



THINK
THEISM

Welcome!

Ratio Christi (“reason for Christ” in Latin) is a community of Aggies brought together with the common purpose that Jesus and his message are worth thinking about.

Weekly Meetings: Thursday @ 8:30pm

RC-TAMU.org



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Thomistic Institute

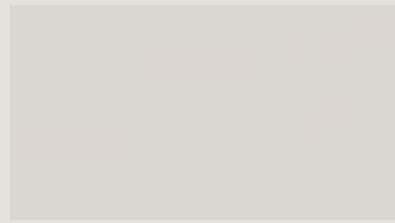
The Thomistic Institute exists to promote Catholic truth in our contemporary world by strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at Texas A&M University, in the Church, and in the wider public square. The thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Universal Doctor of the Church, is our touchstone.

Reading Group Details in the Slack

thomisticinstitute.org/texas-am



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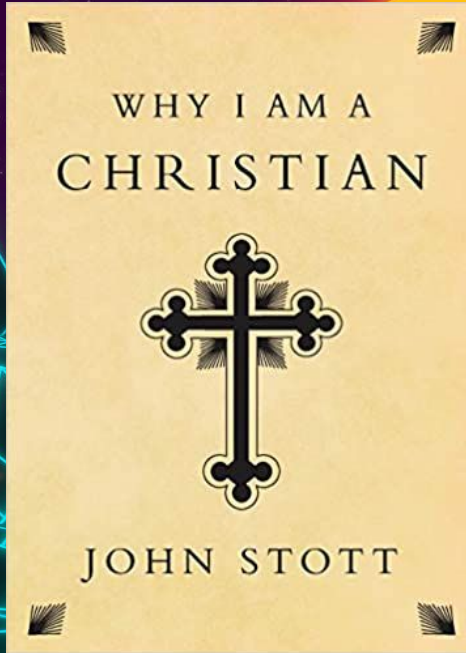


Think Theism lectures are supported by Ratio Christi @ Texas A&M, but the opinions represented herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or values of Ratio Christi. This content is presented to encourage discussion and critical thought about challenging questions.

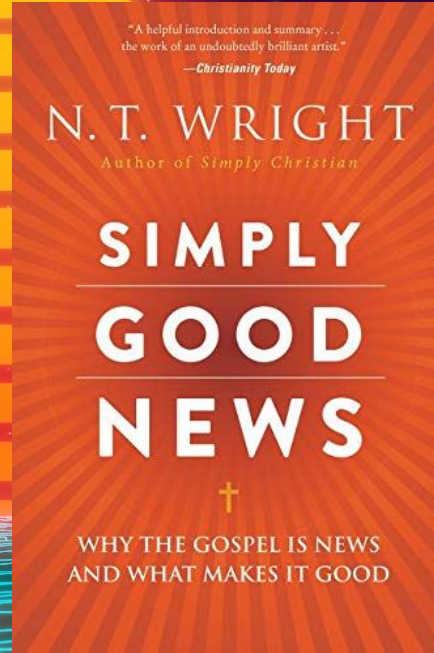


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Books




Why I Am a Christian
John Stott



Simply Good News
N.T. Wright

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The image features a dark, starry background. A bright, glowing orange arc curves across the upper portion of the frame. In the center, the word "GOD" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. The bottom of the image is filled with a complex, jagged, purple line-art landscape that resembles a mountain range or a digital terrain.

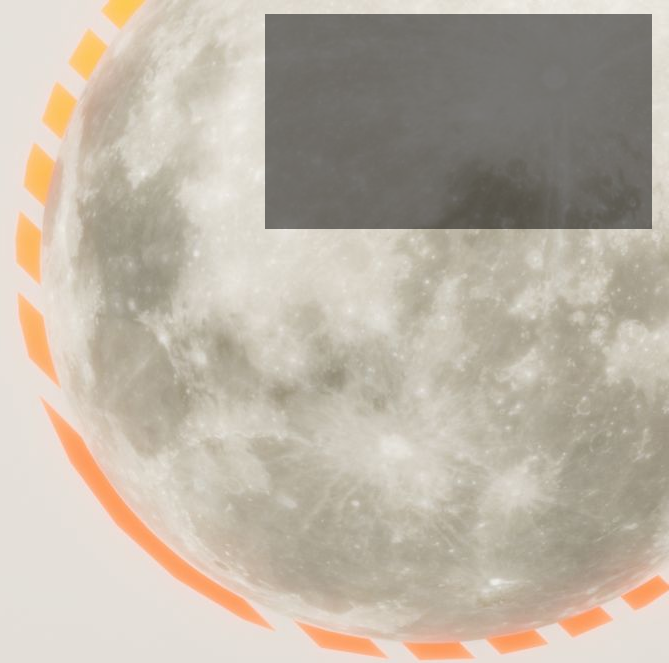
GOD



Christianity

What Led Up to the Good News?

- Messianic Prophecy
 - Psalm 110:1
 - “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’”
- Tense Time
 - Roman Oppression
- New Exodus

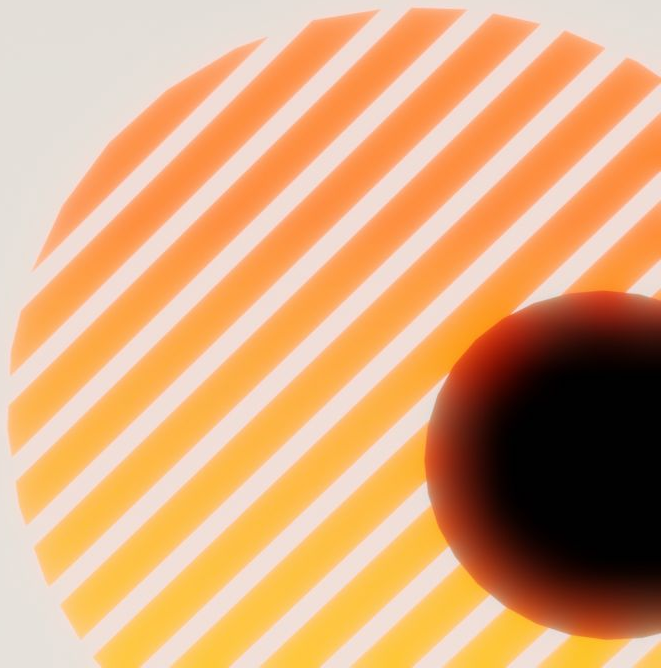


What is the Good News?

- 1 Corinthians 15: 3-6
 - “Christ died *for our sins* in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time” (Emphasis added)

For Our Sins

- Romans 3:23
 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- Romans 6:23
 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 5:19
 - “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”
- Romans 3:26
 - “It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”



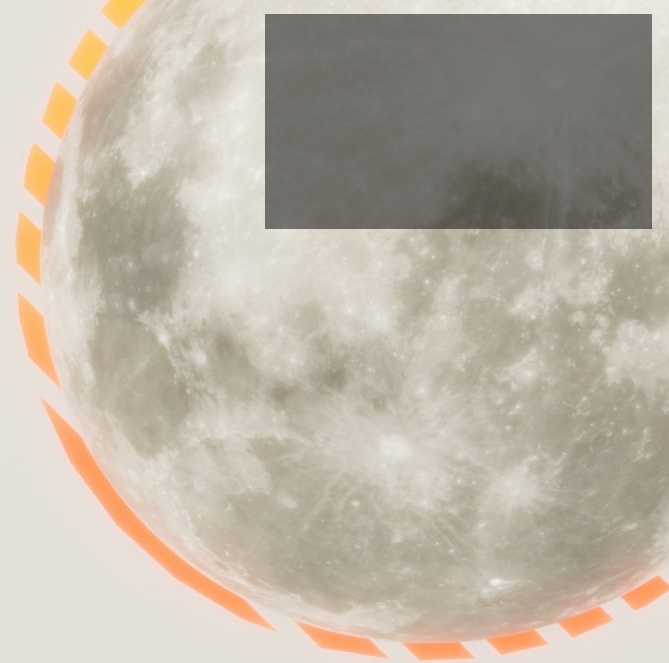
The Big Picture

- The good news is not a standalone story.
- “...Christ died for our sin *in accordance with the Scriptures*...raised on the third day *in accordance with the Scriptures*.”
- The gospel is meant to be interpreted through the lens of the Old Testament
 - Covenant with Israel-- OT Characters
 - Jeremiah 31:31-33
 - “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel... I will put my law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
 - Galatians 4:4-7
 - Isaiah 53
 - Psalm 22



The Big Picture

- It is also meant to be interpreted through the lens of what is still to happen.
- Distorted Heaven
 - Colossians 1:15
 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation”
 - 2 Peter 3:10-13
 - Revelation 21 & 22



The Kingdom of God

- It is NEWS, that if true, radically changed the world for eternity.
- Creation was good
 - Genesis 1
- It is the message of God redeeming the *entirety* of a fallen creation and bringing about the Kingdom of God.
- Kingdom come
 - Matthew 6:10
 - “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
 - John 17:3
 - “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

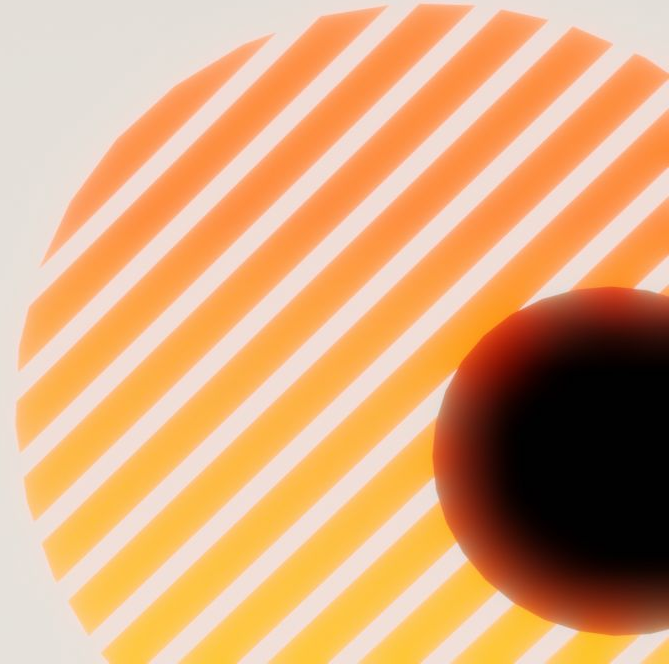


Eternity

- So what happens after we die?
- Luke 23:43
 - “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
 - One of three times the word “paradise” is used in the New Testament
 - Life after death
- Resurrection
 - Philippians 3:20-21
 - “The Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body”



○ Life after life after death



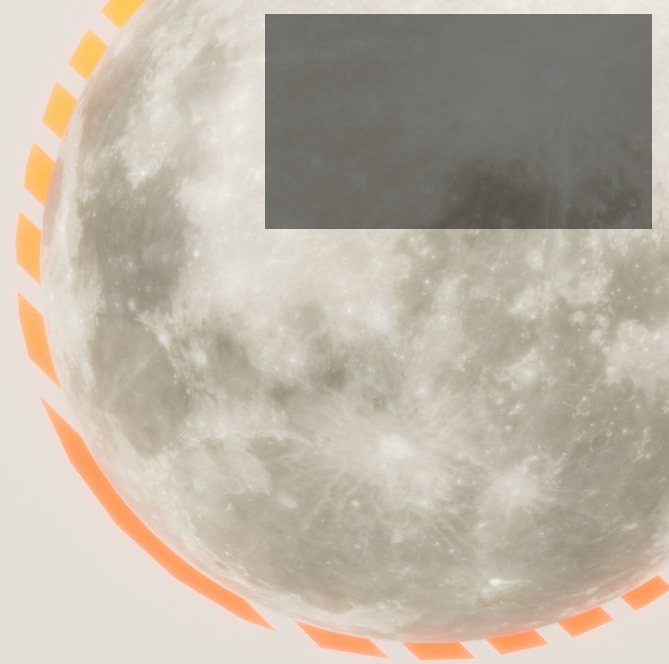
Misinformed gospels

- The Gospel is not:
 - An escape route
 - An option if you feel so inclined
 - News
 - A new way of thinking
 - A social justice movement
- Not Wrong, but Not the Gospel



Questions You Should Have

- This is all assuming the Bible is true. How do we know that the Bible is reliable?
- What happens to those that never hear the Gospel?
- Isn't Hell an unfair punishment?
- How does Jesus dying on the cross pay for my sins? Why couldn't God just forgive them?
- How does the Gospel work with science?
- Did Jesus actually do miracles?



Action

- We are not waiting to be taken away to Heaven and be freed from this present world.
 - “It is vital that those who believe the good news work tirelessly for real and lasting change in individual lives, the church, and the wider world.”
 - “Constantly looking back to the original good news prevents any sense of merely human achievement, and constantly looking forward to the future good news prevents any sense of merely human ambition.”
- Why not Heaven in the instant of salvation?

