CONFRONTING CHRISTIANITY NAMED CHRISTIANITY TODAY'S 2020 BEAUTIFUL ORTHODOXY BOOK OF THE YEAR

WHEATON, Ill.—Crossway is pleased to announce that Rebecca McLaughlin’s Confronting Christianity (Crossway, April 2019) has been named the 2020 Christianity Today Beautiful Orthodoxy Book of the Year.

The Christianity Today Book Awards are presented to books in 14 different categories, including Biblical Studies, Children & Youth, and Spiritual Formation. Confronting Christianity also won the award in the Apologetics/Evangelism category for 2020.

“We are deeply honored to publish Rebecca’s book, and we are gratified to see it being recognized as one of the year’s best books,” commends Justin Taylor, Crossway’s executive vice president of book publishing and book publisher. “We are praying that God would continue to use the ‘beautiful orthodoxy’ of this book to help believers and those who don’t yet believe to see that Christianity can be confronted with the very hardest questions and come away with honest, winsome, and compelling answers.”

Confronting Christianity explores 12 issues that might cause someone to dismiss orthodox Christianity—issues such as the existence of suffering, the Bible’s teaching on gender and sexuality, the reality of heaven and hell, and the authority of the Bible. McLaughlin shows how the best research from sociology, science, and psychology doesn’t disagree with but actually aligns with claims found in the Bible, and thus helps skeptics understand why these issues are signposts, rather than roadblocks, to faith in Christ.

“I have spent decades of my life engaging with brilliant friends who have principled reasons for dismissing Christianity,” writes McLaughlin. “But I have also spent years working with Christian professors at leading secular universities in fields ranging from physics to philosophy. Some grew up in the church. Others encountered Christianity later. All have found that their faith has stood the test of their research and left them more convinced that Christianity represents our tightest grasp on truth and our best hope for the world. This book aims to look closely at important questions through the lenses these friends have given me, and to share that experience with you.”

Available in both hardcover and ebook formats, Confronting Christianity has received commendations from Peter J. Williams (Principal, Tyndale House, Cambridge), Karen Swallow Prior (author of On Reading Well and Fierce Convictions), Os Guinness (author of The Call), and many others. For more information about the author, please visit rebeccamclaughlin.org.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca McLaughlin holds a PhD in Renaissance literature from Cambridge University and a theology degree from Oak Hill College in London. She is cofounder of Vocable Communications and former vice president of content at the Veritas Forum, where she spent almost a decade working with Christian academics at leading secular universities.

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WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT CONFRONTING CHRISTIANITY

“This book is compelling reading, not only because of its intellectual rigor and the fact that it is beautifully written but also because of its honest, empathetic humanity. Readers will find themselves expertly guided on a journey that involves them not only in confronting Christianity but also in confronting themselves—their worldviews, hopes, fears, failures, and search for identity and satisfaction—and, finally, in confronting Christ as the altogether credible source of life as God means it to be.”

—John C. Lennox, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, University of Oxford

“McLaughlin probes some of the trickiest cultural challenges to Christianity of our day and clearly demonstrates the breadth and richness of a Christian response. Confronting Christianity is well worth reading and pondering.”

—Tyler J. VanderWeele, John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University

“In the West, many people are persuaded by dominant secular narratives and think they already know what Christianity is about. In this bombshell of a book packed with myth-busting statistics, McLaughlin reveals the many surprises in authentic Christianity.”

—Peter J. Williams, Principal, Tyndale House, Cambridge; author, Can We Trust the Gospels?

“A deep and caring response to current criticisms and confrontations of the Christian faith fills Rebecca McLaughlin’s book. She speaks from real-life experience of the personal and intellectual challenges we encounter today in considering the claims of Jesus Christ. Her open and faithful answers to serious questions provide not an easy stroll through imagined virtual reality but an adventurous rocky pathway through true and abundant life.”

—Ian Hutchinson, Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; author, Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?

“Apologetics with heart, discernment, empathy, and rigorous study. Confronting Christianity will help you understand the hard questions of the Christian faith while also igniting a love for neighbor. McLaughlin doesn’t shy away from tough questions about diversity and the nations, as well as slavery and facing America’s past and present. Her answers are not only insightful; they have the potential to transform a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. Take up and read.”

—Trillia Newbell, author, Sacred Endurance; If God Is for Us; and God’s Very Good Idea

“Rebecca McLaughlin refuses to duck the biggest challenges to the Christian faith and takes on the hardest questions with empathy, energy, and understanding. She has studied widely, thinks deeply, and argues very persuasively. This is an outstanding resource for the skeptic, the doubter, and anyone who is ready to engage with some compelling thinking.”

—Sam Allberry, Apologist and Speaker, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries; author, 7 Myths about Singleness

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“Rebecca McLaughlin’s defense of the Christian faith is what all defenses should be: sensitive, smart, and sound. This is apologetics done right—and exactly right for this age in which we live. Confronting Christianity is a book I will draw upon myself and will recommend widely to believers and skeptics alike.”

—Karen Swallow Prior, author, On Reading Well and Fierce Convictions

“Rebecca McLaughlin addresses the most frequent and pressing objections to Christianity in our time with unflinching honesty, rigorous clarity, and deep compassion. This book is written not merely for skeptics but also for those who have suffered much in this sin-sick, destructive world. It is brimming with hope and will surprise you—and likely change the way you think about Jesus.”

—Jon Bloom, Cofounder, Desiring God; author, Not by Sight

“What Christianity has to offer the world is bound up in its strangeness. Only a distinctive word can be truly good news in a world like this. In a secularizing age, though, Christianity is often not simply odd to the world but also unexplained and seemingly inexplicable. In this book, Rebecca McLaughlin takes seriously both the Bible and the questions of nonbelievers. If you’re a non-Christian and have wondered why Christians think and do as they do, this book will be a good start to exploring those questions. If you’re a believer, this book will not only equip you intellectually but also call you to compassion and empathy for your questioning, unbelieving neighbor, as well as prepare you to bear witness to the Light that has come into the world.”

—Russell Moore, President, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

“A fresh voice, arresting arguments, and an easy-to-read style. McLaughlin writes for curious thinkers everywhere, and handsomely repays the open-minded reader.”

—Os Guinness, author, The Call

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