

“IS OUR GOD
GREATER
THAN AMERICA’S
RACISM?”

From the foreword by
THE REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II



“A MUST-READ FOR CHRISTIANS INTERESTED IN HOW RACE-INFUSED POLITICS AND RELIGION UNDERMINE THE AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC DREAM.”

★ PUBLISHERS WEEKLY STARRED REVIEW

*“In the rubble of evangelicalism’s white supremacist crisis, **Reconstructing the Gospel** unflinchingly confesses the ways Christians remain captive to slaveholder religion. Resisting paralysis, it charts a path of personal and political hope.”*

DANIEL JOSÉ CAMACHO,

contributing opinion writer for the *Guardian* US

“This powerful and prophetic book should come with a warning label. It’s full of stories of ordinary folks working for racial justice, making you want to pull up a chair on the porch for a closer listen. But the stories pack a wallop of conviction, and you will not leave that porch unchanged.”

JANA RIESS,

author of *Flunking Sainthood*

*“Is our God greater than America’s racism? This is a question we must answer, no matter the color of our skin. **Slaveholder religion** has infected every corner of the church in America—including the black church.”*

THE REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II,

from the foreword

“The Bible is full of stories of God healing blindness. Reconstructing the Gospel is about how God heals a common form of blindness today—racial blindness. . . . This is a beautiful and challenging book for these times.”

BRIAN D. McLAREN,

author of *The Great Spiritual Migration*

“Racism in American religion, especially in its most subtle forms, isn’t something we’ve had language for describing helpfully—until now. This is a masterful work, invaluable for coming to terms with the hidden wounds of racism and the awful lie that Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove calls, ‘Christianity of the slaveholder.’”

PETER W. MARTY,

publisher of *The Christian Century*

“The gospel of Jesus Christ has been tragically defaced by American white supremacy and must be reconstructed. . . . What an empowering, hopeful word Jonathan has for Christians, white and black.”

WILL WILLIMON, author of *Who Lynched*

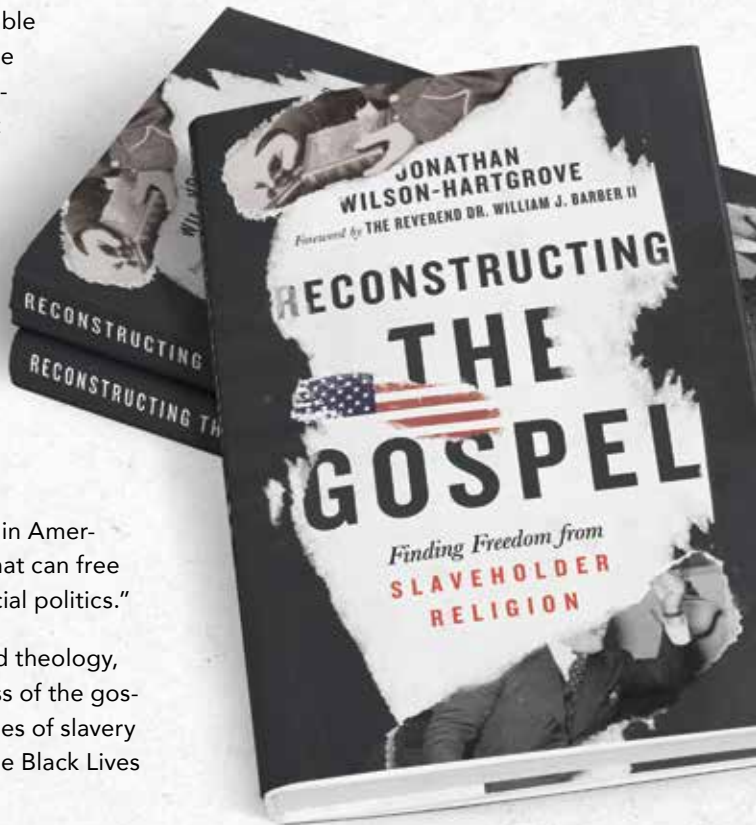
Willie Earle? and *Preaching to Confront Racism*

FROM SLAVEHOLDER RELIGION TO MORAL REVIVAL

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove grew up in the Bible Belt as a faithful churchgoing Christian. But he gradually came to realize that the same Christianity that sang, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound” also perpetuated racial injustice and white supremacy in the name of Jesus. His Christianity, he discovered, was the religion of the slaveholder.

“Evangelicals need to better understand the connections between race and religion in America and the ways religious reasoning has consistently been used throughout history to reinforce white supremacy,” says Wilson-Hartgrove. “This book makes a case for why faithfulness in America today demands a reconstructed gospel that can free us from racial blindness, racial habits, and racial politics.”

Grappling seriously with troubling history and theology, Wilson-Hartgrove recovers the subversiveness of the gospel that sustained the church through centuries of slavery and oppression, from the civil rights era to the Black Lives Matter movement and beyond.



192 pages, 978-0-8308-4534-7, \$20.00

LEARN MORE AT

ivpress.com/reconstructing-the-gospel

AVAILABLE MARCH 13, 2018

TALKING POINTS

- What do you mean by “slaveholder religion” and how does it help us make sense of the contemporary political climate?
- What does it look like for faith communities to interrupt racial habits?
- How has your experience as a pastor in the South influenced your writing?
- What have you learned about the role white people can and should play in movements for racial justice today?

Hear Wilson-Hartgrove and Rev. Dr. Barber speak about the topics in this book at their book launch:

March 8-10, 2018 | Clarence Jordan Symposium, Americus, GA

JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE is a writer, speaker, and activist. Together with Rev. Dr. William Barber II, he is the coauthor of *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*. His other books include *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*, *Common Prayer*, *Strangers at My Door*, *The Awakening of Hope*, and *The New Monasticism*. He has appeared in media outlets such as PBS NewsHour, CNN, NBC, the *Washington Post*, *InTouch Magazine*, and *Newsweek's* "On Faith." He has spent years working with communities in the Bible Belt and serves as an associate minister at the historically black St. John's Missionary Baptist Church.



PHOTO BY FRANKLIN GOLDEN

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THE REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II is a Protestant minister, architect of the Moral Mondays movement, and political leader in North Carolina. He is a member of the national board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

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