



# The Areopagus

Jan / Feb 2026

## UPDATE



— Our 2026 Areopagus Seminar —

### America's Mixed Heritage

The Christian and Secular Influences in the Founding and Development of America

*America was not founded as a 'Christian nation', but it was founded as a Christian-influenced nation*

*by Jeffrey Breshears*

The summer of 2026 will mark the “semiquincentennial” (250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. For many Americans this will be a time of celebration and thanksgiving, while for others a time of embarrassment and regret. On both sides there will be a considerable amount of misinformation regarding America’s past. Some Christians are prone to sanitize our nation’s past, while many secular liberals and socialists regard much of our history as shameful and the product of violence, conquest, racism exploitation, greed, and social injustice.

So what are the facts, and to what extent was America influenced both by biblical/Christian principles but also by secular/Enlightenment social and political ideals? This course will explore that and other similar questions honestly and factually in keeping with the realities of America’s mixed heritage. In this course we explore the most significant and influential individuals, issues and events in American history so as to broaden and deepen our understanding of our nation’s past. The United States of America has been the most



consequential nation in world history for more than a century, and it has also been a major center for the spread of the Christian faith worldwide. Therefore, as committed

*(Continued)*

### Areopagus Seminars

#### A History of Christianity In America



— SUNDAYS —

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

11:30 AM / Room 277

An in-depth study of American Christian history that covers the most important movements, people, issues and events in our nation’s unique religious heritage.

Join us beginning in January for our new study of the lives and legacies of four of the most significant Christian influencers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

C. S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., and Billy Graham.



## America's Mixed Heritage

(Continued)

Christians we should understand the major forces that influenced this nation religiously, culturally, morally, and politically. Once we realize how unique our nation has been, it should also inspire and motivate us to become all the more cognizant and concerned regarding the great challenges we face today.

In many respects the United States has been the most dominant nation in the world since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it has been a major center for the spread of the Christian faith worldwide. And while our history has been seriously flawed in many ways from the outset, America remains the premier beacon of liberty, justice and opportunity in the world.

Some of the relevant themes that we explore in this course include:

1. The Two Americas: Origins of America's Culture War
  - Biblical Christianity v. secular libertarian individualism.
2. Early Christian Influences in Colonial America
  - Anglicanism, Congregationalism, Presbyterianism, Baptists, Quakers, Methodism, et al.

- The impact and influence of the Great Awakening.
3. Natural Law, Classical Liberalism, and the American Revolution
    - Enlightenment rationalism, Natural Law, and Natural rights.
    - Christian influences on the American Revolution.
  4. Was America Founded as a 'Christian Nation'?
    - The historical facts and the erroneous assumptions regarding this concept.
  5. Secular and Christian Influences in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries
    - The impact of secular humanism and liberal Christianity.
  6. America's Current Crisis
    - C. S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer on Christian cultural engagement.
    - Christian Reconstructionism, "Christian Nationalism," and the New Apostolic Reformation.

Join us for what will be a very substantive, engaging and relevant course on a topic that will be much discussed, and often misrepresented, in 2026.

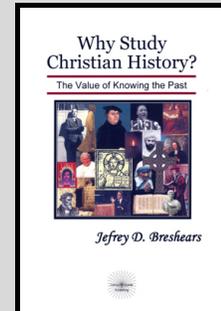
### PLEASE NOTE:

As an independent ministry, The Areopagus relies upon the financial support of our Areopagus Associates – those who value our work and feel led to contribute financially to help us continue to expand our outreach. If you would like to contribute, you can do so in either of two ways:

- (1) Go to [www.TheAreopagus.org](http://www.TheAreopagus.org) and click on the "Donate" button; or
- (2) Make checks payable to "The Areopagus, Inc." and mail them to...

The Areopagus, Inc.  
1220 William Robert Drive SW  
Marietta, GA 30008

## Why Study Christian History? The Value of Knowing the Past



*Dr. Breshears' new book is an apologetic – a reasoned argument – for the value of knowing history: Why historical knowledge is essential for those who take their Christian beliefs seriously and desire to be effective witnesses for Christ.*

*The Christian faith is unique in that it is founded on historical realities – not on esoteric "spiritual" imaginations, pseudo-intellectual speculations, or humanistic principles. Ultimately, the only reason for being a Christian is if in fact the Christian faith is True. In other words, does it correspond with Reality – including established historical realities?*

*In the study of history we encounter the most significant and influential people, issues and events of the past – knowledge that is necessary for understanding the true nature of humanity and the present time in which we live.*

*Historical consciousness is also essential to thinking and living conscientiously in accord with a wholistic biblical worldview. Therefore, it is an integral element of Christian discipleship.*

Why Study Christian History?  
by Jeffrey D. Breshears  
will be available in January 2026  
at Amazon.com