

CONFESSIONS OF A BIBLE THUMPER

MY HOMEBREWED QUEST FOR A REASONED FAITH

By Michael Camp

What happens when a devout religious conservative examines his own evangelical tradition using the Socratic principle and follows where the evidence leads? *Confessions of a Bible Thumper* is Michael Camp's examination that sent him on an illuminating spiritual adventure, a tenacious quest for a vibrant but reasoned faith in God. His deepening doubts propelled him to uncover nine "heretical" revelations that turn evangelical theology on its head. Through entertaining personal vignettes and lively conversations over craft beer, readers learn how he ultimately adopted a new vision for a progressive—but not stereotypical—faith in Christ. Sure to rattle the Religious Right and befuddle the Secular Left, this brutally honest personal pilgrimage will both challenge and encourage readers to rethink all things sacred and embrace a faith full of grace and reason.

"...has all the marks of a spiritual classic. Its honesty, courage, humor, and real "God" experiences are the mandatory rungs in the ladder people need to climb... into the dazzling light... Bravo!"

Jessica Maxwell, author of award-winning *Roll Around Heaven*

"A provocative and insightful memoir..."

Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate* and *Religion Gone Bad*

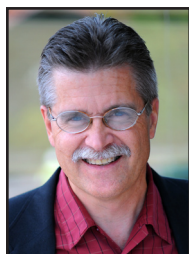
"Camp's book marks an important milestone... I recommend this book!"

Frank Schaeffer, author of *Crazy for God* and *Patience with God*

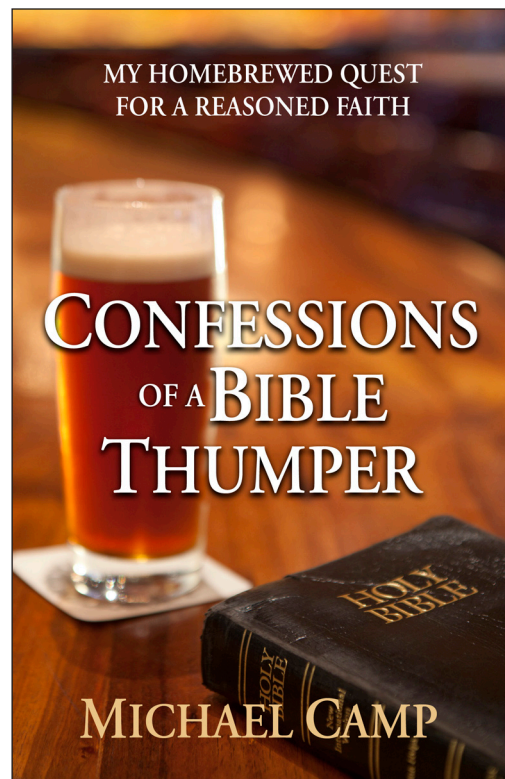
"An important book for both conservative and progressive Christians."

Marcus Borg, leading Jesus scholar and author of 21 books

About the Author



MICHAEL CAMP, former evangelical missionary, aid worker, church leader, and Operation Rescue activist, lived in Africa for seven years. He has worked for Food for the Hungry, World Concern, and World Vision. Camp studied missions at William Carey International University and Fuller Theological Seminary and earned a Masters degree from Eastern University. He is an avid microbrew enthusiast and lives with his wife, Lori, in Poulsbo, Washington. They have four children. Learn more at MichaelCampBooks.com and follow him on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).



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For all those who believe, seek, or doubt, *Confessions of a Bible Thumper: My Homebrewed Quest for a Reasoned Faith*, is a thought provoking, entertaining new book connecting, faith, spirituality, and craft beer.

Book Themes

- 1. Faith Meets Craft Beer** - Using microbrews as a metaphor for freedom to think outside the box, *Confessions* helps readers rethink sacred cows, expose narrow-mindedness, and rationally examine alternate viewpoints on faith and Christianity. And enjoy Pacific Northwest craft beer!
- 2. Genuine Faith Through Questioning** - *Confessions* reveals how real faith comes through a process of brutally honest questioning. Openness to various perspectives is healthy when the goal is following where the evidence leads.
- 3. Historical, Cultural, and Linguistic Understanding** - *Confessions* reveals their importance and applies them to address some of the most controversial faith issues of our time, including how the author came to rethink how to view the Bible, the modern church, missions, politics and faith, the “end times,” sex, homosexuality, life origins, and salvation.
- 4. The Bible is Misread** - *Confessions* exposes how the Bible is often misinterpreted, mistranslated, and misunderstood because of a lack of historical perspective. Modern traditional views of the issues above (and more) do not match what the Bible teaches about itself or how it was compiled and translated. Still an important book to be revered, how we use it needs rethinking.
- 5. Jesus did not Establish a Religious Institution or Set of Laws** - Our modern view of church and religious laws are read into the Bible, not derived from a fair exegetical reading of the New Testament’s original language (Greek). For example, *ecclesia*, the word in the NT translated as “church,” simply means “gathering.” Likewise, Christ and the Apostle Paul redefined righteous living as only following one overriding admonition: love God and love your neighbor. In myriad ways, true freedom has been stifled in traditional forms of Christianity.

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STATISTICS

Audience: Restless or disillusioned evangelicals, post-evangelicals, the emergent/missional church, progressive Christians, and the spiritual-but-not-religious.

- 26% of the American population are evangelicals (80 million people) [J.D. Payne, *Evangelical Statistics in the US and Canada*, 2010]
- Out of those, 25% are in the emergent church movement (20 million people)
- 18% of the population are affiliated with mainline churches (56 million people) and considered progressive Christians
- 33% of Americans (72 million people) consider themselves spiritual-but-not-religious [ARIS 2007]
- Young evangelicals (18- to 29-year-olds or “millenials”) are leaving the church in record numbers. Barna Group reports a 43% drop in church attendance for this group
- Seven in 10 of all millenials believe pre-marital sex is morally acceptable [Laura Stepp, CNN]
- More than six in 10 millenials support same-sex marriage [Stepp]
- Julia Duin’s book, *Quitting Church* (Baker Books), reports statistically and anecdotally the reasons why disillusioned evangelicals are leaving the church, including “restrictive church policies.”
- There are 1,927 microbreweries in the U.S. as of November 2011, up from 1,595 in 2009 [Brewers Association]
- Craft brewer sales are going up between two and three percent a year [BA]
- Amazon lists 2,212 books with “progressive Christian” titles, 850 books with “emergent church” titles, 620 with “post-evangelical” titles and 656 with “missional” titles.

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