

# Local Author Challenges Retributive Narratives in Popular Theology

Part of America's Great Faith Deconstruction

**Ever wonder why much of American Christianity is pro-spanking, pro-tough-on-crime, anti-gun control, pro-war, and hell affirming even though Jesus taught mercy, non-violence, and enemy love?**

When Michael Camp started deconstructing his evangelical faith, he noticed a pattern. The doctrines he questioned—original depravity, substitutionary atonement, God-ordained genocide in the Old Testament, the doctrine of hell, etc.—were all tied to retribution and violence. Most evangelicals believed in a retributive god who required corporal punishment, punitive justice, militarism, the death penalty, and eternal conscious torment for unbelievers.

*Breaking Bad Faith* uncovers how belief in a duplicitous, retributive, and violent god is entrenched in today's popular theology and American culture. Using forgotten history, it debunks 12 myths most Christians believe that impact how people act in society. It shows us what matters most: Jesus' subversive way of peace and restoration apart from religion. Learn contemporary examples how this path works, many outside Christianity. The perfect antidote for those deconstructing evangelicalism and encouragement for anyone yearning for a peaceable, historically honest path. Step out of retributive, unhistorical chains into the light.



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Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)  
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## What others are saying about *Breaking Bad Faith*

“A really important and needed exposé.”

~ [Brian McLaren](#), author of *Faith After Doubt* and *Do I Stay Christian?*

“Michael Camp sees what's wrong. The God so many tout isn't a deity we should imitate or worship. But Camp also points a way forward to what's right. Exchanging unhelpful views of God for helpful ones is crucial to not only our personal lives but to civilization as we know it. I recommend Michael Camp's diagnosis and medicine!”

~ [Thomas Jay Oord](#), author of *Open and Relational Theology* and dozens of other books

“We are in an age where millions of Christians are leaving behind the harsh infernalist faith they inherited for theologies in which salvation is universal in scope. In this book, Michael Camp, in good faith, articulates just such a vision.”

~ **David Artman**, author of *Grace Saves All: The Necessity of Christian Universalism*

“Pick up *Breaking Bad Faith* if you're tired of the stench emitting from the Christian crapola that has come to define Western Christianity and the cult of Christian celebrity in particular. See what happens when you turn out the white noise emanating from the Christian Industrial Complex and tune in to where the spirit is actually speaking these days.”

~ **Becky Garrison**, author of *Roger Williams's Little Book of Virtues*, Board Member with The Wittenburg Door

“In *Breaking Bad Faith*, Michael Camp methodically walks us through the web of our inherited beliefs and untangles the mess of toxic theology covering up the revelations of Jesus. Until we can objectively examine our unconscious beliefs, they will continue to wreak havoc on our personal lives and the culture we live in. Camp does a fantastic job of explaining how these unexamined beliefs perpetuate current-day violence and leave us feeling helpless to stop it. He sets us on a path to peace that actually feels attainable. *Breaking Bad Faith* is a book our fractured society desperately needs right now.”

~ **Heather Hamilton**, bestselling Author of [Returning to Eden: A Field Guide for the Spiritual Journey](#)

“I appreciate Camp’s work in *Breaking Bad Faith* because he fearlessly rakes through our theology to discover the good and expose the bad so that we can move on intentionally and consciously, rather than by simply accepting without question the dogmas we have inherited or adopted. While respecting the faith, he is not afraid to help us discard the parts that are hurting us, others, and the world, and to reinterpret or recreate better theologies that translate into better policies and practices for everyone.”

~ **David Hayward**, aka the ‘[NakedPastor](#),’ author of *Flip It Like This*

“Just when I thought I had read all the “deconstruction” books worth reading, Michael Camp came along and said, “Hold my beer.” Michael’s offering, *Breaking Bad Faith* takes deconstruction and reconstruction of one’s faith to a whole new level. Of course, the reference to the beer is intentional when you consider that Michael’s podcast is called, *The Spiritual Brewpub*. This book is not a sugar coated, syrupy repetition of typical deconstruction complaints. Michael unpacks conventional Christian theological myths using reason, critical thinking, experience, and grounding his observations solidly in historic precedent and fact. This is a book that carries *gravitas* and is a *tour-de-force* of damaging Christian theology based on retribution and violence that affects individuals, the church, and society today in extremely negative ways. But Michael goes beyond simply deconstructing the negative elements of this destructive theology, but also provides a beautiful picture of the authentic, radical love-ethic of Jesus and provides a path toward peace and restoration. Michael gives us hope and an alternative to the corrosive elements of Christianity we see playing out today. Anyone that is looking for an alternative to conservative Christian theology, and a guide to find your way through the labyrinth of myths Christians have devised over the centuries will appreciate this book.”

~ **Dan Henderson**, author of [Confessions of a Recovering Evangelical](#)

“*Breaking Bad Faith* is a fun, easy-to-read exposé of the corruption of American Evangelicalism’s gospel and ethic. Although I would also have preferred an equal opportunity dissection of progressive Christianity, nevertheless, Michael Camp highlights the growing awareness that sacrificial warrior

Christendom is not the liberating Gospel of Jesus. Hopefully, *Breaking Bad Faith* will encourage those with questions to continue boldly asking them.”

~ **Michael Hardin**, author of *The Jesus Driven Life*, *Mimetic Theory and Biblica Interpretation*, and *Knowing God? Consumer Christianity and the Gospel of Jesus*

“Divorcing our image of God from the myth of redemptive violence couldn't be more important than it is today, where so many of us are unwittingly bearing the image of that violent God in the way we interact with one another online and in real life. Michael's book helps us understand the appeal of this violent depiction of God, the base tendencies that draw us to it, but more importantly, how to break away from the desire for the retribution that this God represents.”

~ **Kevin Miller**, director of [J.E.S.U.S.A.](#) and *Hellbound?*

“Michael Camp gives us all a generous gift by not only helping us understand the nature of dangerous religion, but also gives us tools for freeing our minds of a contrived and menacing image of God. Jesus said we must love our neighbor as ourselves. There is nothing more cruel we can do to ourselves than construct in our minds an angry and sadistic deity who terrifies us in our dreams. If we can't be kind to ourselves when it comes to our deepest beliefs, then we can't be kind to others. Thank you Michael, for helping us free ourselves, so we can free others and help repair the world!”

~ **Rev. Rob Schenck**, author of *Costly Grace*

“This thoughtful and approachable book is a vital guide for all of us "exvangelicals" trying to escape a toxic faith, and restore trust in Jesus' way of love and peace. Cutting through the theological noise, Michael presents a compelling no-nonsense approach, affirming our mind, conscience, and experience.”

~ **Derek Flood**, author of *Disarming Scripture*

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Michael Camp is a former missionary to Muslims and aid worker in Africa. He spent 25 years as an evangelical in Baptist, charismatic, and independent churches before having a huge faith shift. Michael studied missions and international development at Fuller Seminary, William Carey University, and Eastern University where he received his M.S. degree. He later worked in the Microsoft business software channel for 19 years. Today, he is a faith deconstruction coach, podcaster, amateur historian, Rotarian, and bad golfer. He is the author of *Craft Brewed Jesus* and *Confessions of a Bible Thumper*. He lives in Poulsbo, WA with his wife, Lori, and serves as international service director for his Rotary club in Bainbridge Island, WA. Learn more at [www.spiritualbrewpub.com](http://www.spiritualbrewpub.com).



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