



# Know What You Believe: Connecting Faith and Truth

*Paul E. Little*

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## **Know What You Believe: Connecting Faith and Truth** Paul E. Little

What does the Bible teach about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?

What do angels, Satan, and demons have to do with reality?

What place should the Bible or a church have in my life?

Perhaps you think you know what others are telling you to believe, but deep down inside you wonder, "What is really important to my own faith?" If so, you need to know...a Christian's faith must be grounded in truth!

"I have deeply admired [Paul Little] as a man of God with Extraordinary insights into the work of God and boundless enthusiasm for communicating the Word of God" -Billy Graham

"There are just a few timeless treasures in Christian literature. "Know What You Believe" is one of them. I am confident that the expanded and updated version of this book will be as important to this generation as it was in the days when I was a student." -Joseph M. Stowell, President, Moody Bible Institute

"This updated classic stands ready to serve a whole new generation. Read it and let Paul help you understand the timeless biblical truths that will prevent you from being 'blown here and there by every wind of teaching.'" -Mark Mittelberg, Executive Vice President, Willow Creek Association

## **Know What You Believe: Connecting Faith and Truth Details**

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## From Reader Review Know What You Believe: Connecting Faith and Truth for online ebook

### **Karen Cogdill says**

Great reference book. Good guide for basic apologetics.

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### **Kris says**

It's like a catechism for modern readers— well, not exactly a catechism, which helps Christians memorize the basics, but more like a tool of explanation aimed at atheists. I'd give this to any person asking to know more about Christianity. It's really simple and clear, and I think most all Christians would agree it covers the common basics.

I'm looking forward to reading Know Why You Believe next.

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### **Clara Roberts says**

In this wonderful book Paul Little covers the basic doctrines of orthodox Christianity. It covers the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ's death, man and sin, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, angels, satan, and demons, the Church, and Things to Come. This is a book I read thirty years ago and it was just as good to read again. The book is an easy read and just chocked full of information that I Christian should think about.

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### **Mary J says**

I do not consider myself a "thinker", a super intelligent person, or whatever you want to call it. I'm pretty satisfied with sticking with the subjective part of Christianity: God has made himself known to me, thus I will believe in his Word. That's just me.

This book is written towards a different crowd: the ones who need the FACTS. They need to know every angle and detail before something is true. And that is what Little presents.

He doesn't sweep your doubt under the rug and tell you "have more faith". He doesn't shy away from the scary topics, but states them simply, sticking closely to both Scripture AND science.

This book has brought me to an appreciation of the objective side of Christianity, and it has reminded me why other people need Christ: not only to feel whole(or loved or understood, etc.), but to know the Truth.

It is simply a must read, for Christians, for non-Christians, for...well, everyone, honestly.  
(Including those who lean more on the subjective side of things, like me;) )

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### **Trevor says**

I used this book as one of the textbooks for my grade 11 Doctrine class. It's a decent introduction to the

doctrines but not as thought-provoking or interesting as Little's other book, *Know Why You Believe*. Occasionally Little is somewhat biased in favour of the traditional evangelical views, but overall it's not bad as a starting point for young Christians.

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### **Brandi says**

I listened to the audiobook of this title. Narrator: mediocre. Content: very good. Presentation: dry.

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### **Emily says**

Paul Little's book 'Know Why You Believe' was given to me by some friends after I expressed a desire to return to my old roots in apologetics. I was given a solid foundation in this in my years in Campus Crusades for Christ (shout out to Jimmy Li) but have moved way, way far away from that as I have moved from my teens into adulthood.

The book takes on 12 critical questions, including everything from 'Is There a God?' to 'Do Science and Scripture Agree?' to 'Why Does God Allow Suffering and Evil?'. Some chapters were much stronger than others, but I do give Little credit for being bold to tackle each one individually.

Personally I found the chapters on validating God's existence, Scripture's melding with science and the archaeological and historical footprint for validating the Christian faith as the most effective. Little gives a wonderful amount of factual information to support both claims and concepts, something that I appreciate. However I did feel like the book really only skimmed the surface (I mean, it's only 160 pages) and I felt that lack of depth in many ways. I also didn't like how frequently he would refer to a quote or historical passage without a reference, as well as his penchant for using the superlative. Words like 'Always' and 'Immediately' make me feel that something is being generalized when it shouldn't be -- and when you're mid-discussion with someone who is challenging your personal belief or worldview, I feel superlatives should be avoided. It's too easy for someone to latch onto it and use that word to destroy your whole argument.

Overall, it's a solid book that's best for older teens and young adults looking for an intro into not only apologetics, but seeking answers to life's really hard, uncomfortable questions. Reading this book has made it easier for me to move onto meatier books addressing these same and deeper problems.

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### **Joseph says**

I was assigned this book in High School and I just re-read it for the first time in almost 30 years. I agree with 90% of this book. Paul Little died before the Creationist Movement really took hold. I think if he had survived he might have been convinced to change some of his views or he might have stuck to them solidly and said "I have been teaching this dogmatically for 30 years I am not about to change now."

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### **Katie Wornson says**

Was good but...well...i kept falling asleep while reading it

## Katerina says

Know What You Believe summarizes the basic Protestant Christian beliefs on God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, people, sin, salvation, the church, angels, Satan, demons, and things to come. It does a good job of covering many ideas in a short space, and it gives Biblical references for each idea so that the reader can investigate further on her own. It is a useful book for evaluating one's beliefs with the traditional understanding of Christian faith. One drawback is that the book reads like a collection of facts rather than a discussion of a living, life-changing faith.

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## Lisa says

This book explains the basic truths of Christianity.

Ch. 1, The Bible: It is the written Word of God. It's a written record of God giving us information about himself and his purposes for us, his creation. God has revealed himself in several ways: through nature and the cosmos (general revelation), through history, through the words of the prophets, through Jesus Christ (special revelation), through the Bible (consists of Old and New testaments; written in common Hebrew and, largely, common Greek; it's inspired (plenary, verbal inspiration=all of scripture inspired, both ideas and the words themselves); original writings without error and God guarded copies so that they differ only in minute ways; writers not automatons; some words are from evil people; canon was confirmed at a church council in Carthage in AD 397, criteria used were: was the book apostolic in origin? was it used and recognized by the churches? did the book teach sound doctrine?; it's the primary source of religious belief (as opposed to tradition, human reason, existential encounter); some parts are to be taken literal and others figuratively; often speaks in phenomenological language ("it describes things as they appear to be rather than in precise scientific terms," e.g., "The sun rises in the east"); illumination of holy spirit is essential; it's necessary food

Ch. 2, God: Natural attributes: : transcendent (excels above all, not slave to natural law), immanent (near, presence and power pervade entire creation), omnipotent (in inherent possibilities, not in inherent impossibilities-it's impossible for God to lie), omnipresent (in all places, all the time), omniscient, eternal, infinite (unlimited), unchangeable, personal (he is a person; is spirit yet has all the elements of personality--intellect, feelings, and will (acts according to his own purpose and will)). Moral attributes: holy (sum total of the perfection of God), loving (a divine, perfect love). God is triune (one being, but he exists in three persons; divine essence exists in three forms, or modes; he is one in essence, personality, and will: The Father originates, the son, eternally begotten of the Father, reveals; The Spirit, eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son, executes; Creation is from the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit). He is the sustainer of his creation, and he is the moral governor of the intelligent beings he has created. God knows the end from the beginning. Truths about god: God's absolute decrees are always accomplished; people may disobey God's purposes for his creatures; God's directive will is what he brings to pass; God's permissive will is what he allows to take place. "God permitted but did not direct the entrance of sin into the world. But whether actively (by decree) or passively (by permission), God is sovereign over all that happens." (51) According to J.I. Packer, reconciling divine sovereignty and human freedom is an "antimony," "an apparent contradiction between conclusions that seem equally logical, reasonable or necessary" (53)

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## Christopher says

With the plethora of Christian denominations and Christian cults proselytizing right now, it can be difficult even for the faithful Christian to know what are the basic tenets of their faith that every Christian shares, regardless of denomination. Enter this magnificent little book on the basics of the Christian faith by Paul Little. In ten chapters and a little less than 150 pages, Mr. Little goes through everything that every Christian believes, subject by subject, in prose that is easy to understand and wrap your head around. Believers and non-believers alike will enjoy this book for its clarity of subject and purpose and it's lack of denominational, dogmatic head-bashing. He even addresses the differences between, say, Catholics and Protestants in a way that both sides will accept without vitriol. Some of his allusions are little dated ("It doesn't matter what you think about... Richard Nixon"), but this is an otherwise enjoyable read for Christians new to the faith, experienced in their walk, or those interested in knowing more about the tenets of Christianity.

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### **Sarah Grace Grzy says**

Wowza! This was an incredible book! It was very helpful in answering a lot of common questions that Christians have, using the Bible as backup. It really solidified \*what\* I believe, also helping me to fully understand \*why\* I believe what I believe. Mr. Little lays everything out in a clear and concise manner, referencing scripture very frequently. I like how he didn't just lay out the 'facts', but gave you plenty of scripture references so you can see for yourself what the God's Word has to say about the subject. A must read for all Christians!

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### **Danielle says**

I read this book with my Bible study group. We had been talking about apologetics and how the Bible and history and science are not antithetical to each other. We were looking for a study to go more in depth on the topic, and I'm not sure this was the best choice. We did have some interesting discussions, but for the most part I felt like the book was too surfacey and made a lot of circular arguments that just pointed back to Bible passages to answer the questions it was posing. As was pointed out multiple times over our discussion of the book, if this is designed to talk to people who don't believe in God and/or the Bible and who are convinced that religion forces you to ignore the scientific world, using the responses in this book to help explain that this isn't so would probably not be very effective.

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### **Nick says**

I read this book when I was a Freshmen or Sophomore in High School for a Sunday School class. At the time I was blown away by the deeper level of theology Little presents at a basic level. Now I can't remember much of what he said, but it was great for me then.

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