

## Book of the Month

## January 2011

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

**Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream.**  
**David Platt. Multnomah Books. Colorado Springs. 2010.**

As pastor of a 4,000-member congregation in Birmingham, Alabama, David Platt was young, successful and restless. Was this suburban mega-church really a picture of what Jesus was talking about in the Gospel? *I was now confronted with a startling reality: Jesus actually spurned the things that my church culture said were most important. (p. 2)* Platt's crisis of conscience brought him to a point of decision: he would get radical. The book *Radical* recounts his own journey and that of the church he pastors as he seeks to be true to the calling of Christ. It is also a challenge to those who sit on comfortable pews in suburbia to abandon everything for the sake of the Gospel.

The dictionary defines "radical" in at least three ways. All three definitions fit well the type of discipleship that Pratt is advocating:

1. *Arising from or going to a root or source; fundamental; basic.*  
The word "radical" comes from a stem word meaning "root." To be "radical" is simply (!) to get back to basics. Platt decided to just take the New Testament at face value and do what it says. That's radical!
2. *Extreme, especially as regards change from accepted or traditional forms.* In popular usage the word "radical" most often means "extreme" or perhaps "strange," "weird." The truth is when people actually begin to do what Jesus said, many will look at them as weirdos and extremists. That's radical!
3. *Revolutionary.* When people live like Jesus lived, it causes unrest and change to their culture. Nothing can ever be the same again. That's radical!

In this new year, why not get radical about *your* commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Pastor Stan Key*