

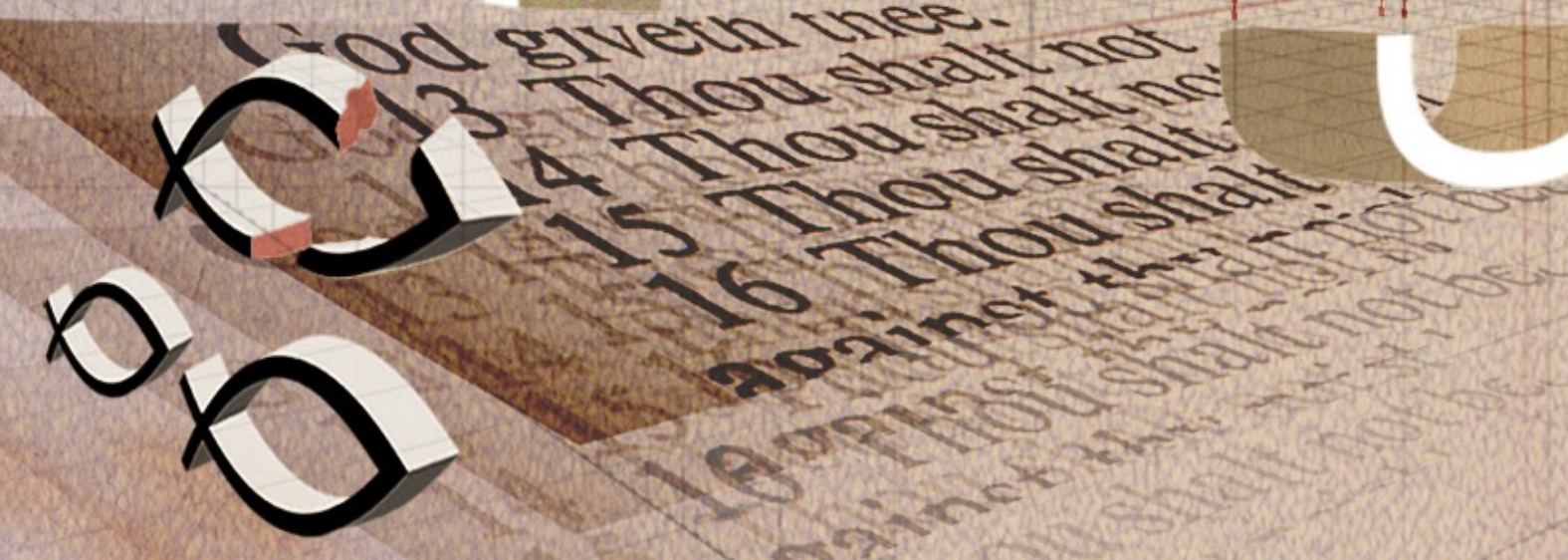
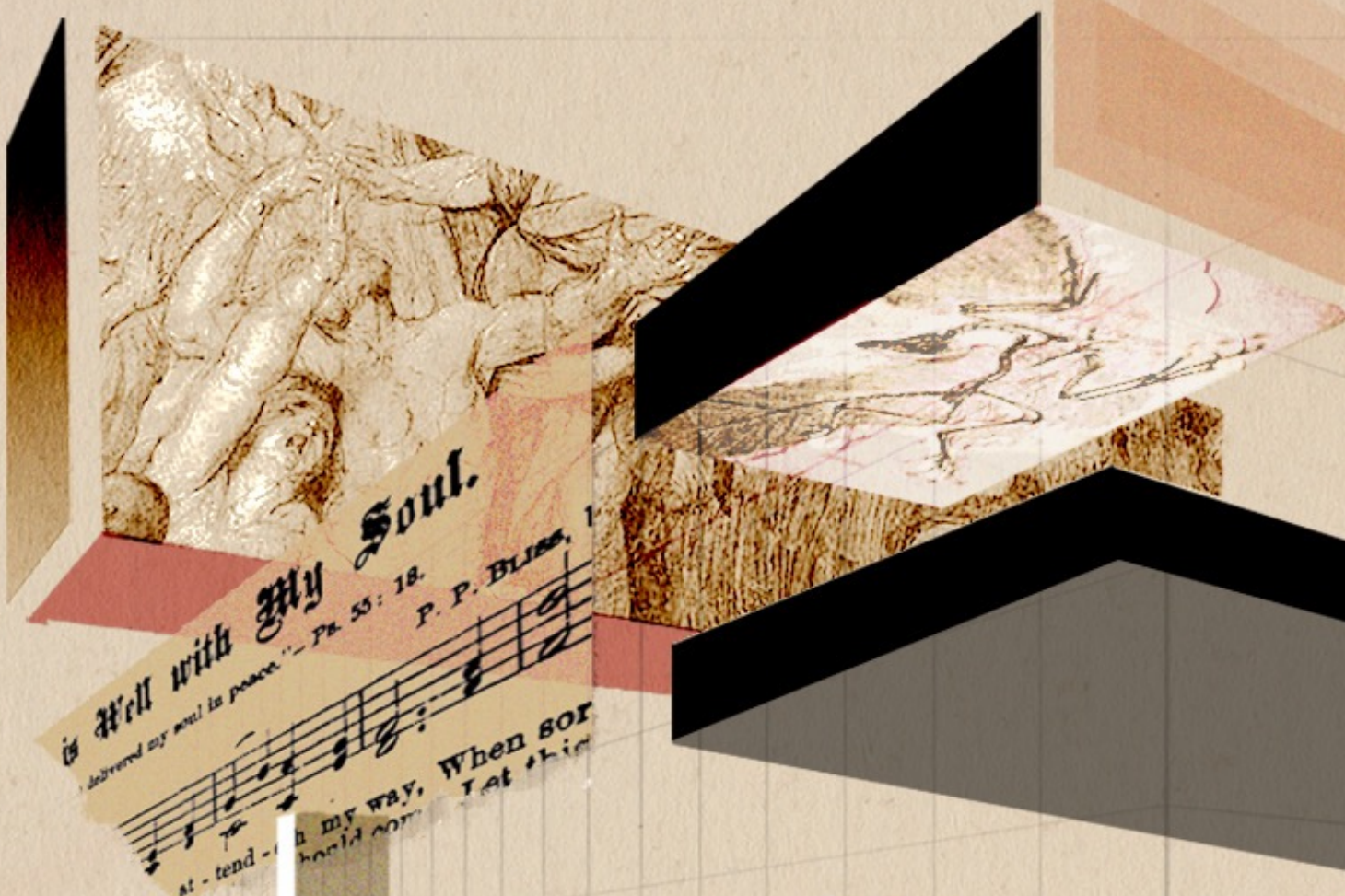






under reconstruction

Rebuilding a Lasting Faith



God giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not
14 Thou shalt not
15 Thou shalt not
16 Thou shalt
against the
17 Thou shalt not
18 Thou shalt not
19 Thou shalt not
20 Thou shalt not

Construction

Deconstruction

Reconstruction

Construction

Belief: Food comes directly from God.

Deconstruction

Dismantle that belief: What about farms and stores?

Reconstruction

Belief: Ultimately food comes from God, but not directly.

Deconstruction

The process of dismantling one's beliefs.

Deconstruction is the new norm. Nearly 60 percent of people raised in Christian churches deconstruct their faith following high school... Faith deconstruction isn't a one-size-fits-all experience. Nor does it always entail walking away from one's faith.

After Doubt: How to Question Your Faith without Losing it

A.J. Swoboda

January 7: Under Construction

January 14: What if I Love Jesus but Struggle with Christians?

January 21: Suffering

January 28: Science & Faith

February 4: The Bible

February 11: The Exclusive Claims of Christ

¹ After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Matthew 11:1-3 (NIV)

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Matthew 11:1-3 (NIV)

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

³⁴ I have seen, and I testify that this is God's
Chosen One."

John 1:34 (NIV)

³ "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Matthew 11:3b (NIV)

John the Baptist

Construction: Jesus is the *Messiah* who will bring the Kingdom – immediately.

Deconstruction: But the Kingdom has not come. Is Jesus the *Messiah*?

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Matthew 11:4-6 (NIV)

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...

Matthew 11:11 (NIV)

Construction – Deconstruction – Reconstruction

1. It can happen to anyone.

Construction – Deconstruction – Reconstruction

1. It can happen to anyone.
2. Deconstruction can come from mistaken expectations.

John the Baptist – Mistaken Expectation

Expectation: If Jesus is the *Messiah*, I should not be in prison.

Deconstruction: Maybe Jesus is not the *Messiah*.

Christians Today – Mistaken Expectation

Expectation: People who call themselves Christians follow Jesus.

Deconstruction: But many times, Christians don't follow Jesus.

Construction – Deconstruction – Reconstruction

1. It can happen to anyone.
2. Deconstruction can come from mistaken expectations.
3. We are most vulnerable to walk away from the faith when we go through the deconstruction process alone.

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Matthew 11:1-3 (NIV)







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