

Appendix 2

Bibliography & Recommended Reading

This bibliography contains most of the books that were used in the preparation of *What We Believe and Why*. Their presence here does not mean I agree with their premises or everything they assert (often quite the opposite!), but they all were uniquely valuable in understanding and describing the issues addressed in my text. Those that I found particularly worthy of study are in **boldface**, and would be good resources for anyone wishing to delve more deeply into these themes.

Absent are the many volumes of theology usually a part of a course of seminary study, not because they are unhelpful—some are quite valuable and important—but because they can be found in any good list of books on theology. Most of those listed here are more unique and less known.

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

“Early Christianity Was...Jewish?!” Rev. Dr. Les Fairfield. *Seed & Harvest* 34.3 (Summer, 2011): pp. 6-7. Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, PA. Discusses the Jewish background of Christian teachings and prayers. Excellent.

“The Origin and Terminology of the Athanasian Creed.” Robert Krueger. Western Pastoral Conference of the Dakota-Montana District. Zeeland, ND. October 5-6, 1976. www.wlssays.net/files/KruegerOrigin.pdf.

“Why We Need Hell.” Frederica Mathewes-Green. March 23, 2006. www.frederica.com/writings/why-we-need-hell.html.

50-Day Spiritual Adventure series. Dr. David Mains. Mainstay Church Resources, West Chicago, IL.

BOOKS AND ONLINE SOURCES

50 Jewish Messiahs: The Untold Life Stories of 50 Jewish Messiahs Since Jesus and How They Changed the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Worlds. Jerry Rabow. Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2002. Examines the significant Jewish “Messiahs” since the time of Jesus. These were often little-known characters who inspired messianic fervor, including the Messiah who killed the Pope; the “Second “Moses””; the Messiah who demanded his head be cut off in order to prove his immortality; and the Messiah who defied the Roman Empire.

52 Lies Heard in Church Every Sunday ... and Why the Truth Is So Much Better. Steve McVey. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2011. Shows how pastors and churches can distort biblical truths. Offers an examination of these misconceptions.

A Life God Rewards: Why Everything You Do Today Matters Forever. Bruce Wilkinson. Colorado Springs: Multnomah Books, 2002. A scriptural study of heavenly reward.

Against Celsus. Origen. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2004. English translation of *Contra Celsum (Against Celsus)*, Origen’s defense of the Christian faith mounted against criticism from the Greek philosopher Celsus.

Against Heresies. Irenaeus. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing, 2004. English translation of *Adversus Haereses (Against Heresies)*. Ancient, classic defense of the faith.

Anti-Judaism and the Gospels. Ed. William R. Farmer. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1999. Poses these questions to the readers: “When and under what circumstances did the Gospel texts begin to serve anti-Jewish ends? Can it be said, accurately and fairly, that the evangelists were anti-Jewish?”

Apologeticus. Tertullian. Tertullian: Apology and De Spectaculis. Minucius Felix: Octavius (Loeb Classical Library No. 250) (English and Latin Edition). Cambridge, MA: Loeb Classical Library, 1931.

Are the New Testament Documents Reliable? F. F. Bruce. Mansfield Centre, CT: Martino Publishing, 2011. Excellent review of the issues and evidence of the reliability of the New Testament.

As the Rabbis Taught: Studies in the Aggados of the Talmud (in Tractate Megillah). Ed. Chanoch Gebhard. Trans. Dovid Landesman. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1996. A compilation of the teachings on the Talmud. Incorporates teachings from the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds.

Backgrounds of Early Christianity. Everett Ferguson. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdsman Publishing Company, 1993. An analytical and systematic introduction to the Roman, Greek and Jewish political, social, literary and religious backgrounds that are necessary for a historical understanding of the New Testament and the early Church.

The Beauty of Spiritual Language: Unveiling the Mystery of Speaking in Tongues. Jack Hayford. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996.

The Bible and Archaeology. Sir Frederic Kenyon. New York: Harper & Row, 1940.

The Canon of Scripture. F. F. Bruce. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1988. The choice of the canon of Scripture has been an issue of debate for nearly 1900 years. A solid review of the issues.

The Case for Jesus the Messiah: Incredible Prophecies That Prove God Exists. John Ankerberg, Dr. John Weldon and Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. Chattanooga, TN: The John Ankerberg Evangelistic Association, 1989. The authors examine evidence in the Bible that reveals the reality and nature of God.

Celsus on the True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians. Celsus. Trans. R. Joseph Hoffman. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987. Translation of *Alethès Lógos (True Doctrine)*, the Greek philosopher's dismissal of the philosophical basis of Christianity.

Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism: A Parallel History of Their Origins and Early Development. Ed. Hershel Shanks. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeological Society, 1992. Covers six centuries of the parallel histories of Jews and Christians.

***Christianity in Talmud and Midrash.* R. Travers Herford. London: Williams & Norgate, 1903.** This book gives an account of the similarities that exist in Rabbinic teaching and Christianity.

Churches That Make a Difference: Reaching Your Community With Good News and Good Works. Ronald J. Sider, Philip Olson, and Heidi Rolland Unruh. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

A Commentary on the Jewish Roots of Galatians. Hilary Le Corner, Joseph Shulam. Swindon, Wiltshire, England: The British and Foreign Bible Society, 2005. Challenges the assumption that the theological argument of Galatians is characteristically Pauline in both method and content.