

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of water droplets on a surface. The droplets are of various sizes and are scattered across the frame. The lighting creates highlights and shadows on the droplets, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is split into two main color zones: a dark, almost black area at the top and a lighter, greyish-blue area on the left side. The right side of the image is dominated by a large, solid red area that serves as a background for the main title and author's name.

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS TO HARD QUESTIONS

**SHOULD YOU
BELIEVE
IN GOD?**

K. SCOTT OLIPHINT

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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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WHAT FOLLOWS is a fictional conversation between a Christian and an unbeliever who offers certain intellectual challenges to the gospel. The conversation is intended to be an *apologetic* conversation—a conversation that includes a presentation of the gospel, but that also answers some of the difficult objections that might be lodged against Christianity. It is, therefore, an attempt to set forth the truth of the gospel in the face of (some of the) intellectual objections that have been given against it. For that reason, the *way* or *mode* of commending the gospel herein is more complex than it might otherwise be, since it is given in the context of those challenges, and by way of a *defense* of Christianity.



I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to speak to you about my own beliefs. You have done this, you say, because you have always been curious about what people believe and why. As you are aware, I am a Christian. But why, you ask, would a particular belief system like Christianity appeal to me, and what exactly does it mean to be a Christian?

I should say at the beginning that this question will be the most important question you will ask in your entire lifetime. If you have any designs on moving from one who is curious to one who is committed, this will be the time. It might not, in God's good providence, be the only time for such a change. But for all we know, it might be. Since neither of us knows the details of our future, we can only say for sure that *this* is the time for you to seriously contemplate such a change.

But why would you want to change at all? You say that your penchant for curiosity has produced little more than confusion.

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You recognize that something has to be true. You are not content simply to gather various “truths” from others. You would like to stand on some truth as you inquire of others. This is all very good. As you have said, however, you can’t see that you have a place to stand at all. Being curious has only brought a plethora of options that others have chosen. It has done nothing but provide more information to you, and none of the options, thus far, has enticed you.

Your desire for truth is a good one. If you had said to me that truth was not important, or that truth was unattainable, then I might have turned our conversation in a different direction. I might have asked you, for example, if it was true that truth was unattainable. But because you believe that there is truth and you’re interested in discovering it, you will likely be interested in what I have to say to you.

If you would allow me to state my conclusion at the beginning of our conversation, I would like you to consider this: The only option available to you that will quell your constant curiosity and give you a place to stand is the Christian option. Every other option you have heard about, or will hear about, will not do for you what you desire. Unless you submit yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ, and stand on his Word, you will never find a real place to stand, or a real place to rest, and your curious search will never end. It is not new or more information you need; it never was. What you need is what I and all other people need—to place ourselves, our trust, our very lives in the hands of the Son of God who came, who lived a perfect life and who died, whose death covered over the sins of many, who was raised from the dead, and whose life is ours when we believe *into* him. What you need, in other words, is to let go of your own hold on life, to repent of your rejection of God, and to trust Christ.

As society increasingly demonstrates a disbelief in God, what happens when that viewpoint is questioned? In a conversational style Oliphint discusses why belief is a preferable and more coherent position than unbelief and answers objections to common questions about Christianity.

"When I first read Van Til's pamphlet *Why I Believe in God*, it turned my world upside down. Scott Oliphint's booklet is a kind of updated version of Van Til's pamphlet. Oliphint refers to more recent writers and philosophical controversies. But like Van Til's work, it proposes answers to those issues that move far beyond the answers that are usually considered respectable."

—John M. Frame, Professor of Systematic Theology and Philosophy, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

"*Should You Believe in God?* by Scott Oliphint is a very capable and winsome statement of Christian theism. I commend it to you."

—Douglas Wilson, Senior Minister, Christ Church, Moscow, Idaho

Written to equip and strengthen laypeople in their defense of the faith, *Christian Answers to Hard Questions* challenges contemporary opposition to Christianity with concise, practical answers.

Peter A. Lillback and Steven T. Huff, Series Editors

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