Christian Evidences

Course Syllabus Zach Breitenbach, MA, MBA, PhD

<u>Course Description</u>: This course introduces students to Christian apologetics, preparing them to provide a reasoned defense of the Christian faith by exploring philosophical, historical, and scientific evidence for the truth of Christianity.

Course objectives:

- Define Christian apologetics and understand why it is biblical and important.
- Understand the relationship between Christianity and science.
- Learn arguments for the existence of God.
- Articulate the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.
- Respond to the problem of evil, a common objection to belief in God.
- Apply apologetics in everyday conversations.
- Grow in your own faith and become more confident to share your faith.

Lecture Series:

- Lesson One: Intro to Christian Apologetics and Truth; the Importance of God's Existence
- Lesson Two: Science & Christianity; Evidence for a Creator of the Universe
- Lesson Three: Evidence of Intelligent Design (Fine-Tuning and DNA)
- Lesson Four: Moral Argument for God; Evidence of the Supernatural (NDEs)
- Lesson Five: Historical Evidence for Jesus's Resurrection
- Lesson Six: Responding to the Problem of Suffering and Evil

Course requirements:

- Watch the course lectures (there are 6 course lectures)
- Attend cohort discussions (there are 1-2 cohort discussion meetings)
- Required reading: William Lane Craig, On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision
- Memorize ten verses: Isaiah 45:18; Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 15:17; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 4:5-6; Hebrews 11:3; 1 Peter 3:15-16; 1 John 1:5
- Pass final exam

Digging Deeper—Recommended Readings:

- Connection Pointe Christian Church Worldview Website: <u>https://worldview.cp.church</u>
- Room For Doubt Website: <u>www.roomfordoubt.com</u>
- John Burke, Imagine Heaven
- John Burke, Imagine the God of Heaven
- William Lane Craig and Joseph E. Gorra, A Reasonable Response: Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible
- Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist
- Craig Keener, Miracles Today: The Supernatural Work of God in the Modern World
- Richard A. Knopp, Truth About God: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?
- Gregory Koukl, Tactics: 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions
- J. Steve Miller, Near-Death Experiences as Evidence for the Existence of God and Heaven

- J. P. Moreland, A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles: Instruction and Inspiration for Living Supernaturally in Christ
- Lee Strobel, The Case for Miracles: A Journalist Investigates Evidence For The Supernatural
- Lee Strobel, Seeing the Supernatural: Investigating Angels, Demons, Mystical Dreams, Near-Death Encounters, and Other Mysteries of the Unseen World

Digging Deeper—Recommended Videos:

- William Lane Craig's "Reasonable Faith" animated videos briefly sum up many topics we covered in the course: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idDoRftSuRU&list=PL3gdeV4Rk9EfL-</u> <u>NyraEGXXwSjDNeMaRoX</u>
- John Burke's "Imagine Heaven" YouTube Channel is a great way to learn more about near-death experiences: <u>https://www.youtube.com/@JohnBurkeImagineHeaven</u>
- Rich Knopp's videos on science and Christianity (Room For Doubt): <u>https://roomfordoubt.com/science-christianity</u>
- Rich Knopp's videos explaining a Christian worldview and critically evaluating non-Christian philosophies and religions (Room For Doubt): <u>https://roomfordoubt.com/worldview-curriculum</u>