

Table of Contents

1. What We Believe and Why	1
Thomas Aquinas	2
Outline of This Book	4
Religion and Personal Truth.....	6
Essentials and Non-Essentials	6
<i>Figure: Essentials and Non-Essentials</i>	6
2. Salvation.....	9
Biblical Languages and Cultures	9
Born Again? Crawl Back Into the Womb?	10
The Death of Jesus and How It Is Related to the Kingdom	13
3. Sanctification	17
Essentials and Non-Essentials	17
<i>Figure: The Common Error</i>	18
Not Essential to Salvation? Why Do They Matter?.....	18
The Distinction Between Salvation and Sanctification	19
<i>Figure: Cleaning Up the Error</i>	20
Life in Christ—Covenant	21
<i>Figure: Life in Christ—Covenant</i>	21
<i>Figure: Salvation? No.</i>	22
Can You Lose Your Salvation?.....	22
Can You Lose Your Salvation By Sinning?.....	27
Learning to Live and Love as Jesus Did.....	27
4. Glorification	29
<i>Figure: Life in Christ—Covenant</i>	30
Old Testament Example	32
New Testament Examples.....	32
Making It Personal.....	34
Paul on Heavenly Reward.....	35
So, You <i>Can</i> Take It With You.....	35
5. Why Bother to Be Good?	37

Sanctification.....	38
6. Living With Believers.....	43
7. Living With Unbelievers.....	49
The Crucifixion	49
Living With Unbelievers	51
Unbelievers.....	52
How <i>Not</i> to Treat Unbelievers.....	52
How to Treat Unbelievers	54
Being Sanctified Is Not Forcing Correct Behavior on Others	54
8. Prayer—Images and Icons.....	59
Can We Pray to Statues, or the Virgin Mary, or to the Saints?	61
Statues and Icons	61
<i>Figure: St Francis</i> by Giovanni Graziani (1820–1893)	63
<i>Figure: Trinity</i> by Andrei Rublev	65
9. Prayer—To Whom?.....	67
Praying to Dead People.....	67
Praying Directly to God Himself.....	72
Conclusion—To Whom?.....	73
10. Prayer—Object, Posture, Purpose and More.....	75
Object	75
Advice	76
Posture.....	77
<i>Figure: Orans Prayer Position: 3rd Century – Catacomb In Rome</i>	78
Purpose.....	79
Content.....	80
Some Comments About “Speaking in Tongues”	83
The Gift of Prayer.....	83
11. Rule-Following and Transcendent Love	85
Inverted Pride	86
Obedience	87
Following Rules.....	88
The Three Laws of Robotics.....	89
Artificial Intelligence.....	90
Circling Back to Approval and Rejection.....	94
12. Obedience and Love.....	95
More on Magical Thinking.....	96
More on “In Jesus’ Name”	98
More and More Magical Thinking.....	99

13. Covenant—Abraham	103
Neither a Contract Nor a Will	104
The Covenant Between God and Abraham	105
What Is Righteousness?	106
Sacrifice and Dividing	106
Circumcision	110
14. Covenant—The Law of Moses.....	113
The Law.....	114
The Ten Commandments.....	118
The Talmud.....	124
<i>Figure: Talmud Page, In Hebrew</i>	125
<i>Figure: A Yeshiva In Session</i>	128
New Testament Versus Old Testament	129
Resources for Further Study	130
15. Covenant—Jesus	131
Salvation, Sanctification, and... ..	136
16. Faith.....	137
Skepticism	138
<i>Figure: German Stamp: “Heisenberg’s Uncertainty Principle”</i>	140
Faith	141
17. Peace, Mercy, Breath of Life	145
Peace	145
Mercy.....	149
Breath of Life.....	149
18. Heresy Explained	153
Modalism	156
Arianism	156
Docetism	157
Donatism.....	157
19. Heresy Continued	161
Wrestling About Doctrine	161
How to Disagree	161
Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit	162
Mormonism	163
Jehovah’s Witnesses.....	164
Ancient Heresies – Why Do We Care?	165
Gnosticism	165
Montanism	166

Humanism and Theism.....	166
A Severe Critique	169
20. Trinity.....	175
The Singularity of God.....	177
Still More Complexity.....	180
God Speaks to God	181
Isaiah on the Trinity or Duality or... ..	183
Concept, Ontology and Freddie	185
21. Bible Authority	191
The Original Manuscripts	193
Inconsistencies in Scripture.....	196
Believers Behaving Badly	198
Inerrancy.....	201
Infallibility	203
The Covering Authority.....	203
22. Religious Concepts.....	205
What Matters and What Doesn't.....	205
Two Doors.....	206
Distractions and Ambitions.....	206
Religious Idolatry	207
How the Problem Arose.....	208
<i>Figure</i> : Concept Fabrication	215
Worshipping Doctrine.....	216
The Concepts We Fight About.....	219
Baptism	219
Communion	220
23. Reconciliation	225
Love of God and Neighbor.....	226
Circling Back to Approval and Rejection.....	230
Moving Beyond Winning.....	231
Reconciliation	237
The Key to the Future.....	238
Final Reflection and Insights on True Unity in the Church.....	241
What Jesus Taught	241
24. Application and Haverim.....	247
<i>Figure</i> : Life in Christ—Covenant	248
How to Reconcile.....	250
Are Women Allowed in Ministry?.....	251

How Do We Get Closer to Reconciliation?	255
Haverim	259
<i>Figure: Gesenius' Lexicon entry for אָבאָב, abav</i>	261
The Rabbinic Way.....	264
Hope and the Means to Unity.....	265
Communion	266
Conclusion	268
Appendix 1 Glossary Plus of Terms.....	271
Appendix 2 Bibliography & Recommended Reading.....	317
Articles and Essays.....	317
Books and Online Sources	318
Appendix 3 Relevant Humor.....	331
The Cat Sat on the Mat	331
Hermeneutics in Everyday Life	332
Die, Heretic Scum!.....	334
Index.....	335