



## All Is Forgiven: The Secular Message in American Protestantism

By Marsha Witten

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In recent years mail deliveries have included a new kind of invitation to Protestant Christianity: slick brochures enumerating the social and psychological advantages of church attendance--with no mention whatsoever of spiritual striving, suffering, or faith in God. Does this kind of secularity prevail not only in direct-mail Christianity but also in mainline Protestant churches? Finding the sermon to be the centerpiece of Protestant worship, Marsha Witten looks for the answer to this question in an in-depth analysis of preaching on an important New Testament text: the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In attempting to understand the effects of modern secular culture on contemporary American Protestantism, Witten (sociology, Franklin and Marshall Coll.) explores the sermon--the centerpiece of Protestant worship. She focuses on pastors' use of language in preaching the parable of the Prodigal Son, looking specifically at how they discuss the character of God, the social conduct of a believing Christian, and the nature of sin. Although her approach is relatively new, she offers clear arguments that seemingly validate her chosen course of action. She also includes a wonderful bibliography of secondary sources that will aid scholars, though she fails to provide the scholar with more than a few snippets from the original primary sources. Witten's work gives a fresh and needed view into the issue. For academic libraries.

- *John B. Wright, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, Utah*

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Review

"This very revealing slice of sermonic Protestantism confirms the hypotheses and findings of many sociologists of religion: the market has forced or lured many preachers to refashion God and gospel to make them palatable to potential, struggling and complacent listeners."--*Christian Century*

From the Back Cover

"This may be the best book ever published on the week-in, week-out content of ordinary sermons. The heart of *All Is Forgiven*--a splendid close reading of forty-seven sermons on the Prodigal Son by Baptist and Presbyterian ministers--tells us more about ordinary religious speech in Protestant churches than any previous study."--**Mark Noll, Wheaton College**

"Marsha Witten has written a stunning analysis of what contemporary Christians hear when they go to church. She shows the power and the complexity of religious speech but also how it succumbs to the secular society. This is a major achievement."--**Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University**

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### **Jeffrey Chambers:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book All Is Forgiven: The Secular Message in American Protestantism it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

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