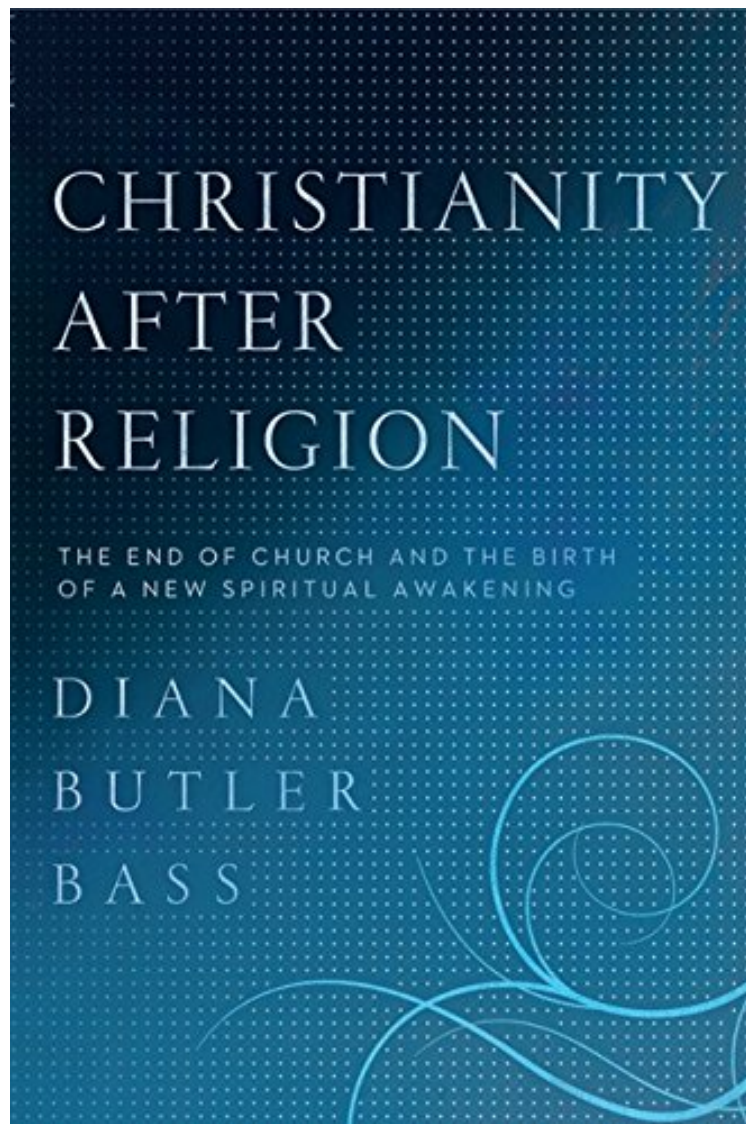


(Free and download) Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening

Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening

Diana Butler Bass

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#37151 in Books Diana Butler Bass 2013-03-05 2013-03-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .68 x 5.311, .48 #File Name: 0062003747304 pages Christianity After Religion The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening | File size: 69.Mb

Diana Butler Bass : Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Explains what's happening in Christianity, and all religions, today. By Gettysburg Farm Bass's book is really helpful in explaining where our nation is currently in Christianity, esp in the US, but also around the world in other religions. I was especially intrigued by her discussion of the great awakenings, and how the one we saw from 1960 to 1980 was interrupted by a fear-based fundamentalism ('75-95') that was erroneously considered an awakening but was actually a reaction against one. Although she speaks primarily about Protestantism in the book, her analysis mirrors the current dilemma of the Catholic Church perfectly. The Church was evolving during Vatican II and the reforms seen right after it, and then, with the last and current pope, has reverted back to a bizarre fundamentalism that is driving parishioners away in droves. The trouble is the "fundamentals" are not fundamental to Christian spirituality any more than terrorists are fundamental to Islam. They are mere dogma, words, political stances, protectionism. For a Christian surely fundamentals are how we treat one another, our experience of Christ. She says there is less war between religions and more inter-religious warfare within each faith between those who would move deeper into relationship with Christ and those who are reacting against the awakening. She says there is a current awakening starting in 1995 and that spiritual leaders today need to help transform people's fear of change to urgency and courage. She gives practical advice about how to do that.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Christianity After Religion: The End of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening. By T. Eggebeen. Two words come to mind: honest and hopeful. Diana Butler Bass is an honest writer - no punches pulled on her descriptions of the changing times in which Christianity finds itself, and her descriptions of the many deformities of the Christian Church in the West, and especially in America with its sense of "exceptionalism" (an inordinate pride in our religious landscape) and no punches pulled, either, on the dangers confronting the Spiritual Awakening emerging in these times. If any reader here wishes to get some handles on the monumental changes occurring throughout the world, in all religions, no better place to begin than with this book. But let me move to the next word: hopeful. While the author's comments on Jonathan Edwards are most helpful - i.e. human beings, fervent and faithful, cannot, of themselves, bring about Spiritual Awakening. That belongs only to God. Yet, there is one thing the faithful, the hopeful, can do, and that's to pray! And adopt a variety of other behaviors, disciplines, described in detail, to engage the world with eyes that see and ears that hear and hands that do. The author reflects upon her own efforts to see and hear the world with an appreciative, loving, heart. To see people, hear them, and walk with them. Will this bring about the Awakening? In one sense, the Awakening is already upon us ... the world as we knew it is disappearing, and though various nativist groups and ideologies seek to return us to the past, the world moves in only one direction, and that's forward. The character of the Awakening is known to us - much of the book offers detailed analysis of it - and even if we lament what is lost, we can join hands with those who seek a better world. And honest book full of solid, scholarly, analysis, and, as well, a hopeful book, outlining ways and means that we can embrace right now and the emergent Awakening. This book deserves the widest possible reading - by those who love the church and those who have rejected it, often times for very good reasons. Religion plays an enormous role in human history, for good and for ill, and to understand religion a bit more can only help all of us. Thanks to Diana Butler Bass for this remarkable contribution.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. thought-provoking. By Sharon Nale. I have to admit, I fought hard and long against much of what Butler-Bass presented here. But I also found chunks of food, nutritious chapters and paragraphs that fed me. I was anxious to complete the book, for one reason, because it will have been the first book I've completed since the death of my husband two years ago! Not a good reason I admit, but it kept me going during the "lean" days when I didn't feel fed at all. By the end of the book, especially that last chapter, for some unknown reason, I was moved to tears. I still cannot fully understand, except that the vision she created of what we can do to participate in awakening, to celebrate it and realize it, well, her description was the most beautiful description of a hoped-for community of Christians that I have ever read. I am a lay person, and we are reading this in our adult forum during the Sunday School hour, hoping to clarify our vision for mission and move into the future.

Diana Butler Bass, one of contemporary Christianity's leading trend-spotters, exposes how the failings of the church today are giving rise to a new spiritual but not religious movement. Using evidence from the latest national polls and from her own cutting-edge research, Bass, the visionary author of *A People's History of Christianity*, continues the conversation began in books like Brian D. McLaren's *A New Kind of Christianity* and Harvey Cox's *The Future of Faith*, examining the connections and the divisions between theology, practice, and community that Christians experience today. Bass's clearly worded, powerful, and probing *Christianity After Religion* is required reading for anyone invested in the future of Christianity.

Bass has done it again! She's spot on-prophetic, compelling, and most importantly, hopeful. (Rob Bell, author of *Love Wins*) Refreshing, evocative, well informed and original. (Harvey Cox, author of *The Future of Faith*) Bass explains how experience, connection, and service are replacing theology as keys to the next Great Awakening. It's a fascinating story. (Bill McKibben, author of *Earth* and founder of 360.org) Interesting, insightful, impressive and important. (Marcus Borg, author of *Speaking Christian*) an important and life-giving book, written by one of our finest religious

writers. (Parker J. Palmer, author of *Let Your Life Speak*) Join Bass in rebuilding religion from the bottom up! (Richard Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation and author of *Falling Upward*) It is one blockbuster of an analysis that is also a delight to read. (Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Great Emergence*) Diana reminds us here that, before every great awakening, folks say it is impossible... and after every great awakening, folks say it was inevitable. (Shane Claiborne, author and activist) Of Bass's many excellent books, this is the most substantive, provocative, and inspiring yet. . . . it leads to a powerful finale of sage guidance for the future. (Brian D. McLaren, author of *A New Kind of Christianity*) Bass ably analyzes the struggle for awareness and change that defines spiritual awakening. (Publishers Weekly Religion Bookline (starred review))

From the Back Cover
The Movement That Is Remaking the Faith
Diana Butler Bass offers a fresh interpretation of the "spiritual but not religious" trend and shares a hope-filled vision for a renewed faith that stays true to the real message of Jesus.

About the Author
Diana Butler Bass is the author of eight books on American religion, including *Christianity After Religion*, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, and *A People's History of Christianity*. She holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Duke University, has taught at the college and graduate level, and is currently an independent scholar. She was a columnist for the *New York Times* Syndicate, and blogs for the *Huffington Post* and the *Washington Post* on issues of religion, spirituality, and culture. Bass is a popular speaker at conferences, colleges and universities, and churches across North America. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, daughter, and dog. Her website is dianabutlerbass.com and she can be followed on Twitter at @dianabutlerbass.