

Simply Christian Christianity Makes Sense

Today many pastors are struggling to adapt to a post-Christian culture without abandoning orthodox theology. How do we communicate the concepts of grace and substitutionary atonement in our globalized culture and context? In *Center Church*, Timothy Keller offers challenging insights and provocative questions based on over twenty years of ministry in New York City. This book outlines a theological vision for ministry - applying classic doctrines to our time and place - organized around three core commitments: • Gospel-centered: The gospel of grace in Jesus Christ changes everything, from our hearts to our community to the world. It completely reshapes the content, tone and strategy of all that we do. • City-centered: With a positive approach toward our culture, we learn to affirm that cities are wonderful, strategic and underserved places for gospel ministry. • Movement-centered: Instead of building our own tribe, we seek the prosperity and peace of our community as we are led by the Holy Spirit. "In this important book, Tim Keller unpacks the gospel and gently but firmly reminds us that it is nonnegotiable. At the same time, he enables us to think through how we can responsibly interact with the culture, how we can - indeed, must - appreciate good things within it, and how we can firmly and faithfully apply the gospel to it." - D.A. Carson, research professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Turn on a cable news show or pick up any news magazine, and you get the impression that Christian America is on its last leg. The once dominant faith is now facing rapidly declining church attendance, waning political influence, and an abysmal public perception. More than 76% of Americans self-identify as Christians, but many today are ashamed to carry the label. While many Christians are bemoaning their faith's decline, Gabe Lyons is optimistic that Christianity's best days are yet to come. In the wake of the stunning research from his bestselling book, *unChristian*, which revealed the growing disenchantment among young generations for Christians, Lyons has witnessed the beginnings of a new iteration of the faith. Marked by Lyons' brutal honesty and unvarying generosity, Lyons exposes a whole movement of Christians—Evangelicals, Mainline, Protestants, Orthodox, Pentecostals, and others—who desire to be a force for restoration even as they proclaim the Christian Gospel. They want the label Christian to mean something good, intelligent, authentic, and beautiful. The next generation of Christians, Lyons argues, embodies six revolutionary characteristics: "When Christians incorporate these characteristics throughout the fabric of their lives, a fresh, yet orthodox way of being Christian springs forth. The death of yesterday becomes the birth of a great tomorrow. The end of an era becomes a beautiful new beginning. In this way, the end of Christian America becomes good news for Christians." In *THE NEXT CHRISTIANS*, Lyons disarms readers by speaking as a candid observer rather than cultural crusader. Where other people shout, Lyons speaks in a measured tone offering helpful analysis of our current reality while casting a vision for how to be a Christian in a world disenchanted with the faith. Both a celebration and a reckoning, *THE NEXT CHRISTIANS* combines current day models and relevant research with stories of a new generation of Christian leaders. If you are worried by what you see transpiring around you, this book will take you on a surprising social exploration in hopes that you too will restore confidence in your faith.

Christians often wrestle with their role in this fallen, physical world. But Jesus, the Incarnate One, offers a radical model for living as he teaches us how to dwell in the world for the sake of the world. If we are to become like him, we must learn what it means to live out this missional spirituality in the places we dwell.

An expert on world religions provides a compelling look into the shape and movement of Christianity's past, present, and future. Charles Farhadian accounts for the cultural, social, and theological issues that have shaped Christianity worldwide as he describes the distinctives of the world's largest religion. Addressing the global nature of Christianity without focusing exclusively on that topic, this supplementary text could serve in a variety of courses across the curriculum and is written to be useable in either Christian or secular settings.

Amid the pluralism and secularism of Western culture, Christian apologetics has experienced a renewal of interest. In *Apologetics at the Cross*, Joshua D. Chatraw and Mark D. Allen provide an introduction to the field, acquainting students and lay learners with the rich history, biblical foundation, and ongoing relevance of apologetics. Unique in its approach, *Apologetics at the Cross* presents the biblical and historical foundations for apologetics, explores various contemporary methods for approaching apologetics, and gives practical guidance in "how to" chapters that feature many real-life illustrations. With their respectful approach, which pays special attention to the attitude and posture of the apologist, Chatraw and Allen equip Christians to engage skeptics with the heart as well as the mind. Conversational in tone and balanced in approach, *Apologetics at the Cross* provides a readable introduction to the field of apologetics. Readers will be informed and equipped for engaging a wide range of contemporary challenges with the best in Christian thought.

Too often the tensions and unanswerable questions of Scripture and the Christian life are seen as barriers to faith. In *Paradox Lost*, pastor and author Richard Hansen shows that they are exactly the opposite -- indeed, God's mysteries are one of the places where we may encounter him most closely. In exchange for Enlightenment-based rationalism that can stunt spiritual imagination, Hansen invites readers to: Discern that there is a hiddenness to God that can be inviting rather than threatening Appreciate that God is far greater than we sometimes assume, and to adjust our mental maps to make more space for awe Realize that faith and reason are not enemies but rather dance partners that complement one another Hansen examines three kinds, or "orders" of biblical paradox, each at a deeper level than the last, demonstrating for readers that paradox is both endemic to modern life and also a natural part of the landscape of Christian faith. *Paradox Lost* doesn't seek to solve or justify paradox; instead, it looks through paradox toward what it reveals--namely a holy, mysterious, and awesome God.

"Encouraging to fellow believers and a revelation to skeptics . . . a fascinating read." —Jerry B. Jenkins, #1 New York Times–bestselling coauthor of the *Left Behind* series I'm often asked to describe what happened during the months I spent researching these issues. They want to know what facts were so persuasive that an atheist attorney would become a believer in God. But I never felt I could respond in a way that told the true story. No short answer seemed sufficient. So now, in the following pages, I'll describe for the first time the specifics of what jolted me out of my atheism . . . Michael felt he was living the American dream. For a number of years he'd been reaping the professional and financial rewards of being a commercial litigation attorney. To him, life was great and getting better all the time. He first gained notoriety around his hometown as a nationally ranked tennis player. But now, years later, he was becoming known for his skills as a lawyer and as the youngest elected official in the area. And then, in his late twenties, Michael unexpectedly discovered something that turned his world and his entire idea of life upside down. In response to a challenge from a friend, Michael agreed to investigate issues relating to science, philosophy, and the Scriptures. Comfortable with his life as an atheist, he began reading with an indifferent attitude. But what started as a casual inquiry soon turned into a time of intense research. This is the story of Michael's journey in his own words, his thoughts and reactions to the evidence he discovered—and the new life that soon followed.

Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal, established by the Arizona C. S. Lewis Society in 2007, is the only peer-reviewed journal devoted to the study of C. S. Lewis and his writings published anywhere in the world. It exists to promote literary, theological, historical, biographical, philosophical, bibliographical and cultural interest (broadly defined) in Lewis and his writings. The journal includes articles, review essays, book reviews, film reviews and play reviews, bibliographical material, poetry, interviews, editorials, and announcements of Lewis-related conferences, events and publications. Its readership is aimed at academic scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, as well as learned non-scholars and Lewis enthusiasts. At this time, *Sehnsucht* is published once a year.

Monthly current affairs magazine from a Christian perspective with a focus on politics, society, economics and culture.

Simply Christian is essential reading for anyone who wants to consider the real fundamentals of Christianity or is intrigued by its

claims about the place of justice, beauty and love in our daily lives.

The Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies (JBTS) is an academic journal focused on the fields of Bible and Theology from an inter-denominational point of view. The journal is comprised of an editorial board of scholars that represent several academic institutions throughout the world. JBTS is concerned with presenting high-level original scholarship in an approachable way. Academic journals are often written by scholars for other scholars. They are technical in nature, assuming a robust knowledge of the field. There are fewer journals that seek to introduce biblical and theological scholarship that is also accessible to students. JBTS seeks to provide high-level scholarship and research to both scholars and students, which results in original scholarship that is readable and accessible. As an inter-denominational journal JBTS is broadly evangelical. We accept contributions in all theological disciplines from any evangelical perspective. In particular, we encourage articles and book reviews within the fields of Old Testament, New Testament, Biblical Theology, Church History, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, Philosophical Theology, Philosophy, and Ethics.

Lived faith involves doctrines, evidences and rational coherence—but it includes much more. Philosopher Clifford Williams puts forth an argument as to why certain needs, desires and emotions have a legitimate place in drawing people into faith in God. Addressing the strongest objections to these types of grounds for faith, he shows how the personal and experiential aspects of belief play an important part in coming to faith and in remaining a believing person.

In our everyday lives, we are often expected to offer hospitality to others we meet, yet for Christians and church leaders, hospitality can mean so much more. What is hospitality in the spiritual sense? Why do we extend God's hospitality? Who is called to offer this hospitality? And how do we live out God's hospitality? Just Imagine: The Joy of God's Hospitality Overflowing with Loving Relationships answers these questions and more about Christian hospitality. Author Dianne B. Salter explains how this is not a program; it is a Christian lifestyle, especially in the church, the body of Christ. God's hospitality must be supported and promoted by the pastor and by the church governing group. But it will be effective only if the people in the pews take leadership, advocate for it, and sincerely practice this new lifestyle. Based on scriptural directives, Just Imagine advocates friendship evangelism, building relationships, and creating ministries for those not currently a part of the church. All chapters end with Hospitality Challenges that help individuals and the church to just imagine what they might become if they truly practiced God's hospitality.

Worauf kommt es im Leben wirklich an? Was passiert, wenn wir sterben? Ist Vergebung möglich? Wie kann das Leben gelingen? In fünfzehn klar verständlichen Kapiteln gibt Nicky Gumbel Antwort auf diese und andere zentrale Fragen, die viele Menschen stellen. Was dieses Buch besonders ansprechend macht, ist Nicky Gumbels Art, die Aussagen der Bibel durch praktische Beispiele direkt auf uns und unsere Zeit zu übertragen - unterhaltsam und oft mit einem Augenzwinkern. Dabei macht er den Leser mit der Person von Jesus Christus bekannt und lädt zu einer Entdeckungsreise in eine Welt ein, die Menschen seit zweitausend Jahren fasziniert. Der Bestseller als erweiterte und aktualisierte Neuauflage. Die Gedanken von Nicky Gumbel sind eine kluge und humorvolle Einführung in den christlichen Glauben. Wer Argumente liebt und britischen Humor, wer endlich Klarheit gewinnen möchte über Gott und das eigene Leben, der hat zum richtigen Buch gegriffen. Prof. Dr. Michael Herbst, Greifswald

James McCaffrey examines America's first foreign war, the Mexican War, through the day-to-day experiences of the American soldier in battle, in camp, and on the march. With remarkable sympathy, humor, and grace, the author fills in the historical gaps of one war while rising issues now found to be strikingly relevant to this nation's modern military concerns.

1895 erschien sein bedeutendstes Werk „Die Psychologie der Massen“, das ihn zum Begründer der sog. „Massenpsychologie“ machen sollte. Der Einfluss seines Werkes ist beträchtlich: es wurde zur Pflichtlektüre für alle, denen es um eine gewisse Wirkung in der Öffentlichkeit geht – damit auch für Politiker und Diktatoren, die es zur Verfeinerung ihrer Propagandatechniken einsetzten.

Pentecostals have not sufficiently worked out a distinctively Pentecostal philosophy of art and aesthetics. In Pentecostal Aesthetics, with a foreword by Amos Yong, Steven Félix-Jäger corrects this by reflecting theologically on art and aesthetics from a global Pentecostal perspective, particularly through a pneumatic Pentecostal lens.

According to recent surveys, many Americans associate the label "Christian" with judgmental attitudes, hypocrisy, a fear of hell, and a commitment to right-wing politics. Author Greg Garrett suggests another way, arguing that a faith that focuses solely on personal morality and the afterlife misses much of the point of Jesus' message. This other way of following Christ is not concerned with an array of commandments or with holding the "right" beliefs. Rather it is centered on loving each other and loving God, what Garrett calls "love where the rubber meets the road, where faith meets the world." Personal and moving, the book relates Garrett's experiences growing up in--and leaving--a disapproving conservative church and then finding his way back into a different kind of Christian community, one that is communal, missional, just, and loving. Garrett draws on popular culture to illustrate his spiritual points, showing how authentic Christian truth can be found in unlikely places.

We resist change less when we associate it with mission and fortify it with hope. So argues longtime congregational consultant Peter Steinke in his fourth book, *A Door Set Open*, as he explores the relationship between the challenges of change and our own responses to new ideas and experiences. Steinke builds on a seldom-explored principle posited by the late Rabbi Edwin Friedman: the 'hostility of the environment' is proportionate to the 'response of the organism.' The key, Steinke says, is not the number or strength of the stressors in the system--anxiety, poor conditions, deteriorating values--but the response of the individual or organization to 'what is there.' Drawing on Bowen system theory and a theology of hope, as well as his experience working with more than two hundred congregations, Steinke makes the case that the church has entered an era of great opportunity. Theologian and sociologist Ernst Troeltsch said the church had closed down the office of eschatology. Steinke reopens it and draws our attention to God's future, to a vision of hope for the people of God. The door is set open for exploration and new creation.

Here is the long-awaited volume that provides both the theoretical foundations and practical guidance for developing new monastic and missional communities in contexts that are theologically progressive, racially and economically diverse, and multicultural. This book contains the wisdom and perspectives of people who live and serve in missional, new monastic communities in United Methodist and other mainline traditions, and it describes new forms of theological education that are emerging to resource a new generation of Christian leaders. Heath and Duggins challenge Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and other Christians to reach into their own robust, mainline heritage for resources to develop small, intentional communities that practice a rigorous life of prayer, hospitality, and justice.

Just because you know and have experienced grace does not mean you fully understand it. This book will help you experience the freedom found in knowing just how fully God is committed to loving YOU. Rediscover the missing piece in what today's Christians believe about the Christian life. As lead Pastor of one of America's biggest churches, John Lindell went on a personal quest for answers and discovered the true meaning behind God's grace, and when he came to see the full revelation of God's commitment to us, it changed his life forever. In *Soul Set Free*, Lindell invites you on a life-changing journey through the Book of Romans. Learn to no longer view the gospel as anything less than

a truth that sets your soul free. The good news of the gospel can be summed up in three parts: Christ died for our sins, we are forgiven through faith in Christ, and heaven is our reward upon death. However, none of these parts cover what transpired when we were saved. The gospel is even better than what we believe. It brings joy but it's even better. It's forgiveness of sins but it's even better. It's God sending His only Son but it's even better.

Who among us has not experienced hearing a song that moved us deeply, that spoke to us in a truly spiritual way? Millions of fans around the world have found that inspiration in the music of U2, arguably the biggest band in the world today. This engaging and informative book examines the spirituality that drives U2, a band whose influence has spread far beyond music and whose songs encourage listeners to put their faith into action for the sake of the poor and marginalized.

Unsterblich. Unvollkommen. Unbezähmbar. Circe ist Tochter des mächtigen Sonnengotts Helios und der Nymphe Perse, doch sie ist ganz anders als ihre göttlichen Geschwister. Ihre Stimme klingt wie die einer Sterblichen, sie hat einen schwierigen Charakter und ein unabhängiges Temperament; sie ist empfänglich für das Leid der Menschen und fühlt sich in deren Gesellschaft wohler als bei den Göttern. Als sie wegen dieser Eigenschaften auf eine einsame Insel verbannt wird, kämpft sie alleine weiter. Sie studiert die Magie der Pflanzen, lernt wilde Tiere zu zähmen und wird zu einer mächtigen Zauberin. Vor allem aber ist Circe eine leidenschaftliche Frau: Liebe, Freundschaft, Rivalität, Angst, Zorn und Sehnsucht begleiten sie, als sie Daidalos, dem Minotauros, dem Ungeheuer Scylla, der tragischen Medea, dem klugen Odysseus und schließlich auch der geheimnisvollen Penelope begegnet. Am Ende muss sie sich als Magierin, liebende Frau und Mutter ein für alle Mal entscheiden, ob sie zu den Göttern gehören will, von denen sie abstammt, oder zu den Menschen – die sie lieben gelernt hat. "Eine mutige und rebellische Neuerzählung der Göttinnengeschichte" New York Times Der Welt-Bestseller endlich auf Deutsch New-York-Times-Bestseller #1 "Dieses Buch ist göttlich. Ich war ganz traurig, als es zu Ende war. Große Leseempfehlung!" Gwyneth Paltrow For the millions of people who identify as liberal Christians. In McLennan's bold call to reclaim ownership of Christianity, he advocates a sense of religion based not on doctrinal readings of scripture but on the humanity behind Christ's teachings. He addresses such topics as intelligent design, abortion, same sex marriage, war, torture and much, much more. As he says in the Preface, "We liberal Christians know in our hearts that there is much more to life than seems to meet the rational eye of atheists; yet we find it hard to support supernatural claims about religion that fly in the face of scientific evidence."

A groundbreaking work of ethnography, urban studies, and theology, Mark Gornik's *Word Made Global* explores the recent development of African Christianity in New York City. Drawing especially on ten years of intensive research into three very different African immigrant churches, Gornik sheds light on the pastoral, spiritual, and missional dynamics of this exciting global, transnational Christian movement.

Warum Gott? Ist es heute noch vernünftig zu glauben? Ist der Glaube nicht irrelevant, ohne Antworten auf die drängenden Fragen der Zeit? Hat die Wissenschaft nicht den Glauben an Gott längst widerlegt? Mächtige Fragen an den Allmächtigen! Tim Keller findet Antworten, die nicht nur den Zweifler nachdenklich werden lassen. Und er nennt gute Gründe für den Glauben.

How do you decide what to read? Dan Gibson, Jordan Green and John Pattison have created this tool to make your choices easier. Besides the Bible is a guide to the wide array of great books that they believe every Christian should read—the ones that matter to the church and the world.

Von allen Briefen des Apostels Paulus enthält der Epheserbrief die tiefsten geistlichen Wahrheiten über unser Christenleben. Die erste Hälfte des Briefes offenbart uns, dass unser Leben mit Christus in den Himmeln ist. Die zweite Hälfte gibt uns konkrete Anleitungen, wie wir solch ein himmlisches Leben auf dieser Erde leben können. Einleitung Sitze Die Reichweite seines vollbrachten Werkes Gott, der Geber Wandle Die Vollkommenheit des Vaters Kauft die Zeit aus Stehe In seinem Namen Gott bindet sich an den Namen Jesu Der Gott Elias Weitere E-books sind erschienen

The faith has been defended by great and articulate voices down the centuries. But the challenges of scientific atheism mean we now need a fresh and flexible approach. Alister McGrath is ideally placed to offer robust and intriguing insights into the biblical basis for apologetics and its historical uses. He explores different pointers to faith, such as our innate sense of longing for justice, our appreciation for beauty, and the order we see in the physical world. Various approaches to sharing our faith with others are outlined and McGrath shows how explanations, arguments, stories, and images are all right and useful ways to communicate what we believe. Armed with the tools we need to engage others on this subject, we are guided on choosing the best approach for our particular personality and how we can adapt our approach to suit our audience. Practical, insightful and warmly affirming, this book will have you longing for a chance to put these techniques into practice.

There's more to college than classes, credits, and a nonstop social life. It's more than getting a degree to improve one's job prospects. College is a time where students develop into the adults they will be for the rest of their lives, a time to explore the big questions about life and human destiny, a time when they form their character and faith. The perfect gift for high school graduation, *Make College Count* helps students make the most of their time in college. It encourages young people to ask important questions of themselves, such as Why are you going to college? What kind of person do you want to be? How do you want your life to influence others? With whom will you surround yourself? What do you believe? and more

A Mere Christianity of the 21st century, coming out as Tom Wright's popularity grows and grows, and at a peak point of interest in CS Lewis. The book provides an intelligent, grownup introduction to Christianity - what Christians believe, and why, how should we live? - with a passionate sense of personal engagement.

Wholly Citizens addresses the relation between the church and the world in light of the Reformation teaching of the two realms—especially as presented by Luther. Rather than exploring again the usual texts of Luther from the 1520's, this book begins with a careful reading of Luther's Commentary on Psalm 81 (1531), and then considers subsequent interpreters of Luther, both faithful and otherwise, and the dubious legacy they have left the church. The book argues that both the corporate church as well as individual believers are responsible for the world, and that each must speak directly about and to the world in meaningful ways. The final section of the book addresses the concrete situation facing believers in the early 21st century in light of faithful Reformation teaching about the two realms. Following this path leads to conclusions not entirely expected, including the forthright rejection of "a wall of separation" between church and state, and also a rebuke of the familiar clamor for the preservation of the rights of Christians and the church. Heedless of the status quo, *Wholly Citizens* offers an engaging and bracing picture of Christian life in today's world—a picture framed in theological truth.

The vibrant and persuasive arguments of C. S. Lewis brought about a shift in the discipline of apologetics, moving the conversation from the ivory tower to the public square. The resulting strain of popular apologetics—which weaves through Lewis into twentieth-century writers like Francis Schaeffer and modern apologists like William Lane Craig, Josh McDowell, and Lee Strobel—has equipped countless believers to defend their faith against its detractors. *Apologetics for the Twenty-first Century* uses

Lewis's work as the starting point for an absorbing survey of the key apologists and major arguments that inform apologetics today. Like apologists before him, Markos writes to engage Christians of all denominations as well as seekers and skeptics. His narrative, "man of letters" style and short chapters make *Apologetics for the Twenty-first Century* easily accessible for the general reader. But an extensive and heavily annotated bibliography, detailed timeline, list of prominent apologists, and glossary of common terms will satisfy the curiosity of the seasoned academic, as the book prepares all readers to meet the particular challenges of defending the faith today.

This book is for the seeker in all of us, the collector of wisdom, and the person who asks, "What if?" from the author of *Bonhoeffer, Miracles, and Martin Luther*. The Greek philosopher Socrates famously said that "the unexamined life is not worth living." Using this as a starting point, Eric Metaxas created a forum encouraging successful professionals to actively think about life's bigger questions. Thus, *Socrates in the City* was born. First presented to standing-room-only crowds in New York City and written by luminaries such as Dr. Francis Collins, Sir John Polkinghorne, and Os Guinness, these original essays grapple with extraordinary topics from "Making Sense out of Suffering" to "Belief in God in an Age of Science." No question is too big—in fact, the bigger, the better—because nowhere is it written that finding the answers to life's biggest questions shouldn't be exciting and even, perhaps, fun.

What are we to make of those occasional yet illuminating experiences of God's presence that occur outside both church and Scripture? We may encounter God's revelatory presence as we experience a beautiful sunset, the birth of a child, or a work of art, music, or literature. While theologians have tended to describe such experiences abstractly as mere traces or echoes, those involved often recognize such moments of transcendence as transformative. Here senior theologian Robert Johnston explores how Christians should think theologically about God's wider revelatory presence that is mediated outside the church through creation, conscience, and culture. The book offers a robust, constructive biblical theology of general revelation, rooting its insights in the broader Trinitarian work of the Spirit. Drawing in part from the author's theological engagement with film and the arts, the book helps Christians understand personal moments of experiencing God's transcendence and accounts for revelatory experiences of those outside the believing community. It also shows how God's revelatory presence can impact our interaction with nonbelievers and those of other faiths.

The Bible tells us that believers are transformed by the renewing of their minds. Another way of putting this is taking into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. This means learning how to think of all of life, including sport, from a biblical perspective. Michael Fessler's book is drenched in Christian worldview. Those who wrestle with its truths will be richer for it. I wish that I had been able to drink from its wisdom as a young man but am grateful to be able to do so as an old(er) one. Jack Spates, MDiv, Baptist Bible College & Seminary and former head wrestling coach at Oklahoma University. My belief has always been that wrestling is a microcosm of life. Most of the things that we are going to experience in life are going to be experienced in a wrestling career. Michael does an excellent job in paralleling the relationship between faith and wrestling. His book expresses the importance of developing the total athlete spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. I look forward to the day when people (including wrestlers) from every nation, tribe, people and language will gather to worship our God. (Revelation 7:9, 11). Gene Davis, director of wrestling at Athletes in Action and bronze medalist in the 1976 Olympic Games. Michael Fessler concisely captures the heart of a Christian wrestler pursuing God's glory. The book is captivating in combining biblical truths with real-life stories. You will be encouraged and inspired to think about the gospel as greater than athletic glory as Fessler explains the biblical basis for competing. Just as Fessler's approach to use wrestling as a tool for the gospel, we at Athletes in Action use the sport of wrestling to share the gospel around the world. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is passionate about their faith and the sport of wrestling. Rob Bronson, International Wrestling Team coordinator at Athletes in Action

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