



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

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Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@NARA.gov

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Religion and Politics to Be Discussed at Carter Presidential Library

Author Randall Balmer to discuss his book "Thy Kingdom Come"

Atlanta, Ga.- Religion plays a key role in American politics today. Yet to Columbia University religion professor Randall Balmer, the mixture has trivialized Christianity. In his book, "Thy Kingdom Come: How the Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America: An Evangelical's Lament," Balmer argues that evangelicals have abandoned a tradition of progressivism for an agenda which is indistinguishable from the Republican Party platform. Balmer will discuss his book and sign copies at the Carter Presidential Library and Museum on Friday, July 7th at 7:30 p.m. The lecture and book signing is open to the public at no charge. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Randall Balmer
"Thy Kingdom Come:
How the Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America:
An Evangelical's Lament"
Friday, July 7th
7:30 p.m.

Randall Balmer is both an evangelical Christian and a historian of American religion. In his book, he argues that nineteenth-century evangelicals had a history of supporting progressive issues such as the abolition of slavery, universal suffrage and public education. Now, he suggests the Religious Right has a strongly conservative agenda focusing on abortion, gay marriage and "intelligent design". It is his belief that "a new generation of evangelical leaders...have hijacked the Christian faith on behalf of the Republican Party".

Acappella Books, a sponsor of the lecture, will have copies of "Thy Kingdom Come" for sale at the lecture. Doors to the Carter Library open at 7:00 p.m. The author lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.

For additional information, call 404-865-7101 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov.