

# Preventing church drop-outs

Back in 1971, I was a member of a church in Houston, that Ralph Neighbor pastored. Ralph was very creative, and wrote a book titled, ***The Seven Last Words of the Church***. The seven words – **"We've never done it that way before."**

The church in America is still alive, but when Americans are asked in polls about their religion, a growing percentage respond, **NONE**. And a recent study by LifeWay Research found that **70% of young Americans who attended a protestant church for at least one year during high school, dropped out of church for at least one year by age 22. Some return later. But nearly 45% say they will never return.**

When I was on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU), much of my ministry was in campus coffee shops, and I have met personally with hundreds of students in eight states. I followed that ministry as the pastor of Grace Bible Church in College Station, Texas. Over 50 percent in my congregation were between the ages of 18 and 28. From interaction with young adults, I have strong opinions on why many dropout. They are at: <http://www.datewithgod.com/why.pdf>

**Please consider a way to help prevent church dropouts that most churches have never done before.** It's easy to do. Have your church get Amazon to send the eBook, ***The Master Plot of the Bible***, as baptism presents and high school graduation presents for those who did not get it when baptized. For only \$3.00, Amazon will send it as an eBook with a note from your church. Then, it should be followed it up with e-mails in the first month, and annual e-mail reminders, to encourage them to read or review it.

The word **PLOT** is defined as, **"an intelligently planned course of action to accomplish an end or purpose."** This book includes scripture selected from 74 chapters in the Old Testament, and 79 chapters in the New Testament – **all included in bold print**. Reading them confirms, **the Bible is a revelation of God's plot -- His intelligently planned course of action with a plan and purpose for the reader.**

The cost is minimal -- only \$3.00 for each gift, and Amazon will send this eBook to each new believer or high school graduate with a note from the church. **Giving these baptism presents will be small investments in lives of new believers**, and an investment for the future of Christian faith in America.

Please consider this as a request to evaluate this book for use in your church as baptism presents to help prevent church dropouts. Invest about four four hours of reading, and it will also help you understand the Old Testament's roots for the Bible's New Testament faith.

**Amazon Prime members can borrow it and read it at no cost**, and others can get the eBook version of ***The Master Plot of the Bible***, from Amazon.com, for less than the cost of a BigMac. **All of the first chapter is in Amazon's free trial.**

In Christ, Bob Prall, M.Div., Author & Encourager