



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

April 01, 2018

# UNIFIED PURPOSE

THE ODYSSEY



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# Reflections

## Five Books About Christianity Everyone Should Read:

If you're a Christian, know what you believe. If you're a skeptic, know what you're questioning. If you're agnostic, know what others say you can know. If you're an atheist, know what you're rejecting. If you don't read, these can be interesting décor.

**C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.** If you are only going to read one, pick this one. Lewis, with his sparkling prose, winsomely introduces the basic Christian beliefs. Lewis is the ideal persuader for those who'd like to believe but find their intellect getting in the way.

**John Stott, *Basic Christianity*.** The best basic treatment of what Christians believe. Clear and practical. Dated, prosaic, but still a classic.

**Tim Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*.** NYT bestseller. The first half deals with the most common objections to Christianity, while the second half makes a case for the rationality of the basic Christian beliefs.

**G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*.** For Chesterton, the most compelling aspect of Christianity is that, time and again, it proves to have the most breadth and power to explain why the world is the way it is. Christianity is a better answer to our questions.

**Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*.** Pascal, who came to faith as an adult, wrote this collection of aphorisms and paragraphs to persuade his good friend Montaigne of the reasonableness of the Christian claims. Though by far the oldest book on this list, Pascal's might be the ideal conversation partner for the post-Modern person. His observations on distraction and boredom are better than anything being written today.

# Scripture

John 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

*‘Kaleidoscope in Woodcuts’ by Antonio Frasconi, 1968*

*‘Unified Purpose’ logo by Jesse Wu*

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## Events & News

### **Life Explored, Weekly Dinners Beginning April 9**

Life Explored dinners are a welcoming place to discuss tough questions about life, suffering, doubt, and faith over a good meal. Dinners take place over 6 weeks and are hosted by one or more of our pastors in different areas of the city.

### **Prayer: The Invisible Reality, April 19, 21**

Do you want to learn how to pray? We're hosting a 3-part series, beginning this month, to dive into why prayer matters, how to pray, and how to overcome common barriers to prayer.

### **Understanding the Book of Revelation, April 21, 22**

This interactive workshop will give an overview of the content of Revelation, teach you how to interpret apocalyptic literature, and give guidance on how to read this in personal devotions. There will be an extended version on Saturday and a shortened version on Sunday.

*View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, [PacificCrossroads.org/Events](http://PacificCrossroads.org/Events), or speak with someone at the "New Here?" tent.*

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## Ministry Resources

### **Pastoral Care**

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email [pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org](mailto:pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org) or call our office at 310.551.0081.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit [PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery](http://PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).