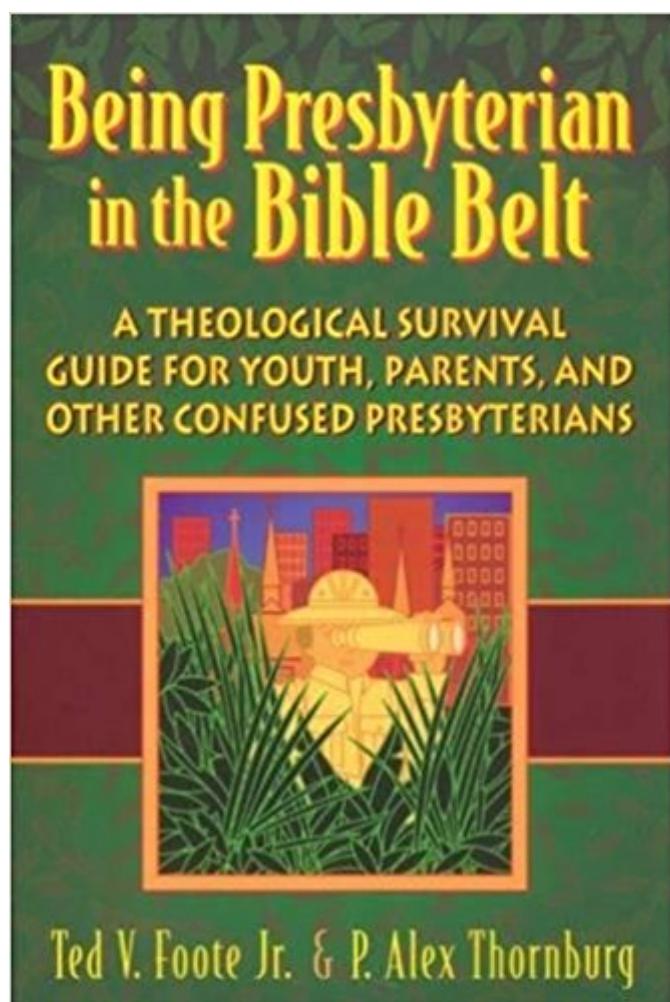


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# Being Presbyterian In The Bible Belt: A Theological Survival Guide For Youth, Parents, & Other Confused Presbyterians



## **Synopsis**

Addressing such questions as "Are You Saved, or Are You Presbyterian?" and "Is the Bible the Literal Word of God or Just a Long, Boring Book?" this is an easy-to-understand, slightly irreverent approach to theology and the kind of theological musings that many youth and others have today. Bring Presbyterian in the Bible Belt Today helps Presbyterian young people articulate their faith and respond to these questions from a mainline point of view.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ted V. Foote Jr. is Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, Texas.P. Alex Thornburg has served pastorates in Stillwater, Owasso, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Very good book used for a summer class at church. Provides some interesting opportunities for group discussion.

Since Jesus began his letters to the churches in Revelation with praise, and then critiqued, I will do the same. The positives in this book are their emphasis on grace, that God alone saves, that understanding grace should cause us to be humble and accepting of those made in God's image. I affirm that these things are true and from the Bible. However, as for the problems. I had great hopes for this book, but they were quickly dashed. The authors assume (wrongly I believe) that true Presbyterianism is of the form that has only existed for the last 80 years- a watered down,

man-centered imitation of the tradition that began over 300 years ago. They take the phrase 'God alone is Lord of the conscience' to mean that any interpretation of Scripture is valid and no one can say any one view is right! Calvin and Knox would not recognize or agree with the views stated here. Among the problems, the authors have a very wooden view of "literal". They say, if you believe the Bible is literal - the world is flat, etc. They do not take into account the idea of genre, or literary devices that the writers of Scripture used. They do not use the historic principle of letting Scripture interpret Scripture. They also don't seem to understand the difference between a "real" contradiction and an "apparent" contradiction, and thus fall on the old liberal view that "the Bible is full of contradictions". Instead of having a Word of God that we can seek truth in, the authors claim we have a book that gives us God-encountering experiences. While the authors quote the Westminster Confession at many points, they have hollowed out and weakened the very faith those Divines sought to preserve. If you are looking for a book that really defends Presbyterian and Reformed views, avoid this book. It does a disservice to all who have borne that label through history.

I joined a Presbyterian church several years ago. I thought it was similar to the Methodist of which I was a member. I didn't get sound education on their beliefs. I feel like this book is a good representative of what Presbyterians believe but as I was reading it, I felt sad; as though we are just predestined to be what we are and we have to free will. It clashes with some of my beliefs but it does explain why Presbyterians believe as they do. If you want a quick guide to their beliefs, then you will probably like it.

Great and informative book!

Being a Presbyterian who used to be a "Neo-Evangelical" I think this is a TERRIBLE reflection of the Presbyterian Church. We claim to be inclusive, but this book is so negative and misrepresentative of the Evangelical movement, that I would never want to have this taught at a Presbyterian Church! To me it is very divisive. Yes, there are issues that are incorrect with the Evangelicals - but there are many terrific Evangelicals as well. Also, for me, if I had read this prior to join the Presbyterian Church, I would not have joined in that I DO believe in the Bible, Heaven and Hell. I DO do my best to read Bible and obey - of course I fail miserably. I am grateful for God's grace, but this book is so wishy washy and loose goose that I would never recommend it to anyone.

Oh, yes, I have bought quite a few copies of this book over the years. I give them away to others

and get a new one for myself. It is a great resource for new Presbyterians, and a good refresher for life-long Presbyterians. I love it.

A clear, easy to understand resource of the diverse theological thought and ministry practices found in the Bible Belt. Useful for pastors, elders, and church members in general. Understanding one another is a key to loving one another. The authors enable Presbyterians to articulate their theology, worship, and ministry while immersed in the Bible Belt. As a Presbyterian pastor, I recommend this book.

We are using this book in our PCUSA Sunday School class down here in Bible Belt Tennessee. We have interesting discussions and all have stories about being asked about our beliefs. I recommend this book for anyone looking for reminders and/or reassurances about their beliefs.

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