

Q & A



Participating in Abundant Life *Holistic Salvation for a Secular Age*

April 12, 2022 | \$24, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0052-6

Though we know that God cares about people's lives both in this world and eternity, it can be hard to communicate the full picture of holistic salvation. Mark Teasdale invites us to both participate in and share Jesus' promise of abundant life, connecting biblical perspectives of salvation and discipleship to contemporary concepts of well-being and the common good.

Sharing the Promise of Abundant Life

What led to your interest in sharing about soteriology and the abundant life?

Mark R. Teasdale: As an evangelism professor, I teach seminary students and congregations how to share their faith. Over the years, I have watched a growing number of Christians struggle to articulate the core hope of the Christian faith. This text helps them in two ways:

1. First, it reintroduces the Christian notion of salvation in a way that is grounded in the full biblical witness while using new concepts and vocabulary. These emphasize how salvation is something we do not just receive as a gift, but we participate in. As we share it, we also experience it more fully in this world and the next.
2. Second, it demonstrates that the goodness God desires people to experience through salvation includes working for the common good in this world in measurable ways, allowing Christians to retain the integrity of their gospel witness while they work together with people of goodwill regardless of their faith.

What is your main thesis in *Participating in Abundant Life*?

Teasdale: Christians are faced with an increasingly secular context. This drives many of them to minimize distinctive Christian claims either to avoid being offensive or to avoid nuanced thinking about their beliefs. This text contends that Christians can better operate in a secular context by making the opposite move: exploring and claiming a fully biblical experience of salvation as the foundation for their engagement in the public square. I describe this Christian experience of salvation as "participating in abundant life," and it entails both giving and receiving the life provided by God.

To avoid abundant life being a vague or ethereal concept, I explicate it in terms of standard of living, quality of life, and eternal life. I define the first two terms using language developed by organizations outside the church, such as the United Nations, World Bank, and a wide range of humanitarian aid agencies. This explication sets the foundation for Christians to work alongside all people of goodwill, regardless of their faith, who work to improve people's standard of living and quality of life. As they do this, they are motivated by the accountability Jesus demanded of those who seek eternal life.

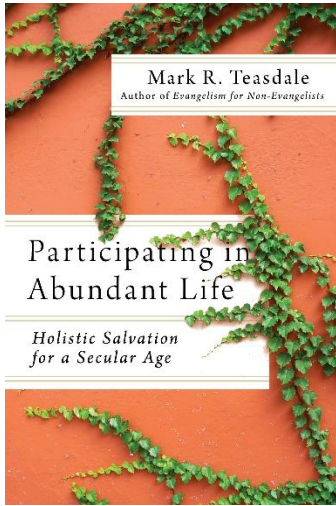
They also build bridges with both those they help and those they work alongside. The text ends with a series of "score cards" congregations can use to determine how effective they are as participants in abundant life. The intentional recasting of salvation using secular terminology along with the metrics secular agencies to measure how they are improving the lives of others is the unique contribution of this book. The inclusion of customizable score cards that help both congregations and individual Christians determine if they are participating in abundant life in a missionally effective way is an added benefit that meets the accountability and statistical needs of congregations/denominations, and provides concrete examples of Christian witness to the secular world.



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



Q & A



Participating in Abundant Life *Holistic Salvation for a Secular Age*

April 12, 2022 | \$24, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0052-6

Though we know that God cares about people's lives both in this world and eternity, it can be hard to communicate the full picture of holistic salvation. Mark Teasdale invites us to both participate in and share Jesus' promise of abundant life, connecting biblical perspectives of salvation and discipleship to contemporary concepts of well-being and the common good.

Who did you have in mind as you were writing this book?

Teasdale:

- Seminarians who are working out their theology, especially in reference to their Christian witness. This book will be especially useful in mission and evangelism courses that explore the intersection of verbal proclamation, acts of mercy and justice, and lifestyle witness.
- Congregational leaders who are trying to help re-establish the foundation of the Christian faith within their congregations.
- Denominational or network leaders who are looking for a ready-made, customizable set of metrics they can use to determine how effective congregations and individuals are as witnesses to the abundant life of Christ
- Humanitarian aid workers, especially those who work in Christian organizations and who are looking for clarity about how to articulate their faith related to the good work they do, often in a secular context

What do you hope your book contributes to the study of soteriology?

Teasdale: First, I hope my book challenges the most common ways both liberal and conservative Christians reduce salvation to fit with their political and social agendas. Additionally, I hope it provides a biblical and theological grounding for Christians to sustain a faithful and effective gospel witness while engaging in missional work with people of goodwill, whether Christians of other theological perspectives, people of other faiths, or secular agencies (e.g., humanitarian aid organizations and governments). Last, I hope this book reflectively integrates biblical theology, a variety of global theological voices, and secular understandings of how to improve people's lives in holistic ways.



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ivpress.com/media



Participating in Abundant Life
Holistic Salvation for a Secular Age

April 12, 2022 | \$24, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0052-6

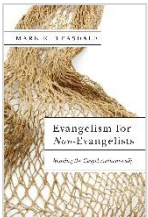
“In a myopic, dichotomized, secular world, Mark Teasdale offers a whole meal of the gospel of Jesus as expansive salvation and superabundant life that both the Bible and theological traditions have witnessed. Sit with Mark and your mind will be transformed and drawn to an enchanted life that is good, happy, beautiful, and perfect.”

K. K. Yeo, Kendall Professor of New Testament at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Faith for the Common Good

Mark R. Teasdale (PhD, Southern Methodist University) is E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He is ordained in the United Methodist Church, has served as director of the doctor of ministry, lifelong learning, and course of study programs at Garrett. He consults with churches locally, nationally, and internationally regarding evangelism, discipleship, and leadership, and volunteers on community boards and commissions in his neighborhood. He is the author of *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists, Go: Becoming a Great Commission Congregation*, and *Methodist Evangelism, American Salvation*.

Also by Mark R. Teasdale:



Evangelism for Non-Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel Authentically

November 1, 2016 | \$22, 150 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5166-9

We have met evangelists—and they are not us. Sympathetic to the discomfort his students have about evangelism, Mark Teasdale gives us this refreshing, practical look at sharing the good news. He opens up a nonthreatening space, helping us learn how to express the gospel in a manner true to what we believe, authentic to who we are, and compelling to others.



Karin DeHaven, academic publicity
800.846.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com