

# **WHY PEOPLE STOP BELIEVING**

**PAUL CHAMBERLAIN, PH.D.**

**ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS  
TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY**

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

**Preparation: No longer a luxury.**

**It is required!**

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

## New Reality: Critics of Christianity

- Know your faith
- Once believed it themselves
- Walked away
- Well informed

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

Need not only to Share the faith  
but Keep it, too.

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

## Caveat:

- Issue: not technically “new”
- Recent wave

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

## 1. What makes these critics different?

- credibility attributed to them
- critics themselves: insider's knowledge
- formulation of their objections

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

## 2. What kind of leader rejects the faith?

- Tidy categories are elusive
- Various causes/motivating factors
- Could no longer “fake it”

## WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

### 3. How does someone make such a profound change?

- “Help” is available: Surprising support mechanism
- *The Clergy project*
- *Recovering From Religion*
- *Christians Anonymous*
- *Many other groups*

## WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

### 4. What explicit reasons are given for rejecting the faith?

- Undermine God
- Undermine the New Testament
- Undermine the supernatural
- Celebrate new-found freedom:  
Time to party!

# WHY PEOPLE ABANDON THE FAITH

## Our encouragement to you:

- Prepare yourself to give answers to questions like these because they are coming to a neighbourhood near you.