

— BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2019 —

Alternative Universes: A Survey of Comparative Worldviews and Religions

by Jeffrey Breshears

In 1963 Bob Dylan wrote and recorded “The Times They Are A-changin’,” an anthem that helped crystalize and mobilize the massive social, political and cultural protest movements of the decade. Not only was it one of the defining songs of the Sixties, but it was also prophetic. Thirty years later, Dylan wrote and recorded another commentary on the times entitled “Everything Is Broken.” In retrospect, these two songs could serve as bookends for any analysis of our society and culture over the past sixty years.

I’m reminded of what Rod Dreher wrote in his 2017 best-seller, *The Benedict Option*, in which he declared that the culture war in America is essentially over, and we lost. In his words, “Conservative Christians have been routed. We are living in a new country.” Not that we should meekly concede, retreat and surrender. We still have a moral and spiritual mandate to be a source of light and truth in a society increasingly resistant to both. But in order to be so, as Dreher writes, “We are going to have to change our lives, and our approach to life, in radical ways.” I would simply add: We also are going to have to change the way we think.

Our Areopagus seminar at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church for the first semester of 2019 is “**Alternative Universes: A Survey of Comparative Worldviews and Religions.**” This in-depth course focuses on what every Christian should know in order to think and live in accord with a wholistic biblical worldview so as to be an effective witness for Christ in the midst of a society that is increasingly secular, pluralistic and religiously diverse.

Every religion, including even godless religions such as secular humanism, are based on a general worldview. As James Sire writes in his classic, *The Universe Next Door*, “A worldview is a fundamental orientation which we hold about reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live.” In her book, *Is Reality Secular?* Mary Poplin puts it this way: “Our worldview is the lens through which we interpret reality and by which we reason.”

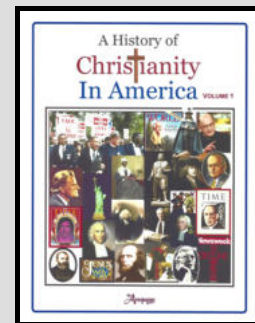
Over the past thirty years the concept of worldviews has become an integral part of Christian cultural apologetics. While relatively few people have an articulate philosophy of life or a carefully constructed theology, everyone has a general worldview. However, surveys reveal that only about 20% of “born again” Christians (and less than 7% of the general public) hold a consistent biblical worldview. More alarmingly, only about 1% of young adults hold a biblical worldview!

Join us beginning in January for this important and relevant study of alternative worldviews and religions that every well-informed Christian should know.

The Areopagus Calendar

Areopagus Seminars

A History of Christianity
In America
From Colonial Times
To the Present



An in-depth study of the major people, issues and events in American Christian history from colonial times to the present.

This material is unfamiliar to most Christians as it is rarely taught in churches or even in Christian colleges and seminaries, but it is not only informative, thought-provoking and inspiring, but also relevant considering the present state of American Christianity, society and culture.

Sunday mornings
11:15

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 270

— and —

Beginning Tuesday, January 8
7:00 PM

Perimeter Church
Ministry Center

— 2018 —
RECOMMENDED BOOKS

— APOLOGETICS —

Sam Chan, *Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News About Jesus More Believable* (Zondervan)

Gregory Koukl, *The Story of Reality* (Zondervan)

— CULTURAL APOLOGETICS —

David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, *Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You're Irrelevant and Extreme* (BakerBooks)

— CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE —

Paul Copan, Tremper Longman III, Christopher Reese, and Michael G. Strauss, eds., *Dictionary of Christianity and Science* (Zondervan)

— CHRISTIAN HISTORY —

James V. Heidegger II, *The Rise of Theological Liberalism and the Decline of American Methodism* (Seedbed)

The Areopagus

— 50 —

RECOMMENDED FILMS!

As the movie industry continues to produce more films that dumb-down and degrade our society, here are some movies worth seeing (or seeing again) and discussing – based either on their artistic merits, their social, political or religious message, their historical or cultural value, or purely for entertainment purposes.

PART 1: 1930 - 1965

1. *The Music Box* (Laurel and Hardy, 1932)
2. *Modern Times* (Charlie Chaplin, 1936)
3. *Gone With the Wind* (Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, 1939)
4. *The Wizard of Oz* (Judy Garland, 1939)
5. *Casablanca* (Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, 1942)
6. *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Gregory Peck, 1962)
7. *Dr. Strangelove* (Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, 1964)
8. *A Hard Day's Night* (The Beatles, 1964)
9. *Doctor Zhivago* (Julie Christie, Omar Shariff, 1965)
10. *The Sound of Music* (Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, 1965)

The Areopagus Calendar

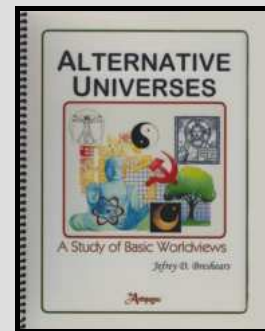
Areopagus Seminars

**ALTERNATIVE
UNIVERSES**

*A Survey of Comparative
Worldviews & Religions*

Beginning Wednesday, January 9
7:00 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 108



This course compares and contrasts the basic beliefs and practices of a Christian theistic worldview with those of other worldviews and religions, demonstrating that only a biblically-based worldview consistently corresponds to truth and reality and provides plausible answers to the great issues of life.

Although surveys reveal that nearly 80% of Americans claim to be 'Christians' (to some extent or another), but only about 7% hold to a consistent biblical worldview. This explains, of course, why our society and culture is in such turmoil not only religiously but in terms of morality, ethics, politics, education, the arts and entertainment, and a wide array of social issues.

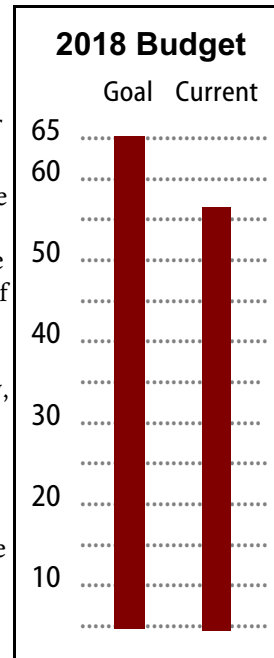
In the midst of a society and culture that is increasingly secular, pluralistic and religiously diverse, this material is essential for Christians who desire to live more thoughtfully and faithfully and to be a more effective witness for Christ.

The Areopagus

As an independent and self-sustaining ministry, The Areopagus depends upon the financial support of our **Areopagus Associates** – those who value our ministry and desire to help us expand our outreach in the metro-Atlanta area and beyond.

The Areopagus is a highly cost-efficient ministry considering the many seminars, forums and other events that we sponsor each year. Our annual budget of **\$65,000** covers all of our expenses including staff salaries, administrative costs, honoraria for guest speakers, etc.

Currently, we are about \$8,000 short of our budget as we approach the end of 2018. If you feel led to support this ministry financially, please be assured that your contributions are much valued and appreciated. Please make checks payable to **The Areopagus, Inc.**



Thank you – and Merry Christmas!



**The Areopagus, Inc. is a
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All financial contributions are tax-deductible.
The financial records of The Areopagus are open to all who contribute financially to this ministry.