminary California and author of numerous books, including *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* (Baker), *A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of Christ-Centered Worship* (Baker), *God of Promise: Introducing Covenant Theology* (Baker, 2006) and *Too Good to Be True: Finding Hope in a World of Hype* (Zondervan, 2006). According to *Christianity Today* (January 2006), Dr. Horton is “one of the leading voices in the contemporary revitalization of the Reformed tradition in America.” Dr. Horton is also editor-in-chief of *Modern Reformation* magazine and host of the weekly radio broadcast, White Horse Inn. White Horse Inn broadcasts are devoted to equipping Christians to “know what they believe and why they believe it,” and can be heard online each week at www.whitehorseinn.org.

About the Sponsor

White Horse Inn wants to see a new reformation in our day through a recovery of gospel-centered preaching, teaching, and worship in our churches and outreach to the world. While the church in every generation requires

constant reform according to God's Word, we believe that many Christians today are malnourished and misled, due at least in part to the fascination with cultural fads and doctrinal indifference. We hope to enlarge the demand for faithful churches by provoking many Christians to rethink their captivity to a faith and practice distorted by the culture of marketing, consumerism, therapy, and moralism.

Launched in 1990, White Horse Inn is a radio broadcast featuring regular round-table discussions on faith, culture and apologetics. Our hosts are Michael Horton, Ken Jones, Kim Riddlebarger, and Rod Rosenblatt. Though the hosts have different denominational and ethnic backgrounds, White Horse Inn unites itself on the principle slogans of the Protestant Reformation, such as the sufficiency of Scripture, salvation by grace alone through faith alone by Christ alone, and the importance of a God-centered, rather than human-centered outlook. By renewed attention to these classic and central themes on a weekly basis, it is the aim of White Horse Inn to bring health and vigor to a church by helping Christians to "know what they believe and why they believe it."

