



*the book of*  
**ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*



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Paul at Stephen's stoning  
32AD

Paul meets Jesus on road to  
Damascus 34AD

# Paul writes 13 NT letters to the Churches

1 & 2 Thessalonians	52-53AD
Galatians	55AD
1 & 2 Corinthians	57AD
Romans	57-58AD
Philippians- Colossians	62-63AD
Philemon- Ephesians	62-63AD
1 Timothy-Titus	65AD
2 Timothy	66AD

Saul, also known  
as Paul, was filled  
with the Holy  
Spirit... Acts 13:9



Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup> All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Acts 9:19-21





<sup>15</sup> But even before I was born,  
God chose me and called me by  
his marvelous grace. Then it  
pleased him <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son  
to me so that I would proclaim  
the Good News about Jesus to  
the Gentiles.

Galatians 1:15,16



## PAUL GOES TO ARABIA

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. <sup>17</sup> Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, *I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.*

Galatians 1:16,17





Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. <sup>12</sup> I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11,12



# PAUL RETURNS TO DAMASCUS

Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. <sup>23</sup> *After a while* some of the Jews plotted together to kill him.

Acts 9:22,23



# PAUL FLEES DAMASCUS

<sup>24</sup> They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. <sup>25</sup> So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall.

Acts 9:24,25



# PAUL FLEES DAMASCUS

When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. <sup>33</sup> I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.

2 Corinthians 11:32,33



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

<sup>26</sup> When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!                      Acts 9:26



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

<sup>27</sup> Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

Acts 9:27



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

*18* Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. *19* The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother.<sup>20</sup> I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

Galatians 1:18-20



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

<sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, *but they tried to murder him.* Acts 9:28,29



**REPENT  
TURN TO  
JESUS  
OR  
BURN**

**J  
STAU**



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

"When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' Acts 22:17-18



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

“‘But Lord,’ I argued, ‘they certainly know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup> And I was in complete agreement when your witness Stephen was killed. I stood by and kept the coats they took off when they stoned him.’            Acts 22:19,20



# PAUL GOES UP TO JERUSALEM

“Go! For I will send you far away to the  
Gentiles.” Acts 22:21



# PAUL HEADS BACK NORTH

After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup> And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn't know me personally. <sup>23</sup> All they knew was that people were saying, "*The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!*" <sup>24</sup> And they praised God because of me. Galatians 1:21-24



# PAUL IS TAKEN TO TARSSUS

*<sup>29</sup> He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him.*

When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea Maritima and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 9:29, 30



# **AFTER PAUL IS TAKEN TO TARSSUS THERE WAS PEACE**

<sup>31</sup> The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

**Acts 9:31**







**"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, *because I am humble and gentle at heart*, and you will find rest for your souls.**

**Matthew 11:28-29**

For I am the least of all the apostles.

In fact, I'm not even worthy to be  
called an apostle after the way  
I persecuted God's church.

1 Corinthians 15:9



## **Anthony Flew**

One of the world's most outspoken atheists in the twentieth century. For over 50 years he was the main player on the stage leading the war against the existence of God.



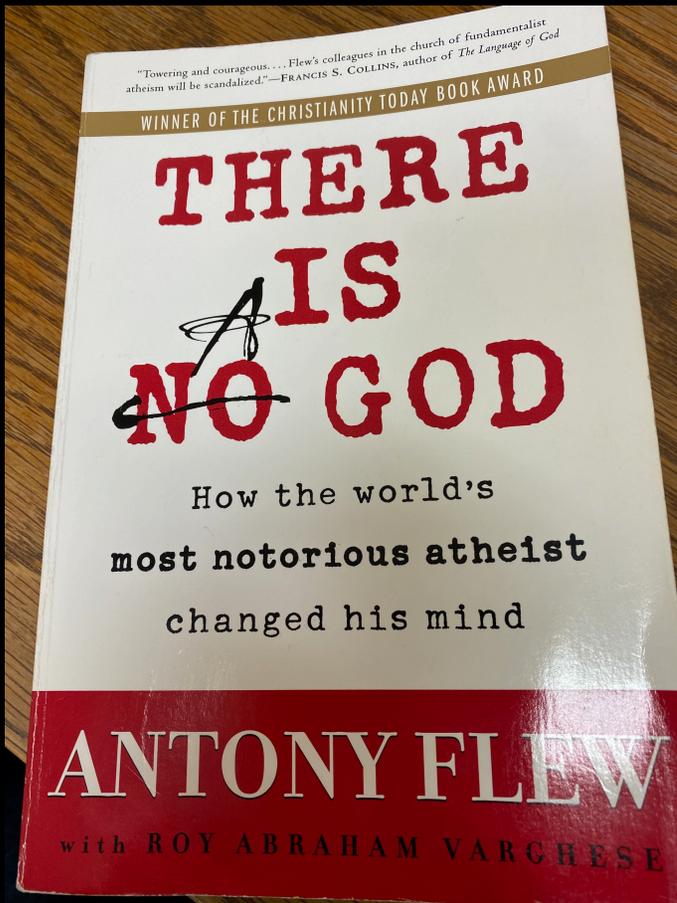
## **Anthony Flew**

Flew engaged in spirited debates with Christians like C.S. Lewis. He authored or co-authored over 30 books championing atheism.



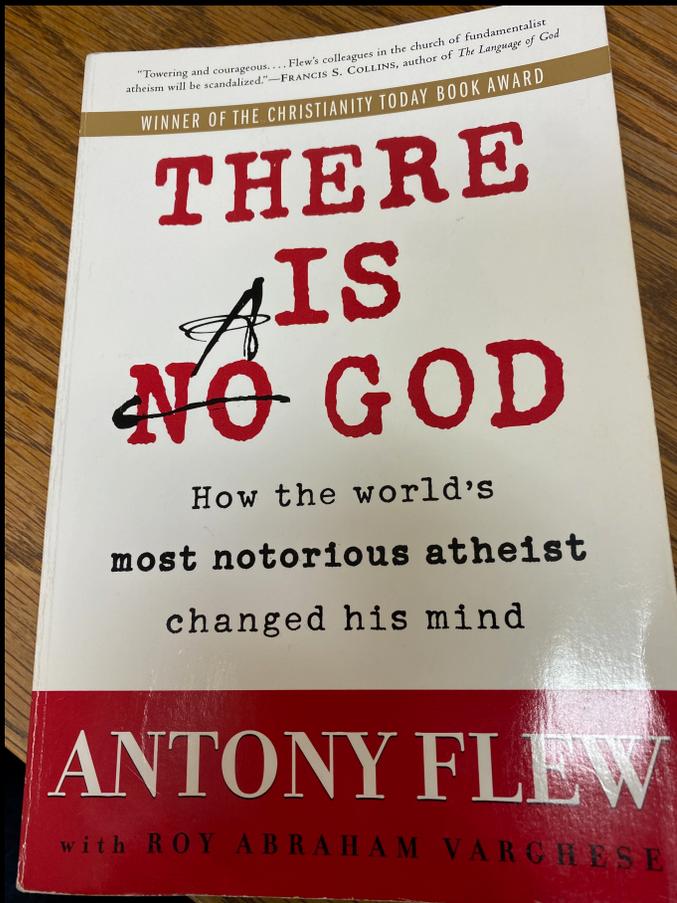
## **Anthony Flew**

But in 2003 he changed course and became to everyone's surprise a deist, a believer in the existence of an all-powerful creator God.

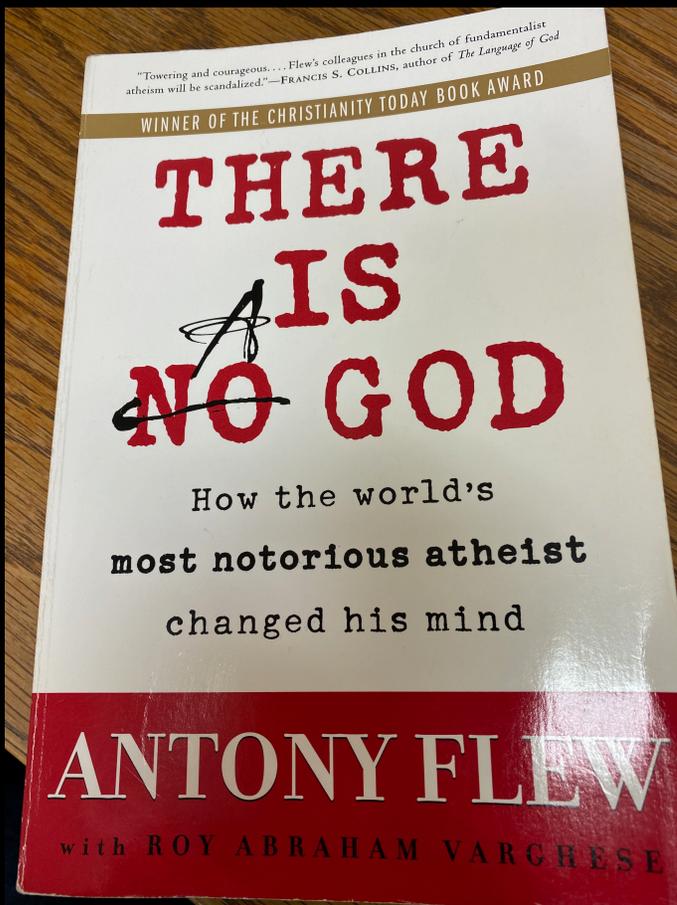


In 2004, just a few years before his passing, wrote the book,

*"There is a God. How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind."*



"I think that the Christian religion is the one religion that deserves to be honored and respected whether or not it's claim to be divine revelation is true. There is nothing like the combination of a charismatic figure like Jesus and a first class intellectual like St. Paul.



"Virtually all the argument about the content of (Christianity) was produced by St. Paul, who had a brilliant philosophical mind and could both speak and write in all relevant languages. If you're wanting "Omnipotence" (All powerful God) to set up a religion, this is the one to beat."

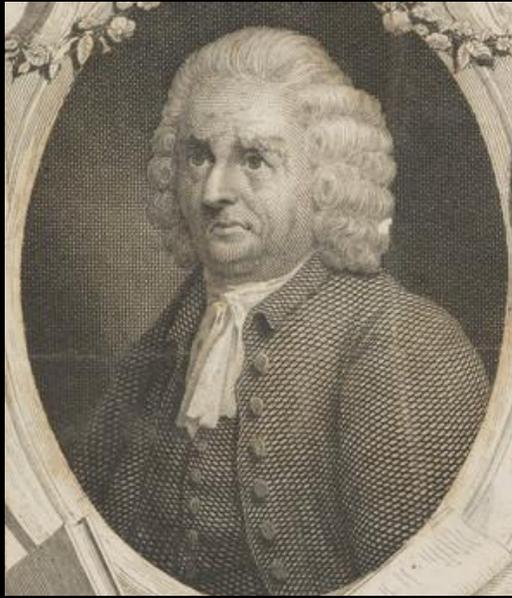
Although I am less than the least of all  
the Lord's people, this grace was given  
me: to preach to the Gentiles the  
boundless riches of Christ.

Ephesians 3:8

Here is a trustworthy saying that  
deserves full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to  
save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1 Timothy 1:15

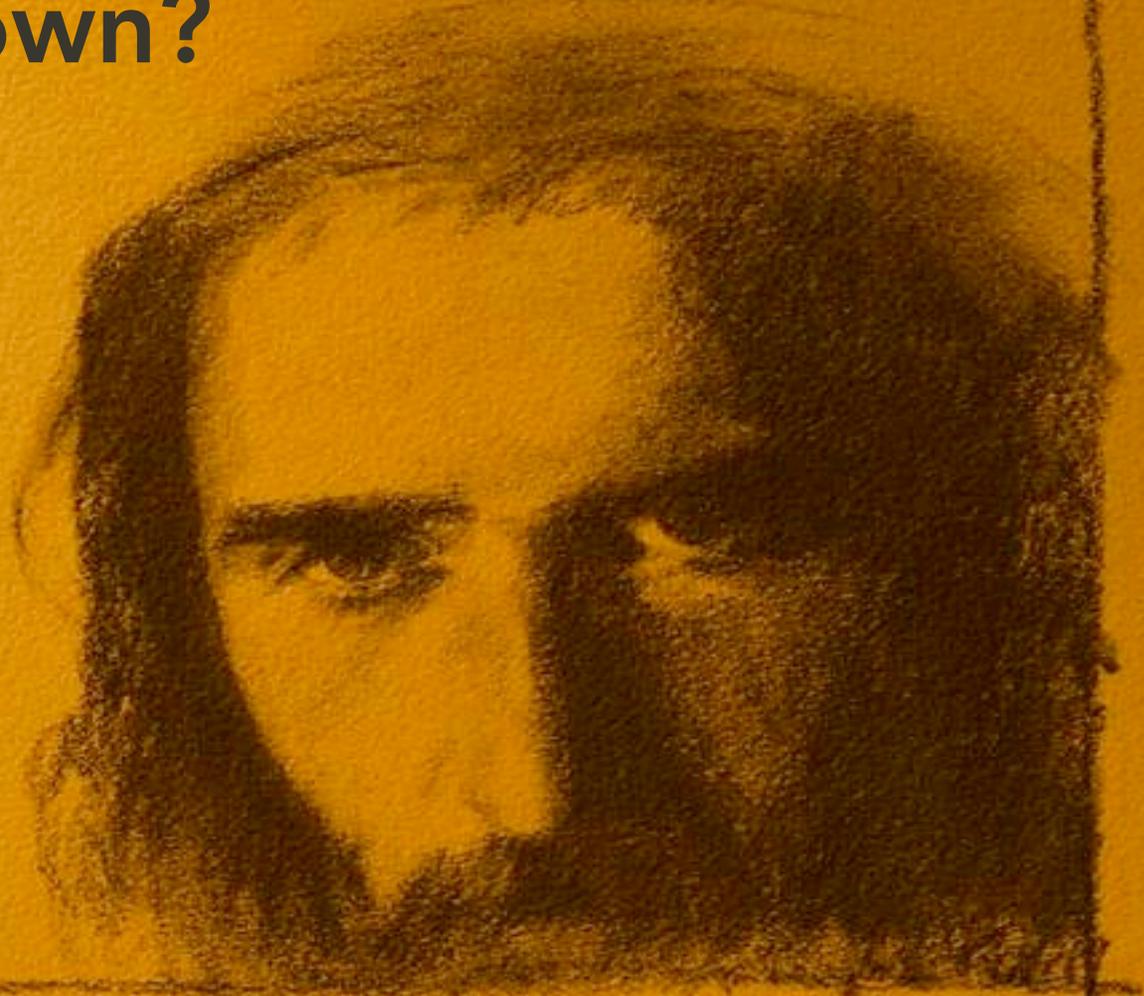


**As 18th century Anglican William Law said:**

*"As we grow we become less  
accommodating of sin in our own lives but  
less judgmental of sin in the life of others."*

**And why worry about a speck in  
your friend's eye when you have  
a log in your own?**

**Matthew 7:3**



From my Tribune article 1997:

“It can be tremendously difficult to live righteously in an un-righteous world. We must prepare for people to hate us for our faith. But that is entirely different from people who hate us because we are judgmental and self-righteous.



<sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.

Acts 11:25, 26

But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:16



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