This talk will survey the rapidly shifting picture of early Christianity, and how it is reflected in the contributions of Dr. BeDuhn to the field since he completed IU’s first Ph.D. in Religious Studies twenty years ago. Through these recent developments, the historical study of Christianity may finally be escaping the grip of assumptions shaped by the normative tradition of triumphant orthodoxy.

Jason David BeDuhn is an historian of religion and culture at Northern Arizona University. In 1995 he earned a Ph.D. in the Comparative Study of Religion from Indiana University, the first Ph.D. awarded by the department. He was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2004. His areas of research include Biblical Studies, Ancient Christianities, Manichaeism, Religions of West Asia in Late Antiquity, ritual and and self-forming practices, and method and theory in the study of religion and history.

Dr. BeDuhn is currently engaged in a multi-year collaborative project to edit and translate an ancient Coptic Manichaean manuscript with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.