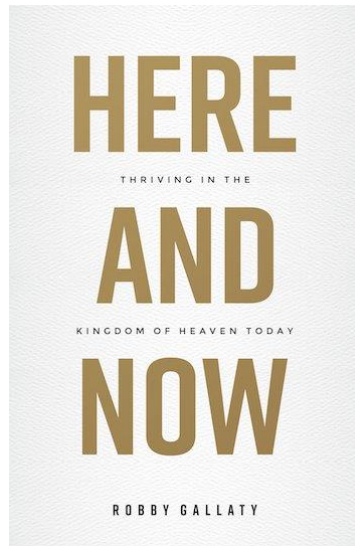


Robby Gallaty: Heaven on earth is possible now

“Here and Now” shows believers how to thrive in the kingdom of heaven today



[NASHVILLE, TN, December 10, 2018] Pastor and author **Robby Gallaty** believes that many Christians have fallen prey to incorrect teaching about God’s kingdom, settling to view salvation as an exit strategy to the “great Disney World in the sky,” rather than an invitation to abundant living here on earth. His new book, **“Here and Now: Thriving in the Kingdom of Heaven Today”** offers a more biblical way of looking at teaching about the life God is calling us into.

“We undervalue the thrust of Jesus’s ministry message when we focus on the future at the expense of the present,” Gallaty explains in the book. “When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of heaven in the gospels, He envisioned God’s kingdom rule and reign in the present day on earth, not just a day when believers would be ejected into the spiritual realm. Sadly, this misunderstanding has plagued and paralyzed believers from experiencing the abundant life that Jesus promised.”

While Gallaty’s teaching doesn’t eliminate the future glory and communion with God, it allows for greater Kingdom living now. “Here and Now” offers readers a challenge to receive all the promises of the abundant life now, found by choosing to be a part of the work of God in our world. Gallaty says the story of the Bible is one of a God who desires to break into civilization, that while we’re trying to leave the world, God’s entering in. Our opportunity now is to work to be ambassadors of God to the dark world we’re living in. As Gallaty says, “You were saved not just *from* the world, but *for* the world.”

For fear of people hearing a call to a more legalistic lifestyle, Gallaty paints a picture of grace that saves and then frees us to live and love out of obedience. Gallaty explains, “Legalism says, ‘I must obey God in order to be saved.’ Grace says, ‘I must obey because I am saved.’ The same is true today. God saved us apart from any good deed we could offer. Although God redeemed us by His gracious initiative, He expects us to live for Him through obedience. We are not saved by good works, but we will do good works after being saved because of the relationship we have been brought into.”

Highlights for readers of “Here and Now” include:

- A new way of looking at God’s kingdom and why it matters
- A reorienting from a future-focused mentality to a here-and-now mentality
- A shift in the way you share the gospel
- Seeing life as a partnership with God, rather than something to be saved from

Ultimately, “Here and Now” is an invitation to align life with the standards of Jesus as opposed to one’s own desires. Then, following the lead of Paul in Galatians 5, which calls believers to “walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh,” God’s kingdom agenda will advance in one’s life. “After entering the kingdom, your desire for godliness will increase, your passion for the lost will grow, your time in the Word will flourish, your prayer life will be more intimate, etc. as you walk with Christ,” Gallaty describes. “You should look more like Christ today than yesterday, or last month, or last year.”

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Robby Gallaty is the senior pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, TN. He was radically saved out of a life of drug addiction on November 12, 2002. In 2008, he began Replicate Ministries to equip and train men and women to be disciples who make disciples. He is also the author of “Unashamed: Taking a Radical Stand for Christ (2010),” “Growing Up: How to Be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples (2013),” “Firmly Planted: How to Cultivate a Faith Rooted in Christ (2015),” “Rediscovering Discipleship: Making Jesus’ Final Words Our First Work (2015),” “MARCS of a Disciple (2016),” “The Forgotten Jesus: Why Western Christians Should Follow an Eastern Rabbi (2017)” and “Preaching for the Rest of Us (2018).”

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