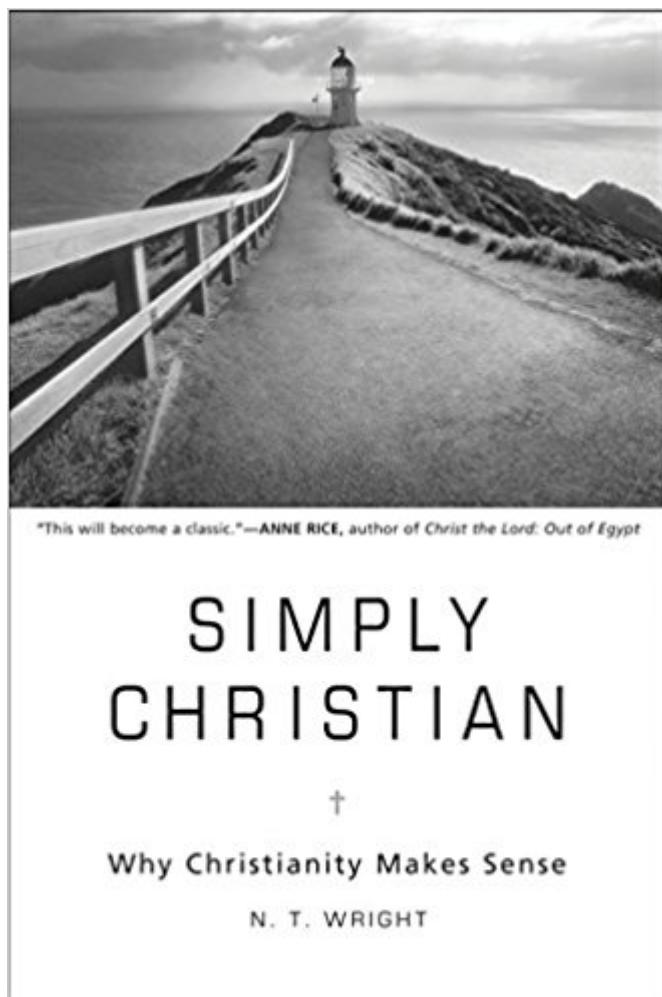


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# Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense



## Synopsis

Not since C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* has such a wise and informed leader taken the time to explain what Christianity is and how it is practiced. In *Simply Christian*, renowned biblical scholar and Anglican bishop N.T. Wright makes a case for Christianity from the ground up. Walking the reader through the Christian faith step-by-step and question by question, Wright's *Simply Christian* offers explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled skeptics, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith. A

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Readers will welcome such ready access to one of the fine teachers of the church.” (Walter Brueggemann) “Simply Christian is an amazing testimony to the vitality of the Christian faith—and to the skill of N. T. Wright.” (Will Willimon, Bishop, North Alabama Conference, United Methodist Church) “[No one] has done more to clarify what [...] Christianity looks like in our day than Tom Wright.” (John Ortberg, teaching pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church) “Fresh, engaging, and highly readable.” (Os Guinness, author of *Unspeakable: Facing Up to the Challenge of Faith*) “N.T. Wright is uniquely qualified to convey the enduring substance of Christian life and thought to contemporary people.” (Dallas Willard, professor of philosophy, University of Southern California, and author of *The Divine Conspiracy*) “Brilliant Bishop Wright is one of God’s best gifts to our decaying Western church...” (J.I. Packer, professor of theology, Regent

College)“We are in Mere Christianity territory here [...] Bound to be a classic.” (Rob Bell, author of *Velvet Elvis*)“N.T. Wright is simply crucial; his writing can transform one’s life.” (Anne Rice, author of *CHRIST THE LORD*)“Wright attempts a 21st-century counterpart to Lewis’s *Mere Christianity*. . . . notably clear, readable and thought-provoking.” (Richard Ostling, AP)“Wright offers...[an] intelligent view of Christianity, and his title invites us to compare his work with Lewis’s [...] *Mere Christianity*.” (Washington Post)“Simply Christian is simply outstanding. It will confirm, challenge, and deepen your grasp of Christian faith and practice.” (Christianity Today)

Why is justice fair? Why are so many people pursuing spirituality? Why do we crave relationship? And why is beauty so beautiful? N. T. Wright argues that each of these questions takes us into the mystery of who God is and what he wants from us. For two thousand years Christianity has claimed to answer these mysteries, and this renowned biblical scholar and Anglican bishop shows that it still does today. Like C. S. Lewis did in his classic *Mere Christianity*, Wright makes the case for Christian faith from the ground up, assuming that the reader is starting from ground zero with no predisposition to and perhaps even some negativity toward religion in general and Christianity in particular. His goal is to describe Christianity in as simple and accessible, yet hopefully attractive and exciting, a way as possible, both to say to outsiders “You might want to look at this further,” and to say to insiders “You may not have quite understood this bit clearly yet.”

N.T. Wright has an amazing way of teaching challenging subjects in easy to understand ways. He weaves analogy throughout the book, not just as examples to help a single illustration, but often to weave together the whole concept he’s addressing. As an amateur theologian, I’m quite impressed with this work, what he teaches, and especially where he challenges the reader and the Church to follow Christ more deeply and authentically.

This book started out slow and trite; he could have covered the first section in one chapter and lost nothing. There was some interesting discussion later on which is why I didn’t give it just 2 stars. I find it annoying that the titles of many of Wright’s books are obvious take-offs on CS Lewis’... He’s no CS Lewis to be sure. There is a video series that accompanies “Simply Christian” which is far more fulfilling than the book. I do not know how our study group acquired the videos but I assume they are available through or similar.

I will be 82 years old in two and a half months. Been in and out of church many times. At this point in my life I need a better understanding of Christianity. This was a good place to start.

Not an easy read, had to push my way through it. Long-winded and repetitive.

Interesting, well written book that explains what Christianity should be about. A little too intellectual at times for the ordinary mind! However, I believe the author a well known Church of England bishop and biblical scholar, has a deep faith in Jesus and has a profound understanding and grasp of basic Christianity. He explains this from a refreshingly new angle, I liked it.

N.T Wright is an awesome author. I have enjoyed reading all of his book.

Wow, another great book from N. T. Wright. This has to be the book of the year for 2006. This is a great book for anyone looking to defend or learn more about Christianity. He deals with two world views that are false throughout the book. One is pantheism or the idea that God is everywhere and in everything or is everything and the other view is deism. Deism is the idea that God created the world but stays distant to it and does not even dream of getting involved in it affairs. He sees the latter as being the idea of God behind left behind type of theology that sees to goal of Christianity as being getting people saved to get them out of this world. Wright's view makes better sense of God and the world. In Wright's view heaven overlaps and interlocks with Earth and is not distant from it and neither is God in everything. The world was created good and became distorted by Adam and Eve's or humanities disobedience. God went to work to restore his good creation by calling Abraham. His seed was to be the means by which the world was put back to rights. The story of the nation of Israel includes slavery, Exodus; judges and kings, tabernacles and Temples being built; disobedience through injustice and idolatry and all kinds of uncleanness brought about exile. The prophets then came and promised return from Exile. Jesus brings the story of Israel to its climax and brings about New Creation through resurrection. Wright works through this story like nobody else can and then in the end acts as a pastor when it comes to coaching on such things as prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, and sacraments. This is a book that should be read by everyone. It is destined to be a classic.

Thank God for NT Wright! He honestly engages the breadth of biblical scholarship and comes up

with one of the most well written summaries of what it means to be a Christian. Many have compared this book to C.S. Lewis' 'Mere Christianity', but his angle as a biblical scholar vs Lewis' medieval literature angle is a little bit different. I'd say Lewis' is more apologetics written to people who are going off their logic and experience while Wright is more trying to explain the historical Christian faith, from the (mostly) consensus of biblical scholarship. It isn't the most readable book of all time, Wright goes with trying to present a well written, outlined style book rather than a conversational rant. If you are serious about knowing what the Bible does and doesn't say regarding humanity's salvation, I'd say go buy yourself a bag of coffee/tea and commit to a month of reading this book. It may not be the best summary for you because he is a touch slow of a writer and comes from years and years of original languages and top notch nuanced scholarship so his condensation of it all can seem a little tedious, and not as exciting/entertaining as one would prefer. But I don't think he leaves anything necessary out. It is a blessing more than a curse. If you want one more readable I would check out "Selling Water by the River" by Shane Hipps... a lot more pastoral/readable, less scholarly. I found my faith being built up again and again as I saw my tradition in light of what the Bible and its theology is about. Lots of what I have believed is in there, and lots of what I have believed has been extrapolations of odd and/or decent interpretations. Thank you God for this man!

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