

G. K. Chesterton. *Orthodoxy*, 1908. Electronic Reprint. Albany, OR: Ages Software 1.0, 1997.

This book is considered a Christian classic by many due to the powerful mind and wit that Chesterton regularly employs in arguing for the truth of Christianity. I think one of the reasons *Orthodoxy* is considered a classic among Protestants (Chesterton a Catholic) is because he was defending Christianity as defined in the Apostles' Creed (virtually accepted by all Christians). Personally, I had great expectations for this book from what I had heard from others and from the many times when I had read one of his pithy quotes in other books. But, I found much of the book difficult to follow. Chesterton's mind was much sharper and keener than mine ever will be! This probably accounts for most of my difficulty in following his arguments. In addition to this, he constantly refers to places and people in England that make it difficult to know exactly what he is responding or referring to unless you live in England and are well aware of the history of his day. The main idea of the book is to show critics of Christianity how he eventually believed in Jesus. So, he takes a reader on the journey he went on through much of the popular philosophical notions of his day and shows how he found Christianity to be superior and true. In that sense, it is a spiritual autobiography. Even though I had trouble understanding the significance of many portions of the book (my small group helped me with the rest!), I still was able to glean many classic thoughts and "one-liners" that are quite quotable!

Level: Medium

Theological Stance: Roman Catholic Church

Rating: 5

Recommend? Yes