

Beyond Opinion Living The Faith We Defend

The vibrant and persuasive arguments of C. S. Lewis brought about a shift in the discipline of apologetics, moving the conversation from the ivory tower to the public square. The resulting strain of popular apologetics—which weaves through Lewis into twentieth-century writers like Francis Schaeffer and modern apologists like William Lane Craig, Josh McDowell, and Lee Strobel—has equipped countless believers to defend their faith against its detractors. *Apologetics for the Twenty-first Century* uses Lewis’s work as the starting point for an absorbing survey of the key apologists and major arguments that inform apologetics today. Like apologists before him, Markos writes to engage Christians of all denominations as well as seekers and skeptics. His narrative, “man of letters” style and short chapters make *Apologetics for the Twenty-first Century* easily accessible for the general reader. But an extensive and heavily annotated bibliography, detailed timeline, list of prominent apologists, and glossary of common terms will satisfy the curiosity of the seasoned academic, as the book prepares all readers to meet the particular challenges of defending the faith today.

Catholic colleges and universities play a crucial role

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in handing on a rich faith tradition to young adults today. As these institutions have become more professional and pluralistic, many are asking how effective they are at carrying out the religious mission which is central to their identity: Are Catholic colleges and universities significantly different from less expensive state institutions or from other private colleges and universities? Are they still committed to the search for truth, which is really the search for God? Thomas Rausch, an eminent educator, is a Catholic priest long interested in Catholic theology as a work of the church, not just of the academy. He insists we must also ask of Catholic higher education today: Does it truly form students in the faith that does justice, or does it simply speed their passage into successful corporate lifestyles? Does it help students come to a personal encounter with the divine mystery revealed in Jesus? Keeping these questions before them, Rausch and five other contributors to this volume provide wisdom, insight, and concrete examples of how Catholic higher education can indeed foster faith that leads to a more just world. Thomas P. Rausch, SJ, is the T. Marie Chilton Professor of Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He is author of numerous books, including *I Believe in God: A Reflection on the Apostles' Creed*, *Being Catholic in a Culture of Choice*, and *Towards a Truly Catholic Church* (Liturgical Press).

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"The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world." Alexander Solzhenitsyn

In this penetrating and provocative work, Jonas E. Alexis challenges common assumptions about the relationship between Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism and provides compelling evidence from history and theology that demonstrates the extent to which modern Judaism has been defined by the Pharisaic and Rabbinic schools of thought. As Alexis meticulously documents, there has been a constant struggle between Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism since the time of Christ, a struggle that will define the destiny of the West. Islam, according to Christianity, is a historically and theologically false religion, since it denies both Jesus's deity and His work of salvation at the Cross. But Rabbinic Judaism, Alexis argues, is equally false and in many respects more dangerous to Christianity and the West than Islam, since at its root Rabbinic Judaism wages war against the Logos, the system of order in the world embodied by Christ. In this painstakingly scholarly yet readable work, Alexis maintains that Rabbinic Judaism, defined by the Pharisaic teachings (now codified in the Talmud) that Jesus sought to correct, is a categorical and metaphysical rejection of Christianity, a rejection that has had and will continue to have severe implications for Western culture, intellectual history, and theological exegesis.

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Life in society means more than just living together with others; it also means relating with others, giving oneself to others, and contributing to the good of all. In *Beyond Good Intentions*, author Juan Lorda shows that Christian morality is more than a list of do's and don'ts but can in fact be summarized as "the art of living." It guides Christians to live so that their actions are consistent with their inner convictions. The author shows today's readers the beauty and reasonableness of Christian living. We are led to see that the essence of Christian morality is not an assemblage of abstract principles, but is a call to a sincere relationship with a real historical person: Jesus of Nazareth, the God-man who shares our life with us. Rev. Juan Luis Lorda has authored 12 books on biblical anthropology, catechetics, and theology. Born in Spain in 1955, he was ordained a priest for the Opus Dei Prelature in 1983 and has taught at the University of Navarre for many years. He is a member of the advisory council on catechetics for the Spanish Bishops Conference, and a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers, both religious and secular. As the book is titled *Threads of Understanding*, so are we—each life a strand that, in total, forms a world population determined at any one time by a collection of censuses. Whether or not we know at any specific moment what that total might be, we estimate or are in flux with a rash of opinions. Much

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of our life in how and what we think are based on opinions to which we feel entitled that in turn have become fact. As many of our opinions are based on emotions, personal or that of family history, with values set accordingly, we hold them important; thus substantiating the influence they have to the here and now of our personal circle of circumstance. Perhaps opinionated fact would be a better term, for it abounds in about every social interaction we are faced to deal with. Yet for the most part, we seem to concur with the fact that life is too short, and whether or not William Shakespeare assembled those words in phrase of understanding similar, we continue to think and say in a myriad of ways those words some speculate originated back in the seventeenth century. Is life too short, or again is that an opinion to which most would classify as a fact? Challenging everyone to think beyond opinion, the intent of this book is to provide those threads of understanding to which reaches far beyond that of our emotions and senses. Shake the burden of discord we find of life and that of how we feel and think about ourselves and others. While religions and that of seeking perpetual days of happiness seem foremost to finding meaning in life, reading this book will hopefully bring you the understanding to change the norm and in fact given time change how we live with a new appreciation of life itself and the meaning for which was intended. Though living together, we are

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each on our own.

This interdisciplinary book explores the science and spirituality nexus in the Pacific Islands Region and as such makes a critical contribution to sustainable climate change adaptation in Oceania. In addition to presenting case studies, literary analyses, field projects, and empirical research, the book describes faith-engaged approaches through the prism of:

- Context: past, present, and future prospects
- Theory: concepts, narratives, and theoretical frameworks
- Practice: empirical research and praxis-informed case examples
- Doctrine: scriptural contributions and perspectives
- Engagement: enlisting religious stakeholders and constituencies

Comprising peer-reviewed works by scholars, professionals, and practitioners from across Oceania, the book closes a critical gap in the literature and represents a groundbreaking contribution to holistic climate change adaptation in the Pacific Islands Region that is scientifically sound, spiritually attuned, locally meaningful, and contextually compelling.

In *Beyond Faith* Hamilton explores how a collection of fifteenth-century vernacular texts recorded in Hebrew points to a form of personal religious belief shaped in a century of political and social strife, reflecting knowledge of the Judeo-Andalusi philosophical tradition and emerging European humanism.

Today many in Hollywood and the media have declared open warfare on the family, education, and Christianity in

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general. Intellectuals have labeled religion, particularly Christianity, as mere wish fulfillment or a virus of the mind, something to be eradicated at all costs. In *Christianity's Dangerous Idea*, Jonas Alexis picks up where he left off in his previous books and continues to examine the ideological fallacies that have been fabricated in order to attack Christianity--and the people who promote those fallacies. This latest book is a tour de force of rigorous logic and testable evidence for the Christian worldview from history, science, experience, common sense, and final destiny. More importantly, Alexis subjects the rivals of Christianity to the same rigorous testing. *Christianity's Dangerous Idea* clearly demonstrates the destructive nature of popular atheistic and anti-Christian philosophies, spread throughout Western culture by such famous people as Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, David Cronenberg, Steven Spielberg, Alan Moore, William S. Burroughs, Philip K. Dick, Bruce Lee, Ayn Rand, Bart D. Ehrman, Richard Dawkins, and many more. In a scholarly yet readable fashion, Alexis shows that what the ancient Greeks often referred to as "the cult of Dionysus" has become mainstream in our modern age.

Bruce A. Proctor is a native of Dallas, Texas but spent most of his youth growing up in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from Oklahoma Christian College (B.A.) in 1973, from Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.) in 1981, and Louisiana Baptist University (Ph.D.) in 2011. Bruce has held various ministerial positions including pastor, youth counselor and pastor, prison ministry leader, and college professor. Bruce has taught Bible Exposition,

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Theology, Old and New Testament history, and Church History at various Christian schools - Southern Bible Institute, D. Edwin Johnson Bible Institute (both in Dallas, TX), True Vine Baptist Bible Institute in Spencer, OK, and at the Ministry Training Institute, an extension of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK. Bruce and his wife, Patricia, reside in San Antonio, Texas. They have eight adult children. Postmodernism is difficult to define because it rejects absolute meaning. However, I found it worth trying to define it by looking at other authors' attempts to define it. It was easier for me to describe than define it. Much discussion is also given to the definition of the emergent church movement, including its fundamental tenets and marks, along with signs of drifting toward it. Next, the idea of postmodernism is weaved into the description of condemned mankind according to Romans 1:18-32. The description given is clearly relevant to the postmodern mindset as "men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (verse 18). In my conclusion, I discuss the power of truth and the loss of truth due primarily to a loss of focus. However, in the Person of Jesus Christ, Truth arose from the dead and marches on victoriously despite the postmodern spirits of delusions.

A selection of sermons or homilies preached over a fifty-year period explicitly linked to the church's liturgical year—thus, In Season. The sermons exemplify how engagement with lectionary texts, the church's cycle of worship, and the circumstances of contemporary believers, can all be brought into lively conversation. Turning 50 years old and facing some of life's biggest

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questions are daunting challenges. A crisis of faith and crisis of health lead towards significant changes in one's life. For Bruce Matson, a family man with a successful law practice, the struggles of health and doubt led to action. Combining to podcasts from notable Christian leaders Ravi Zacharias, Allistair Begg, and Tim Keller, careful research and preparation, and encouragement from family and friends, Bruce ran his race for physical and spiritual health. *The Race Before Us* by Bruce Matson is a wonderful memoir detailing the path of doubt to faith and spiritual malaise to running with God. Come alongside Bruce as he navigates the windy roads of faith and health in his pursuit of physical and spiritual well-being.

An indispensable reference tool, offering professionals hands-on legal and tax planning tips An essential guide for professionals representing and advising tax-exempt organizations, *Planning Guide for the Law of Tax-Exempt Organizations* offers a wide variety of practical planning tips, guidance, and helpful information for better meeting clients' needs. This essential companion to the bestselling *The Law of Tax-Exempt Organizations*, Ninth Edition is a valuable, go-to resource for lawyers and accountants, directors and officers of nonprofit organizations, as well as managers and consultants for tax-exempt organizations. Written by the leading legal authority in the nonprofit sector, *Planning Guide for the Law of Tax-Exempt Organizations* features a digest of recent legislation, court opinions, and IRS public and private rulings, as well as checklists of forms and an inventory of penalties. Additionally, it features

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commentaries designed to provide guidance and perspective to tax-exempt professionals and organizations as to how to cope with the developments in the law affecting their practices and the operation of their programs.

Romans Bible Commentary: This Bible commentary on the book of Romans offers a verse-by-verse study on the entire book. Since this commentary material was assembled by classes taught on the book of Romans, it is easy to use and understand. This Romans commentary has been widely received by many, including schools which help train preachers. Here is a small sample of the text. 5:9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath (of God) through him. This verse takes us back to what Paul said at the beginning of this chapter: God's people can be "justified" (dikaio), the same word used in Rom. 3:20! It is possible to completely remove sin. This can be done even though we still sin after becoming a Christian. Also, we can have justification at the present time ("now"). In this verse, Paul affirmed that our source for justification is Christ's "blood." Without the blood of Jesus, justification would be impossible (Heb. 10:4). Christ's blood is the basis for our justification, but the benefits of it must be accessed. This access comes by faith that is obedient (5:1). If Christ had not shed his blood, the only thing that we could and would experience is "wrath" (verse 9b). However, since the precious blood of the Lord was shed, Christians can be and will be saved from punishment. Christians are people who are at peace with God (verse 1) and have no fear of

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condemnation (8:1).

What does Christian witness look like in an increasingly multifaith society? While it is more important than ever to preach the Word of God, as Scripture exhorts us, it is also important that we dialogue with people from diverse perspectives. Unfortunately, too often the evangelical movement has been guilty of monologue in its engagement (or, more often, its disengagement) of people from other religious traditions and worldviews. This book is designed to help evangelical Christ-followers remain orthodox while entering into meaningful discussions with people from other faith walks. We live in an age of extremes, where people tend toward monologue or dialogue: a cold turkey, drive-by-shooting evangelistic approach or a lifestyle, relational approach that avoids verbal witness. This book promotes evangelism and dialogue, not one to the exclusion of the other. And as such it also promotes the need for thoughtful, sensitive communication during a time when our nation is reeling from the onslaught of the culture wars. The problem has not been our God or the Bible, but our approach to God and the Bible. As a result of our inauthentic witness, our God has looked all too common rather than as the uncommon God revealed as Jesus Christ. In light of this spiritual and biblical gut check, our witness in the twenty-first century will likely look very different. As Metzger says, "I want Jesus to be the stumbling block to faith, not me."

A definitive master work from the world's leading Christian apologist. Respected apologist Ravi Zacharias was once sharing his faith with a Hindu when the man

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asked: "If the Christian faith is truly supernatural, why is it not more evident in the lives of so many Christians I know?" The question hit hard, and this book is an answer. Its purpose is to equip Christians everywhere to simultaneously defend the faith and be transformed by it into people of compassion. In addition to writing several chapters himself, Ravi Zacharias brings together many of today's leading apologists and Christian teachers, including Alister McGrath and John Lennox, to address topics present in the very future of worldwide Christianity—from the process of spiritual transformation to the challenges posed by militant atheism and a resurgent Islam. Destined to become a classic, *Beyond Opinion* is a touchstone that will affect Christians around the world.

Christian Reflection about other religions has often misinterpreted the truth of the other Ways. The Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of churches stress that Christians can gain an appreciative understanding of other traditions only through meaningful dialogue with believers of other faiths. This book, however, emphasizes the need for Christians to go beyond dialogue, to reach for a mutual transformation of Christianity and other religions. By way of example, the author explores with originality the Christian encounter with Mahayana Buddhism. He offer an original view of how Christianity and Buddhism can appropriately transform one another when both partners are truly respected as equal. Both contributing, both benefiting. John Cobb boldly challenges us "to hear in an authentic way the truth which the other has to teach us" and to be

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transformed by that truth.

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Did you ever ask, "What is the meaning of life?" Find out what Scripture has to say about the answer to this question as you develop a strategic life plan that is

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centered on God's purpose and vision for your life. Learn to see your entire life and all the everyday things that you do as divine assignments given to you by God Himself. You may change your perspective on life and gain a whole new passion for living. "To begin this process we must understand our origin. Where do we come from? Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? What (or who) defines our purpose? These are the most fundamental questions for a business to answer before creating a business plan, and they are the most fundamental, foundational knowledge that an individual must acquire and define before any meaningful plan for life can be developed." "The intent of this book is to be a guide to a stronger understanding of God's purpose for you, and to apply this understanding to the defining of values and a vision for your life. In later chapters you will see how applying the foundation of purpose, values and vision through ALL of the missions in your life with a clear strategy that maintains focus on your original purpose, will help reveal God's purpose for your life." "When asked to define their purpose in life people often state that they were meant to be an engineer, or accountant, or doctor, or clergymen, or parent, or whatever. Someone may be called to one of these specific missions, but a mission in life is different from life's purpose. ... A mission is a life role, or assignment... Purpose is a fundamental meaning, or reason for being..."

DARK VALLEY .and Beyond is the story of a journey through traumatic grief. When the great love of her life was taken, deep grief was compounded by the testing of her faith. The

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very foundations of life seemed to be swept away. Yet the faithful Shepherd, though hidden for a time, held her through the storm, sent help when needed, and "restored her soul." This is a record of God's faithfulness "though I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death..." It is a record of pain and struggle leading to healing, hope and purpose. The author grew up in a small village nestled in a farming community. It was there, as a child, that she met God. After high-school she attended a Bible College where she came to know, respect, then to love a young man who also worshiped the Lord. She taught school for a short time, then they married and together raised four children. The relationship with her earthly love, shared for more than half a century, was recognized both by herself and others as uniquely precious, a gift from the very hand of God. When death tore them apart, grief struck like a tsunami; the storm of dark, excruciating anguish nearly destroyed her. But God, though for a time unseen in those shadows, held her close and brought her through-changed, still acutely aware of deep loss-but trusting the purpose of the Almighty, the deepest Love of her life.

A theologically grounded treatment of what it means to be close to God Numerous Christian books aim to provide guidance on relationships with God, but few base their conclusions on a biblical theology of intimacy. In this volume, Tim Anderson develops a biblical and holistic portrait of nearness to God, exploring key themes like God's Trinitarian union, the fall, God's fatherhood, marriage imagery, suffering, and our relationship with the Holy Spirit. A concluding chapter examines contemporary Christian songs that address oneness with God and evaluates their theological messages in light of the previous chapters. Into His Presence is a helpful guide for pursuing intimacy with God and distinguishing contemporary cultural understandings of close relationships from those communicated in Scripture.

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Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children, and say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. Matthew

11:11-19 Living in the Kingdom life is life according to the words of Jesus, the Master. He alone is the one with the words of Eternal life, and to disregard them is to do so at one's own peril. Many are the attempts to rebuild the church of the first century, but few connect the words of the Gospels, the life of faith, and outpouring of His Spirit with the foundation stones, the apostles that Jesus raised up. The church was founded upon Christ as the cornerstone and these men who knew His words, and because of it, it stood through even the shaking of the religious structures of that day. Today is the day to rebuild, to restore, and to reform. It is the day of revolution. In a day when everyone has their own ideas of how to live the "Gospel", we do well to return to the book, and look again at these eternal words from our Lord. Why should we call Him that if we don't? And, if our walk does not end up looking like His, how far has the apple fallen from the tree?

"This is an important book which should see the light of day."

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- Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, Orthodox Union "I feel this work will be of great value to the thinking Jew." - Rabbi Yitzhak Rosenbaum, National Jewish Outreach Program "There is little doubt in my mind that this encyclopedic work will be an indispensable resource." - Rabbi Tovia Singer, Outreach Judaism, Israel National Radio "This book would also be beneficial to non-Jews who wish to know what Judaism thinks of them and their role in creation." - Rabbi Yisroel Fried, Chabad Lubavitch [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the author's personal website

Jonathan Edwards' classic of faith is firmly rooted in his personal experience of God and his witnessing in the First Great Revival in America.

Stories of the Second Swordsman is a collection of allegorical stories written from the viewpoint of a man who was a follower of Christ while He was here on earth. They illustrate spiritual insights in a way that is intended to stimulate thought about the Kingdom of God, and draw in references to occurrences and lessons from the Scriptures. The tales are presented in a first-person narrative of a follower who journeyed through the land on a mission to present the Good News. They portray what life might have been like during the unfolding of the Greatest Story Ever Told. The collection is organized into four parts to consider aspects of the mission, the creative nature of our response, struggles that are encountered along the way, and how our spiritual ideas can be reshaped. The stories are meant to be thought-provoking and inspiring.

It was through tear-filled eyes that I read this book, captivated and encouraged by the scriptures and stories that John Telman shares throughout it. Easter Unwrapped is a powerful encouragement to believers, a powerful tool for those who are wavering in their faith,

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and an anointed witness to those who don't know Jesus and the power of His Resurrection! After reading this book, I can't imagine anyone ever doubting God's love for them. Millie Gray, Kansas City police officer, and Sergeant in the United States Air Force Life is so much more than merely the physical. You are more than a body. When life hits you between the eyes, when you feel the darkness of death around you, when you're faced with trouble that drains the life out of you, remember Resurrection Sunday. Easter Unwrapped presents eleven insights into just how significant the resurrection of Jesus is to everyone. Easter is the day that changed everything, and it's more than chocolate and bunny rabbits. It's about life.

Transforming an organization's culture involves influencing change one person at a time.....starting with the change leader. The majority of literature on the subject prescribes the development of teams and implementation of multi-stepped processes. However, the biggest predictor of success is not just the process or the team, but rather the character of the leader themselves. Before people will accept change they must first accept the change leader. The ACT of Change Management is a principled approach to leadership development that is both practical and realistic for today's workplace.

In *Jesus on Trial*, New York Times bestselling author David Limbaugh applies his lifetime of legal experience to a unique new undertaking: making a case for the gospels as hard evidence of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Limbaugh, a practicing attorney and former

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professor of law, approaches the canonical gospels with the same level of scrutiny he would apply to any legal document and asks all the necessary questions about the story of Jesus told through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. His analysis of the texts becomes profoundly personal as he reflects on his own spiritual and intellectual odyssey from determined skeptic to devout Christian. Ultimately, Limbaugh concludes that the words Christians have treasured for centuries stand up to his exhaustive enquiry—including his examination of historical and religious evidence beyond the gospels—and thereby affirms Christian faith, spirituality, and tradition.

Simplified Chinese edition of 12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos

Reformed theologians affirm both union with Christ and the golden chain of salvation.

The purpose of this book is to propose a redefinition of the Christian controlling narrative. Such a revised narrative will allow us to return from spiritual and socio-political exile and rejoice in the sovereign reign of God in Christ.

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