



# The Making of Evangelicalism: From Revivalism to Politics and Beyond

By *Randall Balmer*

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**The Making of Evangelicalism: From Revivalism to Politics and Beyond** By Randall Balmer

"Four turning points. Four critical junctures in the formation of American evangelicalism. Four times when, in Robert Frost's memorable words, 'two roads diverged in a yellow wood.' Each of these junctures - the transition from Calvinist to Arminian theology in the embrace of revivalism, the shift from postmillennialism to premillennialism, the retreat into a subculture, and the rise of the Religious Right - invites counterfactual speculation. What if evangelicals had gone another way, had taken a different road back there in Robert Frost's woods? Might history have been different? Might evangelicals had been more faithful to the gospel they espouse had they chosen a different course?"

?excerpted from the Introduction

With impressively clear prose and a superb command of history, best-selling author Randall Balmer offers a spirited history of evangelical Christianity in the United States. Effortlessly situating developments in evangelicalism in their wider historical context, he demonstrates the ways American social and cultural settings influenced the course of the evangelical tradition. By revealing the four key moments in the movement's history, he ably demonstrates how American Evangelicalism is truly American. Concluding with a manifesto directing where evangelicalism must go from here forth, Balmer's *The Making of Evangelicalism* will interest every reader?evangelical, mainline, secular?who wants to better understand evangelicals today.

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### Editorial Review

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In one of the best products of the current publishing passion for authoritative briefs on big subjects, religious historian Balmer summarizes American Evangelicalism. There are four great turning points in American Evangelical history, he says: the transition from Calvinist to Arminian soteriology (i.e., from regarding grace to regarding conversion as essential to salvation) during the two Great Awakenings, the nineteenth-century eschatological shift from postmillennialism to premillennialism (i.e., from believing the Second Coming will follow to believing it will precede the realization of a Christian world), the creation of an apolitical subculture in the wake of the 1925 Scopes trial, and the rise of the religious Right; he devotes a chapter to each. Evangelicalism's arguably greatest distinction is its malleability, as seems certainly attested by the polar nature of the change involved in the first and second developments as well as from the third to the fourth. Trenchantly criticizing the religious Right, Balmer hopes that twenty-first-century Evangelicalism will revive the nineteenth-century postmillenarian concern for justice that animated abolition, temperance, and woman suffrage. --Ray Olson

Review

"Balmer effectively argues, however, that the 'prophetic voice' of Evangelicals will ring more truly 'on the margins of society, not in the councils of power.'"?W. B. Bedford, Crown College, *Choice*

"Seldom has so short a volume produced as much bang as this gem by noted historian and sometime politician Randall Balmer. For those who seek a greater understanding of the peculiar successes of evangelicalism in the American environment there can be no better starting point than *The Making of Evangelicalism*."?Harry S. Stout, Jonathan Edwards Professor of American Religious History, Yale University

"... this small book tells a story that should not be forgotten."?Ré Stooksberry, *Congressional Libraries Today*

"Often challenging and at times provocative, *The Making of Evangelicalism* calls for serious reflection regarding evangelicalism's future. Even those who might disagree with Balmer's interpretations will profit from a serious reading and pondering of this engaging, lucidly written book."?David S. Dockery, President, Union University

"Trademark Balmer: he has written in his characteristically elegant prose?not just 'accessible,' but lovely?without sacrificing sophisticated analysis."?Lauren F. Winner, author of *Girl Meets God* and *Mudhouse Sabbath*

"*The Making of Evangelicalism* exhibits the acumen we have come to expect from its author. In eighty-four pages of sharp, passionate prose, Balmer manages to illustrate, instruct, redefine, excite, entertain, and most of all provoke, all the while tweaking the conscience of evangelicals as much as the curiosity of outside observers. His approach results in a remarkable book, one that can (and should) be read by anyone who wants to learn the basic history of this movement and measure its profound and enduring impact on American society."?The Journal of Southern Religion

About the Author

Randall Balmer is John Phillips Professor in Religion and Chair of the Department of Religion at Dartmouth

College. A prolific and highly esteemed writer, he is the author of *Thy Kingdom Come: How the Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America*; *God in the White House: How Faith Shaped the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush*; and *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America*. He lives in rural Connecticut.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sonja Johnson:**

This *The Making of Evangelicalism: From Revivalism to Politics and Beyond* is great guide for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great coordinate word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having *The Making of Evangelicalism: From Revivalism to Politics and Beyond* in your hand like having the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no publication that offer you world with ten or fifteen second right but this e-book already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt this?

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