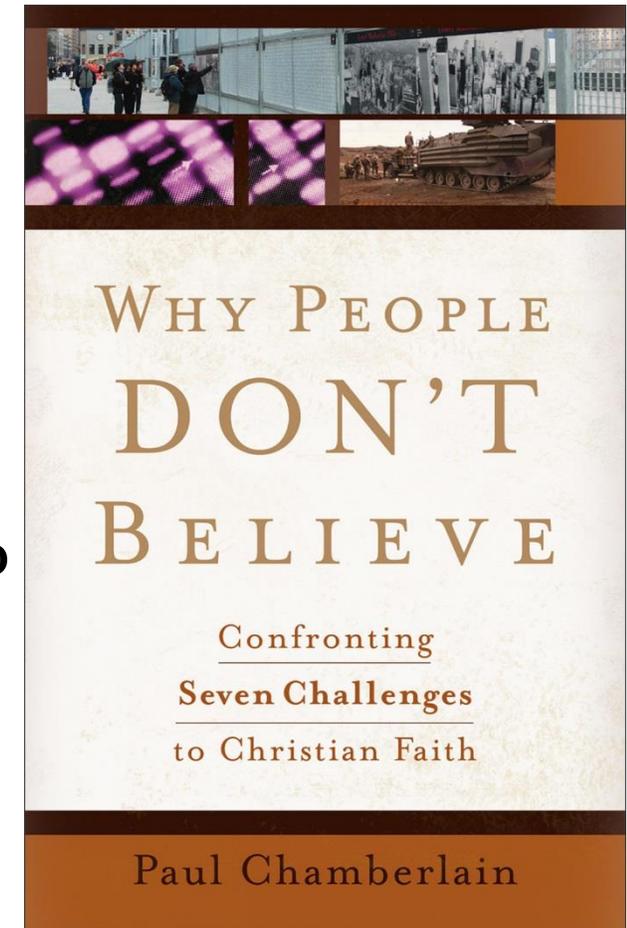


# Impact Hour

May 15, 2016

## Why People Don't Believe:

1. The Power of Religion
2. Reason To Fear
3. Religion and Violence: A Closer Look
4. Is Christianity Irrational and Devoid of Evidence?
5. **Is Christianity Anti-Scientific?**
6. Is Biblical Morality Appalling?
7. Living the Way Jesus Calls Us to Live
8. Christianity's Gifts to the World
9. Is There a Way Forward? True Religion



Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*):

Religious people who read and believe their Scriptures “know they are right because they have read the truth in a holy book and they know, in advance, that nothing will budge them from their belief... The book is true, and if the evidence seems to contradict it, it is the evidence that must be thrown out, not the book.

I, as a scientist, believe... not because of reading a holy book, but because I have studied the evidence. It really is a very different matter... As a scientist, I am hostile to fundamentalist religion because it actively debauches the scientific enterprise. It teaches us not to change our minds, and not to want to know exciting things that are available to be known.

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## Sam Harris:

Science “represents our most committed efforts to verify that our statements about the world are true, or, at least, not false”.

Religious people believe what they do because God wrote those beliefs in a book. This puts religious beliefs “beyond the scope of rational discourse”, they “float entirely free of reason and evidence”, and “most religions offer no valid mechanism by which their core beliefs can be tested and revised.”

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– the set of basic assumptions a person holds, whether consciously or subconsciously, about the origin and nature of the world, humans, other living beings, morals, values, and where we are all going

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## **“Naturalism”**

-a philosophical viewpoint according to which everything arises from natural properties and causes, and supernatural or spiritual explanations are excluded or discounted.

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## Christian Contributions to Science

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- Robert Boyle
- Johannes Kepler

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**A rational Creator made a universe that was understandable!**

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# Is Biblical Morality Appalling?

- All texts must be interpreted in their historical, social and literary contexts
- Prescribing vs. describing

# Is Biblical Morality Appalling?

Atheists do not admit that they do not know why God would permit evil.

# Is Biblical Morality Appalling?

What morality did Jesus teach?

