The Areopagus

Seminar Catalogue

Seminars and Workshops in

Biblical studies
Christian history
Apologetics
Contemporary cultural studies
Christian spiritual formation
Literature and the arts



The Areopagus Seminar Catalogue



The Areopagus* is a Christian education ministry that provides seminars, workshops and forums on topics relevant to contemporary Christian life and education.

The mission of The Areopagus is to help educate and equip Christians to understand their faith in more depth so they can engage others more effectively with the life-transforming truth and love of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer a substantive curriculum that broadens and deepens their knowledge base, stimulates critical thinking, and challenges them to live faithfully and consistently in accord with the principles and practices of a wholistic Biblical Christian worldview.

Areopagus seminars and workshops are seminary-level courses that are offered at a nominal cost, and include a wide variety of topics in Biblical studies, Christian history, apologetics, comparative worldviews and religions, contemporary cultural issues, Christian spirituality, and literature and the arts. Most seminars are one-semester (18-hour) courses, but we also offer many short-term classes and lectures on various topics.

Through our seminars, forums, and other special events, The Areopagus provides a unique opportunity for Christians to come together in a vibrant learning environment that is intellectually stimulating, socially engaging, and spiritually edifying.



Jefrey D. Breshears
Founder and President, The Areopagus

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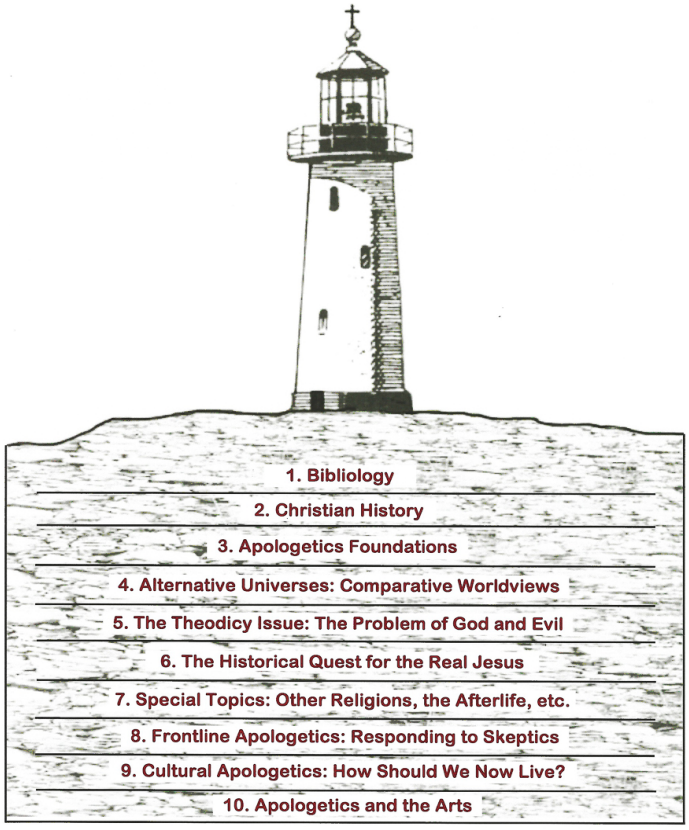
* In Christian history the term '**Areopagus**' has often been used to represent the intersection of Christian faith and culture. In first century Athens the Areopagus functioned as a philosophical and cultural forum for the exchange of ideas, and it was there that the apostle Paul brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to Europe (ref. Acts 17:16*ff*).

Seminar Curriculum

The Areopagus provides a systematic curriculum designed to broaden and deepen one's understanding of the historic Christian faith. These are substantive courses in terms of their content, but they are taught in an interactive and engaging manner that serious Christians find stimulating, inspiring and practical.

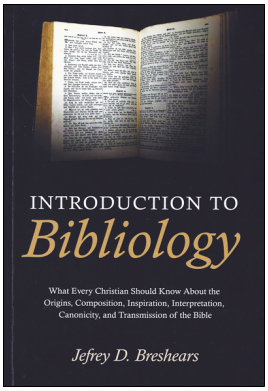
As the graphic below illustrates, the Areopagus seminar curriculum is derived from a foundation in Biblical literacy with the goal of educating and equipping Christians to understand their faith in more depth so they might share it more effectively with others. Most of our core courses are semester-length (12-weeks, 18-hours), and each includes supplementary readings and detailed outline notes. In addition, we also offer many short-term classes and lectures on various topics.

Although there is a systematic and sequential order to our curriculum, we offer these courses according to the priorities and preferences of our audience and host group. Cumulatively, these courses provide an in-depth treatment of Christian history and apologetics that is far broader than what is offered in most seminaries.



BIBLIOLOGY

An Introduction To Bibliology: What Every Christian Should Know About the Origins, Composition, Inspiration, Interpretation, Canonization, and Transmission of the Bible

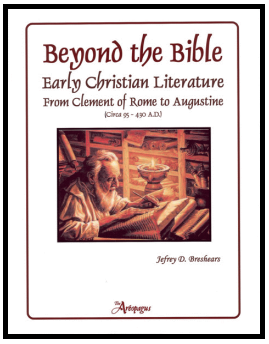


Virtually everything Christians believe about metaphysical truth is derived either directly or inferentially from the Bible. But over the past 250 years the Bible has been subjected to intense criticism – not only by nonbelievers but often by scholars, theologians and ministers who profess to be Christians. This is why it is imperative that Christians understand not only *what* the Bible teaches but *why* we should trust it as an infallible guide for what we believe and how we live.

Based on Jefrey Breshears' book, *An Introduction To Bibliology*, the Areopagus seminar in Bibliology is an interactive study built around directed readings and focused discussions on 7 key issues related to the development of an informed and thoughtful philosophy of the Bible.

1. What Is the Bible?
2. The Philosophy of the Bible: Components of a Biblical Worldview.
3. Biblical Inspiration and Revelation.
4. Biblical Hermeneutics: Basic Principles of Interpretation.
5. Biblical Canonicity: Why Were Certain Books Included and Excluded from the Biblical Canon?
6. Composition of the Bible and the Earliest Extant Manuscripts.
7. Biblical Textual Criticism: Has the Bible Been Accurately Preserved and Transmitted Through the Centuries?

Beyond the Bible: A Study of Early Christian Literature



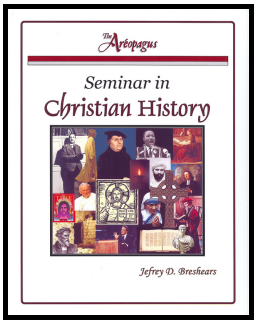
A study of the writings of the Church Fathers and other early Christian literature from the late-1st century to Augustine, including...

- *I Clement*
- *The Didache*
- *The Epistle of Barnabas*
- *The Shepherd of Hermas*
- The epistles of Ignatius
- *The Martyrdom of Polycarp*
- Athenagoras' *Supplication for the Christians*
- Excerpts from Irenaeus' *Against Heresies*
- Excepts from the writings of Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, and Origen.
- Excerpts from Augustine's *Confessions* and *City of God*
- ... and others.

CHRISTIAN HISTORY

A Survey of Christian History

A comprehensive 5-semester series that covers the most significant people, issues, and events in Christian history from the founding of the early church through the Reformation era. This curriculum is ideal for Christians who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the origins, expansion, development, and the influence of Christianity through the ages.



Semester 1: Christian History: The Cultural Context

The history, culture and religion of Hebrew/Jewish civilization from Abraham to the time of Christ, and classical Greco-Roman (Hellenistic) civilization from 500 B.C. to the first century A.D.

Semester 2: Jesus and the Apostolic Age (c. 1-100 A.D.)

Semester 3: The Post-Apostolic and Constantinian Eras (c. 100-430)

Semester 4: Medieval Christendom (c. 500-1517)

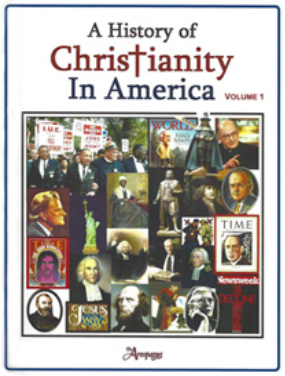
Semester 5: The Reformation Era (c. 1517-1650)

The 20 Most Significant and Influential People in Christian History

Women In the Early Church: A Biblical and Historical Study

A study of the status of women in the Bible and early church history that analyzes and critiques the arguments for male supremacy, complementarianism, equalitarianism, and radical feminism.

A History of Christianity In America



An in-depth 4-semester series of courses that covers the most significant people, issues and events in American Christian history from colonial times to the present.

Semester 1: The Colonial Era Through the American Revolution (1607-1783)

Semester 2: The Founding of the American Republic Through the Civil War (1787-1865)

Semester 3: From 1865 To 1932

Semester 4: From 1932 To the Present

The 20 Most Significant and Influential People in American Christian History

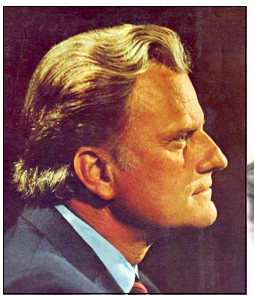
Why Study Christian History? The Value of Understanding the Past

A 3-hour presentation on why a biblically-based philosophy of history is such an essential component in the development of a coherent, consistent, and comprehensive Christian world-view.

Lights of the 20th Century

The life and works of significant and influential 20th century Christians, including:

- **Watchman Nee**
- **Sadhu Sundar Singh**
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**
- **C. S. Lewis**
- **Martin Luther King Jr.**
- **Aleksander Solzhenitsyn**
- **Billy Graham**
- **Francis Schaeffer**







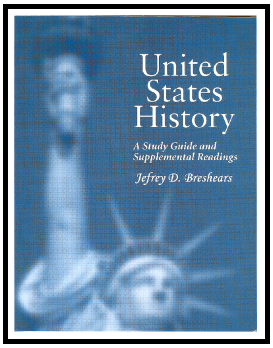
WORLD HISTORY & RELIGIONS

Ancient and Classical Greece (c. 1500-323 B.C.)

Ancient and Classical Rome (c. 753 B.C. - 476 A.D.)

A Survey of United States History

Semester 1: Colonization To the Civil War (1492-1860)
Semester 2: The Civil War To World War II (1861-1941)
Semester 3: World War II To the Present (1941-present)



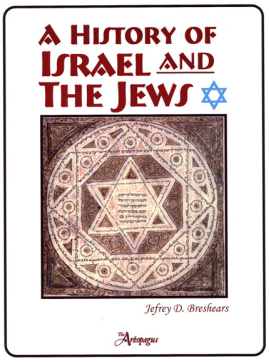
A History of Israel and the Jews

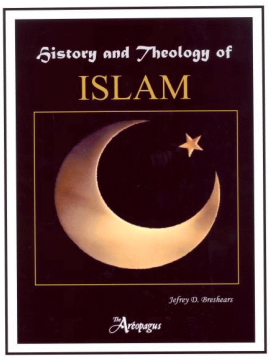
A History of Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust

The History and Theology of Islam

The Vedic Tradition and Hinduism

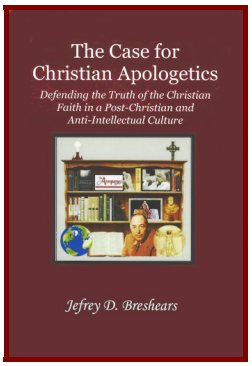
The History and Philosophy of Buddhism





CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Apologetics Foundations



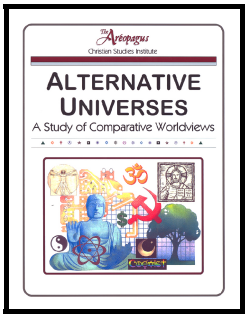
Apologetics Foundations is Part 1 in our Areopagus apologetics curriculum, designed to help Christians understand the Christian faith in more depth and equip them to share their faith more effectively with non-believers. In particular, this course focuses on 4 foundational topics:

1. The Case for Christian Apologetics and the Problem of Christian Anti-intellectualism
2. The Absolute Truth About Relativism
3. Science, Reason, and the Christian Faith
4. The God Who Is: The Case for Original Monotheism and the Classical and Contemporary Arguments for the Existence of God

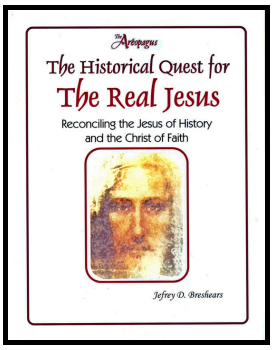
Alternative Universes: A Study of Comparative Worldviews

An in-depth comparison and contrast between Biblically-based Christian Theism and alternative worldviews including...

- Deism
- Atheistic Naturalism
- Nihilism
- Existentialism
- Secular humanism
- Postmodernism
- Eastern Pantheism
- The New Age



The Historical Quest for the Real Jesus: Reconciling the 'Jesus of History' and the 'Christ of Faith'



The question, "Who is Jesus?" is the central issue of the Christian faith. Until a couple of hundred years ago virtually no one challenged the historicity of Jesus, and few imagined any disjunction between the "Jesus of history"as presented in the New Testament and the "Christ of faith" that Christians worship as their spiritual Savior. But since then, these issues have become topics of major debates among Bible scholars, philosophers and theologians.

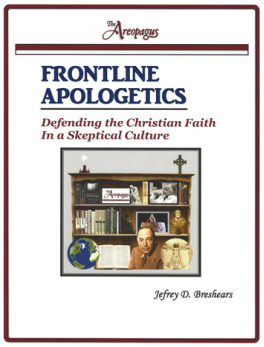
Much is at stake in this controversy including the historical reliability of the Bible, the validity of Christian preaching, teaching, and evangelism, and the inherent credibility of the Christian faith. This makes it imperative that we understand why Christians have traditionally believed that Jesus Christ was the divine Savior of humanity – and why these claims are historically credible.

The Theodicy Issue: Reconciling the Realities of God and Evil

Christians believe that God is great and God is good, and yet evil and suffering are pervasive realities in this world. This is troubling because we assume that if God were truly great he would have the *power* to destroy evil and suffering in this world, and if God were truly good he would *want* to eradicate evil and suffering. So how do we reconcile the coexistence of God and evil?

This course examines the theodicy issue through 3 mediums – Biblical theology, philosophy, and the arts – and in the process we address issues including the sources of suffering; suffering as a pathway to grace and redemption; and questions such as: Is the problem of God and evil a good argument for atheism? and Why does God allow evil and suffering?

Frontline Apologetics: How To Explain and Defend the Christian Faith To Spiritual Seekers, Religious Skeptics, and Argumentative Contrarians



Many Christians are hesitant to share their faith because they feel unprepared to handle tough questions and challenges from spiritual seekers and religious skeptics (not to mention, questions by children!). This course covers a wide range of contemporary questions and issues that non-Christians raise, and equips Christians to handle these objections clearly, thoughtfully and effectively in a Christ-like spirit.

C. S. Lewis: The Life and Works of a 'Mere Christian'

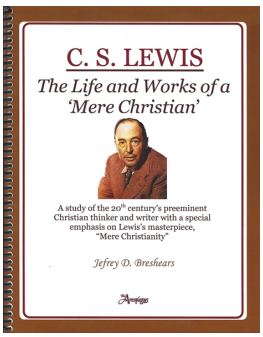
Many Christians regard C. S. Lewis as the premier Christian thinker of the 20th century. This course explores the most significant events in Lewis' life and his major works that have inspired millions with his brilliant insights into the depths of Christian thought and spirituality.

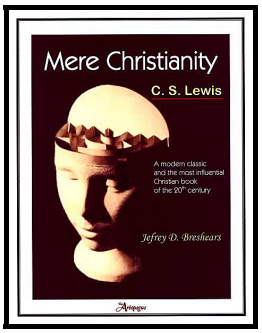
C. S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity"

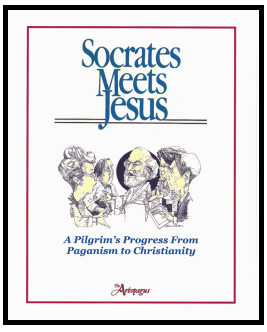
An in-depth study of perhaps the most brilliant and influential Christian book of the 20th century. *Mere Christianity* is an unparalleled intellectual and spiritual feast.

Socrates Meets Jesus: A Pilgrim's Progress From Paganism to Christianity

The origins of philosophy, and how an honest pursuit of Truth, Goodness and Beauty will lead to the Ultimate Source of all Reality: the God of the Bible as manifest in Jesus Christ.





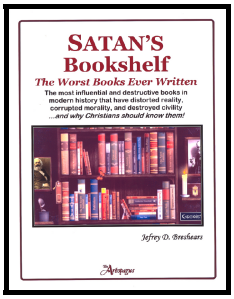


Great Books of the Last 50 Years

Featuring some of the most significant and influential writings in recent decades, these books are known for their rich spiritual and cultural content. As such, they are not only informative and enlightening but truly edifying and inspiring for Christians who strive to love and serve God with all our heart, soul, and mind. Included in this study are reviews of modern classics including Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, Henri Nouwen's *The Way of the Heart*, Philip Rieff's *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*, Francis Schaeffer's *How Should We Then Live*, Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ*, Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*, Mark Noll's *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey's *How Now Shall We Live?*, Rod Dreher's *Live Not By Lies*, and others.



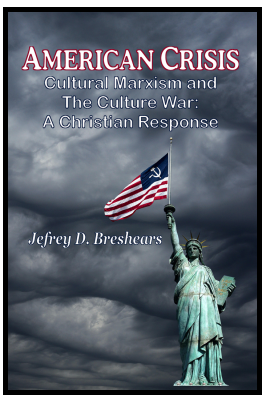
Satan's Bookshelf: The Worst Books Ever Written... and Why Christians Should Know Them!



A review and critique of influential books in modern history that have distorted reality, corrupted morality, and undermined the Christian faith including Machiavelli's *The Prince* (1513), Joseph Smith's *Book of Mormon* (1827), Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* (1848), Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859), Sigmund Freud's *The Future of an Illusion* (1927), Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals* (1971), Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion* (2006), and many others.

[SEMINARS IN CULTURAL APOLOGETICS]

Part 1: The History and Philosophy of Cultural Marxism, and How It Has Impacted American Society and Culture



Based on Jefrey Breshears' book, *American Crisis*, this course is an in-depth study of the philosophical, historical and religious factors that have undermined America's moral, social and cultural values and led to the emergence of secular humanism, neo-Marxist ideology, 'critical theory,' and the radical LGBTQ agenda. As a result of these insidious influences, virtually every aspect of American life has been corrupted.

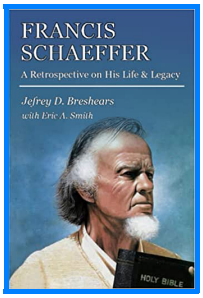
What were the origins of this spiritual, social and political revolution, how did this transformation occur, and what has been the legacy of this cultural shift? This course provides the essential background information to make sense of the issues and events that so threaten America today.

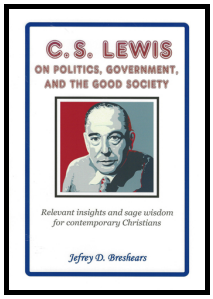
Part 2: How Should We Now Live? The Challenges and Opportunities of Living in a 'Post-Christian' Society and Culture

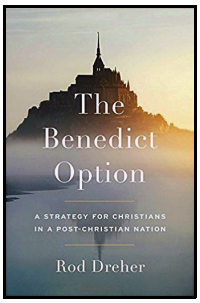
A sequel to Part 1, this course is based on four recent books that provide a critical assessment of the current state of American culture and how Christians can live faithfully and responsibly in the midst of a society that is increasingly skeptical and hostile toward Biblical beliefs and values. Ours is a society and culture that celebrates materialism, hedonism, and self-indulgent narcissism – all of which distracts us from fulfilling our true mission in life.

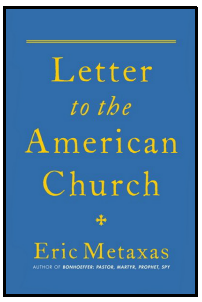
(1) The problem: The challenges of living in a 'post-Christian' society and culture that is increasingly hostile toward Christian faith and values; and

(2) The solution: The opportunities that the current situation affords in terms of rethinking our role and mission in society as a true spiritual counterculture.









CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

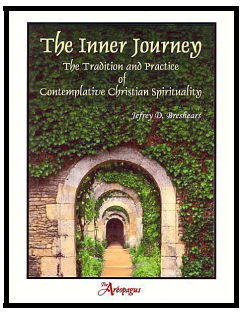
Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography

Socrates taught that "The unexamined life is not worth living." Likewise, the apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthian Christians to "Examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith." This workshop is designed for just that purpose: to provide practical guidance in helping Christians assess the meaning of their life in light of their faith. Many who have written their spiritual autobiography consider it to be a revelation in self-awareness and one of the most meaningful experiences of their life.

The Inner Journey: Readings in Christian Contemplative Spirituality

A series of discussion-based sessions that explore some of the best, most incisive and profound writings regarding Christian spiritual formation including modern classics such as...

- Henri Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*
- Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*
- Dallas Willard, *The Renovation of the Heart*
- Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*
- Paul Vitz, *Psychology as Religion: The Cult of Self-Worship*



GOD & THE ARTS

The Areopagus is a unique Christian ministry in that we address not only issues related to Bibliology, history, apologetics, American culture and Christian spirituality, but also the arts. In particular, our seminars on "God & the Arts" focus on how the arts can supplement and inspire our spiritual growth and development. Therefore, the following presentations are designed not only to entertain and inform but also to stimulate critical thinking in the context of a wholistic Christian worldview.

The Jesus Movement Revisited

The history, the music and the legacy of the Jesus Movement of the late 1960s and early '70s, the last wide-spread spiritual renewal movement in American history that impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of young adults.

Fallen Angel: The Life and Music of Larry Norman

Larry Norman was one of the originators of Christian rock and a prime driving force behind the Jesus Music of the 1970s. A gifted songwriter and a charismatic performer, he was also a troubled soul whose career and personal life were marred by controversy. With an intense desire for acceptance both as a Christian social prophet and a rock star, his fall from grace exemplified the pitfalls of aspiring Christian celebrities who struggle to be "in the world but not of it."

The Spiritual Odyssey of Pete Maravich

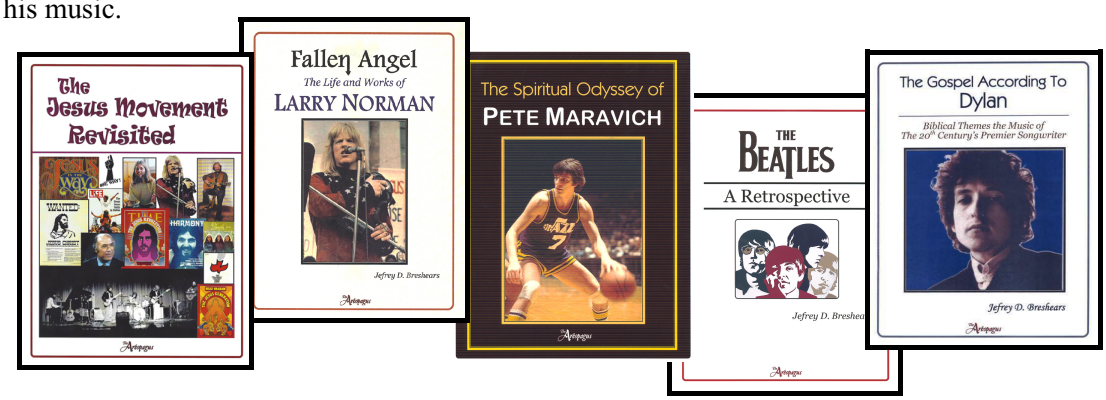
The life and times of "Pistol Pete" Maravich from his phenomenal basketball career to alcohol addiction, mental depression, and an intense spiritual search that culminated in a life-changing conversion to Christianity just a few years prior to his death at age 40.

The Beatles: A Retrospective

The lives, the music and legacy of the Beatles, including their aesthetic and cultural influence on American society with an emphasis on their spiritual and religious lives.

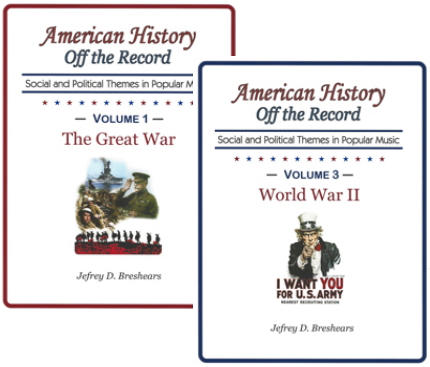
The Gospel According to Dylan

The life and times of Bob Dylan, the most prolific, influential and consequential songwriter of the 20th century, with a special emphasis on Biblical, spiritual, and socio/political themes in his music.



American History Off the Record: Social and Political Themes in Popular Music

How popular music supplements and enriches our understanding of the major issues and events in American history from World War I through the Sixties era (c. 1914-74). Each session is a 2-part (3-hour) presentation.

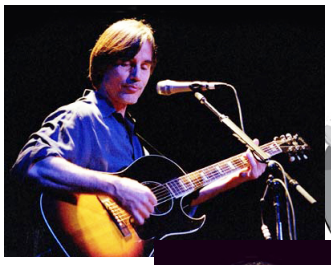


- **Session 1: World War I**
- **Session 2: The Great Depression**
- **Session 3: World War II**
- **Session 4: The Civil Rights Movement**
- **Session 5: Politics and Protest in the '60s**
- **Session 6: The Vietnam War**
- **Session 7: The Sixties Counterculture**
- **Session 8: The Sexual Revolution**

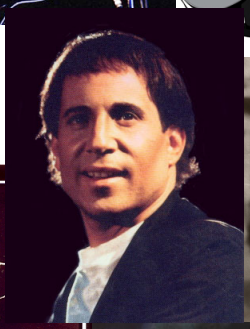
When the Music Mattered: Significant Singer/Songwriters of the 20th Century

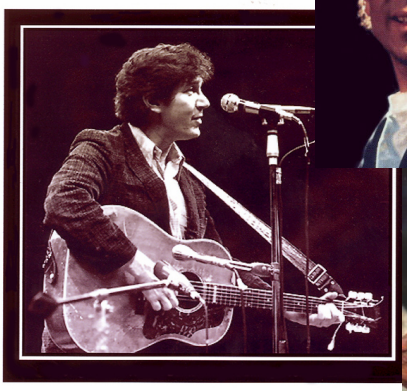
A review and critique of the life and works of 10 significant singer/songwriters whose music defined and influenced 20th century American culture.

- **Woody Guthrie**
- **Pete Seeger**
- **Bob Dylan**
- **Phil Ochs**
- **Paul Simon**
- **Joni Mitchell**
- **John Denver**
- **JacksonBrowne**
- **Kate Wolf**
- **Mary Chapin Carpenter**











Some endorsements of the ministry of

The Areopagus

"It was my pleasure to present Shroud Encounter at the invitation of Dr. Jefrey Breshears. I have since learned of all the different forum and seminar topics offered by the Areopagus, and have come to realize what an important and valuable ministry this is to the church. We are commanded to have an answer for the hope we have in Christ, yet so many Christians have lost touch with what it means to have a biblical worldview. Restoring such knowledge to the church is exactly the mission of the Areopagus, an organization that is on the front lines of the battle against secularism and distorted ideas about the Christian faith."
– **Russ Breault**, President of the Shroud of Turin Education Project.

"The ministry of the Areopagus is immensely valuable as it seeks to better inform Christians about the biblical worldview and its ramifications. The Areopagus is a resource to help believers winsomely defend the gospel in the marketplace of ideas. In addition, the Areopagus enables followers of Christ to become more familiar with non-Christian worldviews so that they may be more effective in their evangelism and societal engagement. I recommend the Areopagus with great enthusiasm."
– **Paul Copan**, Ph.D., Christian philosopher, Senior Editor of *The Apologetics Study Bible* and author of *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics*.

"The strength of the Areopagus begins with its leadership – Christians who are committed to their Savior and hold strong academic credentials. Areopagus Forums bring in speakers who are in the forefront of their particular areas of research. Presentations are followed by uninhibited questions and discussions. This is not an organization that aims at disseminating a minimum amount of content to the maximum number of people. If you attend one of these sessions you will learn new things in greater depth than you might have anticipated. And, best of all, what you learn will help you not just intellectually or merely as ammunition for Christian apologetics, but also as support for your daily walk with Jesus."
– **Winfried Corduan**, Ph.D., professor emeritus of philosophy and religion, Taylor University, and author of *A Tapestry of Faiths* and *In the Beginning God: A Fresh Look at the Case for Original Monotheism*.

"I'm glad that there exists a local ministry like the Areopagus that provides a forum for Atlanta-area Christians to meet and grapple responsibly with apologetic issues vital to Christian faith and contemporary culture. This is a very strategic and vital ministry."
– **William Lane Craig**, Ph.D., Th.D., Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and author of *Reasonable Faith; Hard Questions, Real Answers;* and co-author with J.P. Moreland of *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*.

"The Areopagus is vital to the life of the local church in the Atlanta area. It calls Christians out of our complacency, and teaches us how to think well about the relationship among faith, history, culture, and the permanent things. If Christ's people are going to endure, even thrive, in the coming darkness, we will need to gather around lighthouses like the Areopagus, to be enlightened by truth and warmed by fellowship."
– **Rod Dreher**, Author of *The Benedict Option* and *Live Not by Lies*.

"Dr. Breshears provides an important service to the Body of Christ in helping Christians learn and understand our heritage as Christians as well as educating us about the cultural and intellectual relevance of the truths of our faith. I would encourage any local church to consider having Dr. Breshears and the Areopagus partner with it in equipping the membership in being salt and light in an otherwise tasteless and dark world."
– **Richard G. Howe**, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Seminary.

"The Areopagus Forum is a fantastic ministry. Its founder and president, Dr. Jefrey Breshears, is committed to engaging thinking Christians in intelligent discussion on significant topics. Each time I have participated in an Areopagus Forum, I have walked away enriched by the fellowship and intelligent conversation take takes place during the event."
– **Michael Licona**, Ph.D., New Testament scholar and the author of *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* and *Evidence for God: Fifty Arguments For Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy and Science*.

"Every city in America needs a ministry like the Areopagus that educates, equips and challenges Christians to think deeply and about what it means to have a comprehensive biblical worldview."
– **Nancy Pearcey**, Scholar-in-Residence, Houston Baptist University, and author *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*; and co-author with Charles Colson of *How Now Shall We Live* and with Charles Thaxton of *The Soul of Science: Christian Faith and Natural Philosophy*.

"Dr. Jefrey Breshears is an accomplished scholar who has developed an unique ministry in the Areopagus. He has created a setting that gives thinking Christians an opportunity to grow in their faith as they learn how the Christian worldview interacts with key issues of our day. The programs presented through Areopagus seminars and forums consistently demonstrate how intellectually vibrant and robust the Christian faith is. The Areopagus is all about equipping Christians to become first-rate ambassadors for the Christian faith."
– **Fazale Rana**, Ph.D., President and CEO of Reasons To Believe, and author of *Who Was Adam? A Creation Model Approach To the Origin of Man* and *The Cell's Design: How Chemistry Reveals the Creator's Artistry* (2008).

"I was honored to be a speaker at two Areopagus Forums in 2015, and I highly commend its work to foster thoughtful Christian reflection on important cultural and theological issues. Its leadership and participants showcase an intelligent and engaged Christianity in America. I wish an Areopagus organization existed in every community."
– **Mark Tooley**, President of the Institute on Religion and Democracy

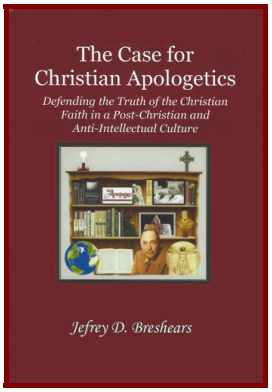
"How did the church, country and culture slide into such a deep abyss? What can you do to help lift us out of it? The Areopagus ministry, led by Dr. Jefrey Breshears, provides real actionable answers – answers based on a rigorous analysis of the truth, not cotton candy theology or pop psychology. Your eyes will be opened and hearts encouraged by Dr. Breshears' teachings and the entire Areopagus program. Highly recommended!"
– **Frank Turek**, Ph.D., Founder & President of CrossExamined.org, radio talk show host, co-author of *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist,* and author of *Correct, NOT Politically Correct*.

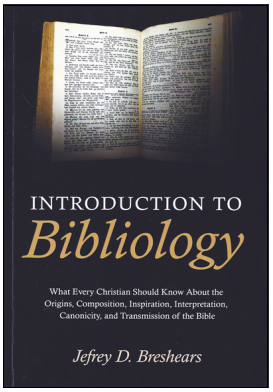
"I am grateful for the work of the Areopagus in encouraging Christians to explore the vital issues facing our culture. From the very beginning, Christians have been called to be participants in the marketplace of ideas, and the Areopagus is equipping Christians for this high calling. The Areopagus is training Christians to become cultural leaders, not just cultural followers."
– **John G. West**, Ph.D., Vice President, The Discovery Institute, editor of *The Magician's Twin: C. S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society*, and co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Religion in American Politics*.

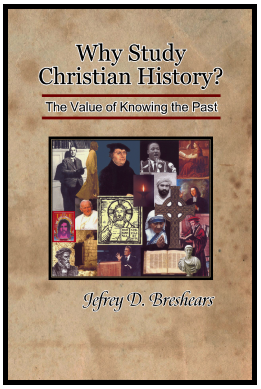
"Coming to the Areopagus Forum is like discovering a rare gem. In a skeptical age like ours, one will look long and hard before encountering such a superlative resource for learning how to defend the Christian faith. Over the years Dr. Jefrey Breshears and his team have presented or hosted forum presentations that are marked by creativity and academic quality, yet also they are consistently faith-building in their thrust. I applaud the wise and incisive coverage of science/faith topics – the focus of my own research and writing. Come and drink deeply from this well of learning!"
– **Thomas Woodward**, Ph.D., founder and executive director, The C. S. Lewis Society, Research Professor at Trinity College of Florida, and author of *Doubts About Darwin* and *The Mysterious Epigenome: What Lies Behind DNA*.

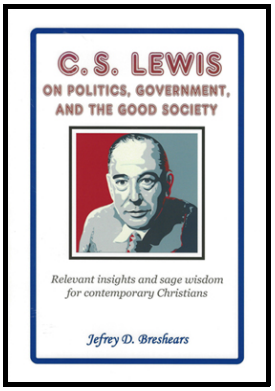
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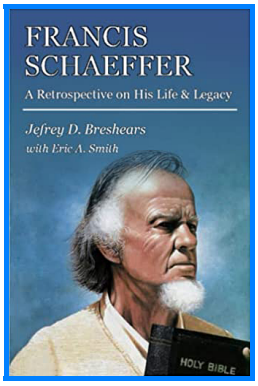
Books for group studies and discussion.

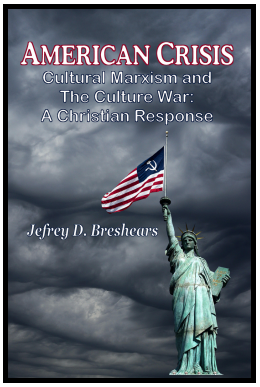


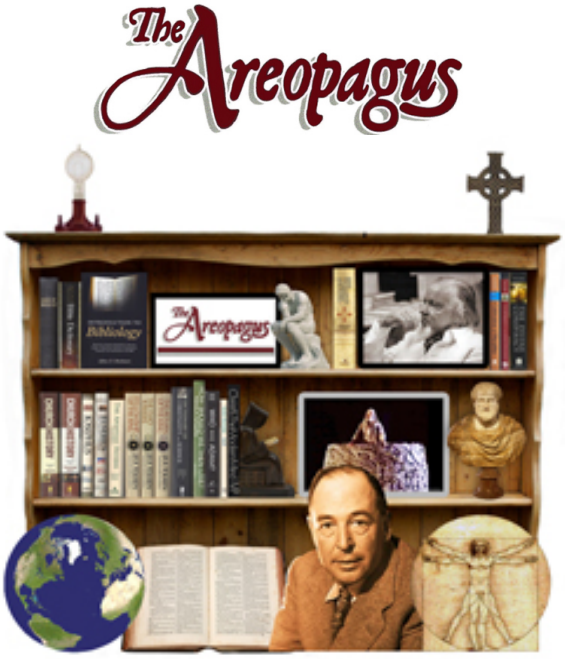












For more information on The Areopagus, please visit

www.TheAreopagus.org