



## APOLOGETICS SEMINAR

### *Survey of Apologetics Topics & Spiritual Formation*

CSAP 680 & 694 MD (2 Units) • Course Outline • Spring 2020 & Fall 2020

## I. PROFESSOR & CLASS INFORMATION

*Professor: Kevin Lewis*

**Course Title:** Survey of Apologetics Topics & Spiritual Formation

**Course Code:** CSAP 680 & 694

**Term:** Spring 2020 & Fall 2020

**Location:** Modular

**Office Phone:** 562-903-6000 X5506

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**E-Mail:** [kevin.lewis@biola.edu](mailto:kevin.lewis@biola.edu)

**Course Website:** [www.theolaw.org](http://www.theolaw.org)

**Dept. Website:** <http://biola.edu/apologetics>

**School Website:** [www.biola.edu](http://www.biola.edu)

**Credit Hours/Units:** 1 Unit Each for Spring & Fall

**Class Days & Time:** Modular

**Dept. Secretary:** Megan Stricklin (562) 906-4570

**Secretary Email:** [megan.stricklin@biola.edu](mailto:megan.stricklin@biola.edu)

**Office Location:** Biola Professional Building

**Office Mailing Address:** Biola University,

Christian Apologetics Program,

13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, CA 90639

**ITL Website:** [www.itlnet.org](http://www.itlnet.org)

## II. COURSE NOTE REGARDING CONTENT & SUMMER LECTURES

1. Note that this course is designed to be an academically “light” course to offset some of the more work intensive courses in the Apologetics and the Science & Religion Program.
2. Note also that all of the Summer Lectures for this course will not necessarily correspond to materials assigned for the course. The Apologetics and the Science & Religion Programs use some of the dates for the summer lectures for this course to schedule lectures from well known Christian Apologists and Theologians on a variety of topics that will help the students.

## III. DISABILITY SERVICES

Disability Services exist to assist any student who thinks he or she may need such assistance. Students desiring accommodations for this class on the basis of physical learning, psychological and/or emotional disabilities are to contact The Learning Center which houses both learning assistance and disability services. The Learning Center is located in the Biola Library, Upper Level, Room U-137, and this department can be reached by calling 562.906.4542 or by dialing extension #4542 if calling from on campus.

## IV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

As Christian scholars, we are keenly aware of the power of language, and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable and prejudice free. Good writing and speech do not make unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, sex, or sexual orientation. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the Biola community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of invitation.

Avoid the use of stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, language or national origin. Avoid drawing attention to irrelevant identifiers of race or gender. Avoid gender-specific language when referencing people in general. Avoid terms that assume the universality of human experience, and in particular presume the normativity of the socially dominant group. (Biola Policy Statement)

## V. BIOLA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

### TRUTH~TRANSFORMATION~TESTIMONY

The mission of Biola University is biblically-centered education, scholarship, and service; equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## VI. COURSE DESCRIPTION & TOPICS

**CSAP 680 & 694:** *This course exists to facilitate sanctification, spiritual growth and apologetic ability in our students by providing the opportunity: (1) to hear and interact with prominent scholars in various areas of apologetics and spiritual formation; and (2) to study and understand Roman Catholicism from a Protestant perspective.*

*Elective for M.A. students. (This course is offered every school year.)*

**Topics:** The Survey of Apologetics Topics & Spiritual Formation course of the Apologetics program is designed to: (1) Enhance the personal spiritual development of the apologist, (2) Increase familiarity with a variety of topics that impact the truth of Christianity, (3) Help the student understand Roman Catholicism, and (4) Assist the student in engaging in discussions with representatives and leaders of the world religions covered in the course.

## VII. COURSE ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Survey of Apologetics Topics & Spiritual Formation (CSAP 680 & 694)**: This master's-level course is an elective course offered to M.A. Apologetics and M.A. Science & Religion students. It is offered every Spring and Fall Semester. Successful completion of this course will prepare students to demonstrate proficiency toward the accomplishment of relevant Program Learning Outcomes listed in the next section.

### **Apologetics Program Learning Outcomes**

1. To Build an intellectual framework, to demonstrate students' understanding of the faith; and to formulate responses to future challenges
2. Display and practice Christ-like character, so as to present and defend the gospel in a winsome manner and gracious spirit
3. Argue effectively to correct misconceptions about historic Christianity; to answer the perennial problems that are offered to discredit Christianity intellectually; and make the case proactively that it is reasonable to put one's faith in Christ

## VIII. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

*By completion of this course including class participation during summer lectures, and lecture materials, assigned readings with assigned student responses, and the practical application of materials learned, students will accomplish the following objectives and the following learning outcomes will be assessed and demonstrated:*

**IDEA Objective #1:** Gaining factual knowledge (biblical and theological facts, terminology, and topics) about the assigned topics (*Essential* emphasis).

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** (The learner will demonstrate that he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled IDEA Objective #1 by being able to):

1. **Identify, define and investigate** essential terminology in the assigned topics. (Fulfilled by classroom summer lectures and Packer and Geisler written reports.).
2. **Investigate** some selected topics in the theology of sanctification (Fulfilled by Packer précis.).

**IDEA Objective #2:** Learning biblical teachings on the assigned topics (*Essential* emphasis).

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** (The learner will demonstrate that he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled IDEA Objective #2 by being able to):

**1. Explain** briefly the major issues of Roman Catholicism and Sanctification (Fulfilled by the Geisler & Packer written reports).

**IDEA Objective #4:** Developing skills in communicating doctrines about the assigned theological topics in written form (*Important* emphasis).

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** (The learner will demonstrate that he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled IDEA Objective #4 by being able to):

- 1. Produce** appropriate theological responses and be able to state the essence of a particular theological doctrine by means of the Packer and Geisler précis.
- 2. Develop** in written form an inventory of the student's own ability to articulate these teachings by means of their written packer and Geisler reports.

## IX. ACADEMIC HONESTY

Biola University is committed to ethical practice in teaching, scholarship, and service. As such, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the undergraduate/graduate student handbook and/or the departmental/program/school policy on academic honesty. It is imperative that you present all written, oral, and/or performed work with a clear indication of the source of that work. If it is completely your own, you are encouraged to present it as such, taking pleasure in ownership of your own created work. However, it is also imperative that you give full credit to any and all others whose work you have included in your presentation via paraphrase, direct quotation, and/or performance, citing the name(s) or the author(s)/creator(s) and the source of the work with appropriate bibliographic information. To do otherwise is to put oneself in jeopardy of being sanctioned for an act or acts of plagiarism that can carry serious consequences up to and including expulsion from the university.

<https://studenthub.biola.edu/undergraduate-student-handbook-academic-integrity>

## X. REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

### A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Beckwith, Francis, Paul Owen, and Carl Mosser, eds. *The New Mormon Challenge*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2002.
2. Geisler, Norman and Abdul Saleeb. *Answering Islam*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Baker Books, 2002.
3. Packer, J. I. *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life*. Crossway Books, 2010 (Reprint Edition).
4. Note that if you are repeating the course and have already read these textbooks, email me and request the substitute texts.

### B. RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Elwell, Walter A., Ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017.
2. Muller, Richard A. *Dictionary of Latin & Greek Theological Terms*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017.

## XI. LEARNING TASKS (ASSIGNMENTS)

### A. COURSE OUTLINE

1. The student *must* carefully read the entire course outline prior to the commencement of the course.
2. Note that this course is a one year course and this course outline (i.e. the document you are currently reading) contains all of the requirements for both the Spring and Fall semesters.

### B. CONFIRMATION EMAIL

1. After reading the course outline, the student must send a confirmation email to the professor at [kevin.lewis@biola.edu](mailto:kevin.lewis@biola.edu) indicating the student has read the entire course outline. The student will send two confirmation emails for this course, one in the Spring semester and one in the Fall semester.
2. *Email Subject Line*: The “Subject” line for these emails *must* read (exactly):

**Spring Semester: “SPR20 SATSF Confirmation Email.”**

**Fall Semester: “F20 SATSF Confirmation Email.”**

- a. Please do not include the quotation marks in your subject line. The quotation marks are given in the example above to indicate the exact words the student must use for the Subject Line of the email.
- b. Moreover, please use spaces between words, rather than hyphens, dashes, or underlining, when writing your Subject Lines and File Names.

- c. Please follow the guidelines for emails and naming files (see below) as it helps me organize the large number of student emails and files I receive each semester.
3. If the student has a question about the requirements for this course, the student should ask for clarification of any part of the course outline in the confirmation email.

#### 4. *Email Etiquette*

- a. Please treat your course emails as formal communications. Use complete sentences. Do not use a “texting” style for your messages.
- b. Be certain to include your full name, course name, and the semester in which you are enrolled (e.g. Spring 2020 or Fall 2020) in each email you send.

#### 5. **Due Dates for Confirmation Emails**

- a. *Spring Semester:* The due date for the Confirmation Email is **January 20, 2020.**
- b. *Fall Semester:* The due date for the Confirmation Email is **September 7, 2020.**

#### 6. **Biola Email**

As I may send notifications to the entire class via the Biola email system during the semester, please regularly check your Biola email during the semester.

### **C. PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER LECTURES**

1. Students must attend the summer lectures, scheduled for the weekday evenings during the two-week residential stay.
2. Please note that spouses of students are welcome to attend these special discussion seminars, if space is available.

### **D. PRÉCIS ASSIGNMENTS (SPRING & FALL SEMESTERS)**

#### 1. **Spring & Fall Semesters**

- a. For the Spring semester, the student will write a précis for the Packer textbook.
- b. For the Fall semester, the student will write a précis for the Geisler and Beckwith textbooks.

#### 2. **Précis Guidelines**

- a. The word count for each précis should be 2,000 words (+ or – 50). Place the word count on the first page of your report.<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Note that the student may elect to include or exclude the headers, footnotes, and student information in the reported word count.
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- c. The paper must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins, using a 12 point font. It must have page numbers at the bottom of each page.
- d. **Important:** Use appropriate headings to make your paper's structure evident at a glance.
- e. **Format**
  - (1) The student *must* submit papers in the format specified in this course outline.
  - (2) At the top of the page, type the title of the assignment, your name, student number, course information (e.g., SATSF, *et al.*), and the word count (e.g., 1,999).
  - (3) See the example, *infra*, for formatting details.
- f. Spelling and grammar count. See the explanation, *infra*, for details.
- g. Be certain to *footnote* your work. That is, when you directly quote or allude to a portion of the book, properly reference your material.

## 2. Substantive Content of the Précis

- a. Write a concise summary (i.e., a précis) of the book.
- b. Do not analyze or comment on the material presented. Simply summarize the text. This means you should write a 2,000 word abstract of the book, reducing the book material to reflect its essential content and arguments.
- a. See the sample précis excerpt at the end of this document.

## 3. Précis Assignments Due Dates

- a. **Spring 2020 Due Date: April 14, 2020**
- b. **Fall 2020 Due Date: December 8, 2020.**

## E. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Required Information

Students must have their student name, student number, course name, semester, title of the assignment, and any other required information on each submitted assignment.

### 2. Submitting Assignments on Canvas

- a. For all assignments, please submit them on Canvas on or before the due date.
- b. **All assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx).**

### 3. Required Labeling of Student Assignments [READ CAREFULLY HERE]

- a. Each assignment you send as a MS Word document must be properly labeled.
- b. The file name shall contain the following information:
  - (1) Semester
  - (2) Course Name
  - (3) Assignment Name
  - (4) Full Student Name (last name first name)

c. **SPRING 2020 ASSIGNMENT**

(1) *Packer Précis MS Word File Name*

- (a) File Name: “SPR20 SATSF Packer Last Name First Name”  
 (b) Example: SPR20 SATSF Packer Lewis Kevin

d. **FALL 2020 ASSIGNMENT**

(1) *Geisler Précis File Name*

- (a) File Name: “F20 SATSF Geisler Last Name First Name”  
 (b) Example: F20 SATSF Geisler Lewis Kevin

(2) *Beckwith Précis File Name*

- (a) File Name: “F20 SATSF Beckwith Last Name First Name”  
 (b) Example: F20 SATSF Beckwith Lewis Kevin

4. *Clarification for Naming Files*

- a. Please do not include the quotation marks in your subject line or file names. The quotation marks are given in the example to indicate the exact words the student must use for the Subject Line of the email and the File Names.
- b. Moreover, please use spaces between words, rather than hyphens, dashes, or underlining, when writing your Subject Lines and File Names.
- c. Please follow the guidelines for emails and naming files as it helps me organize the large number of student emails and files I receive each semester.

## XII. IMPORTANT DUE DATES

Date	Assignment
1/20	Spring Semester Confirmation Email Due
4/14	Packer Précis Assignment Due
9/7	Fall Semester Confirmation Email Due
12/8	Geisler & Beckwith Précis Assignments Due

## XIII. ASSESSMENT (GRADING)

### A. GRADING CHART (ASSIGNMENT WEIGHT)

The value of each assignment as it relates to your final grade can be seen in the following scale:

#### 1. Spring Semester & Summer Session

Assignment	% of Final Grade
<i>Packer Précis</i>	100%
Participation in Summer Lectures	Required for Residential Credit

#### 2. Fall Semester

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Participation in Summer Lectures	Required for Residential Credit
<i>Geisler Précis</i>	50%
<i>Beckwith Précis</i>	50%

### B. GRADING CRITERIA

#### 1. Quality of Student Work [Read Carefully Here]

- a. In order for a student to receive an “A” grade on any assignment, the student must do *outstanding*, graduate level work.
- b. If the student submits *failing*, *below average*, *average*, or *above average* graduate level work, the assigned letter grade will reflect the quality of the work submitted.

#### 2. Grading Standards for All Written Work

Whereas Biola University desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all written work, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an “A” grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Graduate papers are expected to demonstrate a higher level of academic expression than undergraduate papers. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

#### 3. Formalities & Mechanics of Assignments

- a. **Format & Required Information:** At the top of the first page of all written assignments the student *must* have the:
  - (1) Title of the assignment,
  - (2) Student’s name,

- (3) Student's identification number,
- (4) Title of the course,
- (5) Date of the course (e.g., Spring 2020),
- (6) Name of the professor, and
- (7) SEE EXAMPLES:

For any additional information requested for a specific assignment (e.g., word count), the student may examine the specific assignment criteria and the sample outline of the assignment given at the end of this Course Outline.

**b. Following Instructions & Grade Penalties**

- (1) The grade for all student assignments will be reduced if the student fails to follow the directions listed in this course outline. Please consult the course outline when completing your assignments.
- (2) Note that the grade for all assignments will be *reduced one point* for each instance of a failure to conform to the guidelines.
- (3) Note that all of the requirements listed in the course outline are *mandatory*, not *discretionary*, for students. All assignments will be graded according to the criteria listed in this course outline.
- (4) Please check your work carefully before you submit it for grading.

**4. Late Work**

- a. All assignments, including Confirmation Emails and Reading Reports, must be submitted on time. All late assignments will *be reduced one percentage point* for each calendar day they are tardy.
- b. Written assignments must be emailed on or before the due date.
- c. Only in the case of *unanticipated* emergencies will an exception to this policy be granted. If you believe you meet the requirement for an exception, submit a detailed explanation to the professor via email.

**5. Guidelines for Citations in Written Assignments**

- a. The student must cite the source (e.g., have a footnote) for any idea found in the student's paper that is not the student's original idea or a matter of common knowledge.
- b. Secondary source citations must be properly cited with reference to the primary text. Thus, if an author cites another author, the footnote must reflect this citation-in-a-citation relationship. See the footnote below for an example.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, first ed. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966), 109, cited in Walter Martin, *The Maze of Mormonism*, revised and enlarged edition (Ventura: Regal Books, 1978), 178-179. [Example of a secondary source citation]

## 6. Additional Grading Criteria for Written Work

The student must examine and employ the criteria listed in the Written Assignment Code Key when preparing written assignments. See the Code Key at the end of this course outline, *infra*. The quality of the written assignments will be measured by the applicable criteria in the Code Key.

## 7. "Incomplete" Grade

- a. A temporary mark of "IN" (Incomplete Grade) will be issued in special cases when approved by the Associate Provost of Academic Administration for undergraduate students or the dean of the respective graduate school. "IN" grades course assignments are normally completed no later than five weeks after the end of the term. In the event of the inability of a student to complete the coursework by the approved deadline, the Office of the Registrar will assign the grade which the student has earned by the end of term.
- b. To read more about Biola's policies and procedures regarding absences, view [Biola's Student Handbook](#).

## C. GRADING SCALE (LETTER GRADE CUT-OFFS)

Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale:

Graduate	Scale
A = 96-100 points (Excellent)	C = 78-80 points (Average)
A- = 93-95 points	C- = 75-77 points
B+ = 90-92 points	D+ = 73-74 points
B = 87-89 points (Above Average)	D = 71-72 points (Below Average)
B- = 84-86 points	D- = 69-70 points
C+ = 81-83 points	F = 0-68 points (Fail)

## D. THE PRIVACY ACT

In order to comply with the Privacy Act, professors are not able to leave graded papers and exams in offices or designated areas for the purpose of returning those items to students.

## XIV. GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION & PROFESSOR POLICIES

### A. DOCTRINAL EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

#### BIOLA'S ARTICLES OF FAITH & STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

1. Since its inception, Biola has been a conservative evangelical protestant institution. Biola's theological views are affirmed in its Articles of Faith & Statement of Biblical Principles (AFSBP), which function as the doctrinal standard for the university. This course is taught with a presumption that these doctrines are true. As such, students may not actively argue against Biola's doctrinal views in this course. Biola's AFSBP can be viewed at <http://www.biola.edu/about/doctrinal-statement/>.
2. Since Biola's AFSBP does not address every possible theological issue, the university permits a diversity of opinion on issues not covered by the AFSBP, such as the doctrines involved in the Calvinism-Arminianism debate.
3. Finally, note that this expectation is not intended to hinder important reflection, discussion, or queries on these matters. Students are encouraged to engage in candid discussions, ask questions about any theological issue, raise counterarguments they have encountered, or even express genuine doubts or confusion about these items. The goal is to foster genuine camaraderie, unity, and *koinonia* among students as fellow travelers in their theological education.

### B. LECTURES, SYLLABUS & COPYRIGHT

1. The course syllabus, handouts, Power Point presentations, and class lectures are the intellectual property of the professor. As such they are subject to the protections of Federal Copyright Law (Title 17 of the United States Code).
2. Students desiring to copy course materials, printed or electronic, or record lectures must first obtain permission from the professor. The professor reserves all rights unless explicitly waived.

### C. MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

1. *Fairness to All Students*
  - a. Please do not request an exemption from the rules or to have a deadline extended unless there is an unanticipated emergency. It is presumed that all students and faculty are busy with jobs, church, family and other issues. Students must adjust their schedules to meet the deadlines. If not, they will receive the appropriate grade penalty.
  - b. Please do not ask me to change your grade unless I have made an error in calculating the grade. There is a single grading standard for all students. I will not create a different grading standard for any individual student.

## 2. *Email Etiquette*

- a. Please treat your emails as formal communications. Use complete sentences. Do not use a “texting” style for your messages.
- b. Be certain to include your full name and the course name in each email until I direct you to do otherwise.
- c. Be certain to include the program in which you are enrolled such as Talbot, or the M.A. Apologetics Program.

## 3. *Technology in the Classroom (During Summer Lectures)*

- a. *Cell Phones:* Please turn off or set to silent mode all devices, electronic or otherwise, that may cause a distraction in class. Items include, but are not limited to, cell phones, PDAs, iPods, and pagers. It is an expectation that both faculty and students will neither take calls, nor leave the classroom to take calls during class—except in the case of emergencies.
- b. *Computers:* Computers and PDAs may be used during class for note taking purposes. Any other use, such as for email, is not permitted. Students must wait for breaks or the end of class to use their computers for non-note taking purposes.

## 4. *Minimizing Interruptions and Distractions (During Summer Lectures)*

- a. *Talking:* Please do not talk in class. It is a distraction for me and your fellow students.
- b. *Work:* Please do not work on assignments for other classes while in the classroom.
- c. *Punctuality:* Please try to be punctual.
- d. *Leaving Early:* If a student must leave the class before the scheduled ending time, the student must inform the professor of this fact and sit as close to the door as possible to minimize the interruption to the class when she leaves.

## 5. *Classroom Etiquette (During Summer Lectures)*

- a. Do not interrupt either the professor or a fellow student when they are talking.
- b. Students must raise their hands to ask a question. Often, I will not answer a question immediately if I am in the middle of a lecture. When I have finished a particular section of the lecture, I will ask for questions.

### **D. ATTENDANCE (SUMMER LECTURES)**

1. Regular attendance of the summer lectures is required. I will take attendance in each class session to verify your presence or absence.
2. Per University policy, if you miss more than 20% of the class sessions for a course you will not be able to receive credit for the course.
3. Arriving late or leaving early counts as a partial absence in proportion to the time you missed.
4. Note that the professor has no discretion to grant an exception to this policy.

## **XV. M.A. APOLOGETICS MISSION STATEMENT**

The primary purpose of the MA in Christian Apologetics program is to provide Christian men and women with the academic and personal preparation they need to intelligently proclaim and defend the historic doctrines of the Christian faith and the Christian worldview at a time when challenges on all levels continue to increase.

## XVI. EXAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

### A. EXAMPLE OF FORMAT FOR THE PACKER PRECIS

#### *THE QUEST FOR GODLINESS*

By J.I. Packer

Student Name: *Dean Winchester*

Student Number: *8675309*

Survey of Apologetics Topics & Spiritual Formation

Spring 2020 – Lewis

Word Count: e.g., 1,999

#### I. Main Heading

A. *Subheading*

B. *Subheading*

#### II. Main Heading

A. *Subheading*

B. *Subheading*

Be certain to list Chapter and Sub-chapter headings for the remainder of the text as well.

## **B. SAMPLE HIGH QUALITY STUDENT PRECIS EXCERPT [TEXTBOOK NOT FOR THIS COURSE]**

Note the qualities of this précis excerpt that earned the student a high grade. (1) It is complete, easy to read, and well organized. (2) It is well documented and referenced. The student explained where each section summary originated. (3) It is written in a carefully well-worded manner and is grammatically correct. (4) It truly condenses the author's ideas in the student's prose without resorting to random selections of the author's direct quotes.

## **PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS<sup>1</sup>**

by John Warwick Montgomery

Student Name: Mad Eye Moody

Student Number: 8675309

Demonology & The Occult

Spring 2020 - Lewis

Word Count: 2,043 <sup>2</sup>

### **Chapter One: But Is It Real?**

Discussion of the occult must not be trivialized or made meaningless.<sup>3</sup> References to the occult should not be offhandedly vague, nor should the credibility of the existence of the supernatural be dismissed on an *ad hoc* basis.<sup>4</sup>

While almost impossible to capture the myriad of phenomena fitting within the scope of “the occult” with a single definition or description, it is dangerous error to permit the three broad categories into which occult activity are categorized – (1) the paranormal, (2) the supernatural, or (3) the “secret” or “hidden” – to become vehicles for simple reductionism.<sup>5</sup>

One of the real dangers of the occult is that the elements often overlap or appear in combination when considering any specific occult phenomena.<sup>6</sup> It is the supernatural (the

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<sup>1</sup> John Warwick Montgomery, *Principalities and Powers* (Edmonton, AB, Canada: Canadian Institute for Law, Theology, and Public Policy, Inc., 2001)

<sup>2</sup> Based on text only, without counting headers and footnotes.

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 25, 43-46

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 25-26

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 26, *et seq.*, synthesized and summarized

immaterial, spiritual, or other-worldly) that is foremost in thought when the “occult” is mentioned<sup>7</sup> – probably because those who claim to have, or those who desire and pursue the knowledge and power linked with, special abilities are generally not deterred by consideration of the hazy line between the supernatural and the paranormal<sup>8</sup> (powers and abilities possibly part of the genetic makeup of all human beings, accessible by some).<sup>9</sup> The failure of rational explanations based on rules governing the material world to explain actual recorded incidents makes “hidden” or “secret” not merely a catch-all category of specialized practitioners or organizations justifies the application of the term “occult” -- whose historic root meant “hidden” – to all these phenomena generally.<sup>10</sup>

Concealment (usually intentional) of knowledge and practices to a select few so as to preclude the ability to verify of truth claims is the key distinction between the occult and legitimate scientific inquiry and the truth claims of religion. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is not so different in type from occult phenomena, but the broad exposure of the occurrence to public scrutiny is quite distinct.<sup>11</sup>

Denial of the reality of the occult rejects the truth claims of the Bible. Worse, it is inherently illogical to reject all the non-biblical recorded data on a preconception against the reality of such phenomena.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 26-27

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 27-29 synthesized and summarized..

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 27-28 [footnote applies to entire paragraph of my text]

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 30-46 synthesized and summarized [while some guidelines regarding writing a precis permit inclusion of examples provided in the text, this precis follows the simple rule of summarizing argument presented and offers examples, which filled most of this text, only when directly necessary to explain development of the underlying argument]