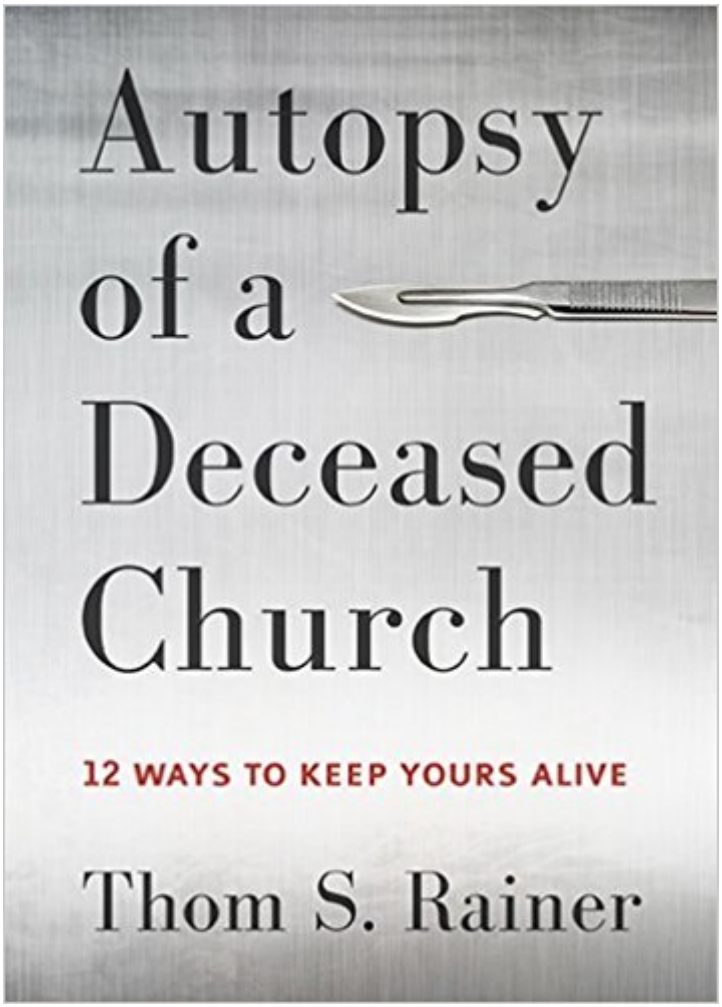
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Autopsy Of A Deceased Church: 12 Ways To Keep Yours Alive



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Synopsis

No one wants to see a church die. And yet, far too many churches are dying. For more than twenty-five years, Dr. Thom Rainer has helped churches grow, reverse the trends of decline, and has autopsied those that have died. From this experience, he has discovered twelve consistent themes among those churches that have died. Yet, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not gloom and doom because from those twelve themes, lessons on how to keep your church alive have emerged.Whether your church is vibrant or dying, whether you are a pastor or a church member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church will walk you through the radical paths necessary to keep your church alive to the glory of God and advancement of ChristÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Kingdom!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thom S. Rainer is the president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the largest Christian resource companies in the world. Also a respected pastor and researcher, he has written more than twenty books and coauthored the No. 1 best seller Simple Church. Rainer and his wife, Nellie Jo, have three grown sons, several grandchildren, and live in Nashville, Tennessee.

Should also be useful for evaluating the church you are considering or the church you are in. I was affiliated with a startup church that failed, and I read this with the eye to reasons why. There were other reasons besides what I found in the book, but the book is informative

Purchased this because I am one of the youngest members of a truly aging and faltering church. I was hoping that there would be some ideas for how to open up the church to invite others in, etc... but there was really nothing like that. In fairness, the description did not say that there would be. There are some very good points about how to go about recognizing the things within your church that might be causing it’s demise. Looking at churches that died in hindsight and seeing what caused that death.

Thom Rainer’s "Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" is a short but penetrating look at the symptoms indicating a sick church community.The book is based on interviews Rainer conducted with representatives from 12 closed churches. Through these interviews he identified various patterns and symptoms of dying churches: lack of evangelization, a failure to budget for mission, no communal, prayer, etc.Rainer’s purpose is not just to depress us, though. As he states in the outset, his hope is that this "autopsy" will help others to identify symptoms of an unhealthy church before it becomes a crisis. To that end he includes reflection questions at the end of each chapter to help church leaders discern the "vital signs" of their communities.The book ends with suggestions for churches in various stages of decline. Rainer does not mince words. He advocates for drastic changes in drastic circumstances, something many communities will resist. But Rainer is not concerned with comfort; he is concerned with churches communicating the Gospel effectively.A quick note to Catholic readers: while Rainer is Baptist and some of the examples in the book have a decidedly Protestant bent, the symptoms and suggestions identified by him are just as applicable to Catholic parishes. Any diocesan or parish leader interested in healthy parish communities would do well to read and reflect on Rainer’s work.

The only bad thing about me buying this book was that I bought it on the Kindle edition! I wish I had bought the hard copy edition because I could then underline and outline for teaching purposes.I know of several churches -- or mainly the pastors of churches -- that should have had this book a few years ago. One of them is already dead and buried, and the other one has all the symptoms of stage 4 cancer. It’s just a matter of time.An example of impending death, which is exactly what I saw in the church that died and the one that refused change and is dying: The most pervasive and common thread of our autopsies was that the deceased churches lived for a long time with the past as hero." If churches do not change with the community, they will live in the past when the surrounding community was different and the church was full. Do the faces of the people in the pews on Sunday morning mirror the faces of the surrounding community? If not, change must take

place or death will occur. That is only one of the many important principles that were brought up in the book.As a convert in the Jesus Movement of the late ’60s and early ’70s, I saw these principles come into play. The Gospel of the love of God and the forgiveness of sins in Christ was contextualized to those of us drenched in the ’60s counter culture and the conversions were in the hundreds of thousands.You can’t go wrong by gaining the knowledge this book passes on.

My church recently went through a very bad time within the fellowship of the church. This book was suggested. I downloaded and my husband and I both read. It is a eye opener.It is a short read but has a powerful message. If your church is struggling, this is the book for you to read.

As the newly called pastor to a small, slowly dying (literally) church, this book was spot on! Rainer opened my eyes to current and potential future issues in my quest to help lead this congregation back to health in the Holy Spirit.

If you belong to a church that seems to be not going anywhere, you need to buy this book and give it to your pastor, I bought this book and immediately saw my church. A church on life support and terminal.

If your church seems to be at a crossroads and you there is widespread anxiety about your church’s future, this book is a helpful tool to start the conversation about how to shape your church for the next generation. It raises hard truths that if prayerfully considered by the church an place you on a path to wholeness. Recommend reading the book in small groups followed by church-wide discussion in a retreat setting. A very good read.

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