

PH.D. IN APPLIED APOLOGETICS

Field Essay Study Guide

Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

1. Compare and contrast the following approaches to Christian apologetics: classical, evidential, presuppositional and fideist.
2. Though the Bible has come under a severe scrutiny in modern historical criticism, discuss reasons why the Old and New Testaments should be regarded as reliable.
3. Describe the significance of the major figures in the history of Christian apologetics.
4. Discuss the classical arguments for God's existence (cosmological, teleological, moral and ontological).
5. Prepare a response to the postmodern postulate that truth does not exist, that everything is relative.

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Field Essay Reading List

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General

Geisler, Norm, ed. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Apologetics Theory and History

Boa, Kenneth, and Robert Bowman. *Faith Has Its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.

Cowen, Steve, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Lewis, Gordon. *Testing Christianity's Truth Claims*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1990.

Arguments for God's Existence

Boa, Kenneth, and Robert Bowman. *20 Compelling Evidences That God Exists: Discover Why Believing in God Makes So Much Sense*. Tulsa: RiverOak Publishing, 2002.

Craig, William Lane. *Reasonable Faith*. Wheaton: Good News, 1994.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper, 2001.

Moreland, J. P. *Scaling the Secular City*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987.

Historical Jesus and Bible Defense

Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007.

Bruce, F.F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Kaiser, Walter. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Moreland, J. P., and Michael Wilkins, eds. *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Postmodern Apologetics

Beckwith, Francis, and Gregory Koukl. *Relativism: Feet Planted Firmly in Mid-Air*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Copan, Paul. *That's Just Your Interpretation: Responding to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

_____. *True for You, but Not for Me: Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998.