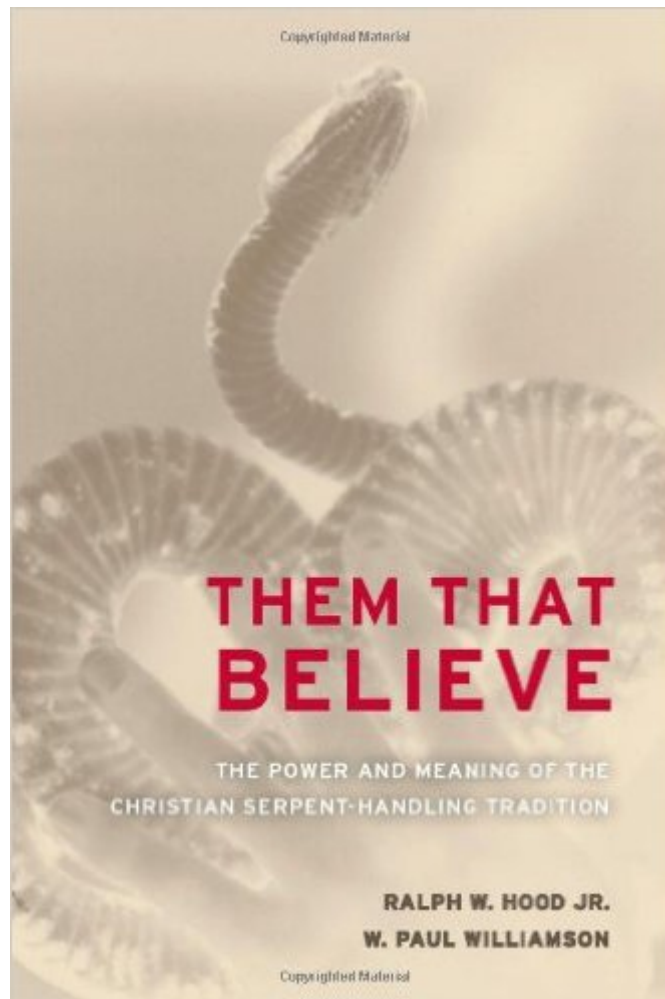


The book was found

# Them That Believe: The Power And Meaning Of The Christian Serpent-Handling Tradition



## Synopsis

Although outlawed in many states, serpent handling remains an active religious practice—and one that is far more stereotyped than understood. Ralph W. Hood, Jr. and W. Paul Williamson have spent fifteen years touring serpent-handling churches in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and West Virginia, conducting scores of interviews with serpent handlers, and witnessing hundreds of serpent-handling services. In this illuminating book they present the most in-depth, comprehensive study of serpent handling to date. *Them That Believe* not only explores facets of this religious practice—including handling, preaching, and the near-death experiences of individuals who were bitten but survived—but also provides a rich analysis of this phenomenon from historical, social, religious, and psychological perspectives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is not an entertaining book at all. It isn't intended to be one. The authors are very studied men who have devoted more time than anyone else in forming healthy, respectful relationships with serpent handlers. This reads like a textbook or a thesis paper so be sure you are looking for scholarly reading if you purchase this. My hat goes off to these men for their work sociological work and the deep respect that they show to those about whom they are writing.

Interesting and informative. Good documentary photography about an intriguing topic. This would be of value to the scholar or the person with a special interest in religious practices in Appalachia. The

serpent handlers are a small group compared to the membership in various other churches, but the nature of their beliefs and practices makes them very interesting.

This is really fascinating. Made me almost (only almost) want to go out and give it a try. Living far to the North that is thankfully not an option!

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