



CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS

Summer Reading Schedule

Cold-Case Christianity
coldcasechristianity.com

Hello class!

I am excited about everything God will be teaching us this year in Christian Apologetics. To ensure we start the 2025-26 school year off right, we are doing summer reading! What could be more fun? I'm serious . . . what could be more fun :)!? This book, *Cold-Case Christianity*, is a great popular-level introduction to making the case for Christianity. My hope and prayer for you this summer is that this reading won't just feel like school work, but instead will feel like an opportunity to grow more deeply in your understanding of your faith. To remain faithful to Christ in the age of information and chat GPT, it seems vital for Christians in our culture to learn about the basic arguments and evidence supporting the biblical worldview.

In the following pages, I'm providing an outline to help guide you through the summer reading. The purpose of this outline is to make clear what I want you to read and understand before the school year begins—and if you keep up with the schedule, the workload shouldn't be bad.

My recommendation is that you read the chapters first, take notes in the margins of anything significant, and then complete your journal assignment after finishing the reading. All journal entries should be completed in a notebook of your choosing, and that notebook will be submitted for a grade on the first day of class.

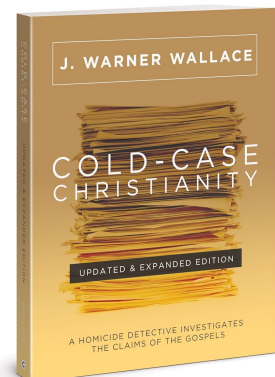
This class will require hard work, but I am confident that you will find it worth it in the end. If you have any questions during the summer, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

I can't wait to get started!

Dr. Berhow

"When we devote ourselves to this rational preparation and study, we are worshipping God with our mind, the very thing He has called us to do (Matt. 22:37)."

- J. Warner Wallace



WEEK OF JUNE 2

Read: Preface: *The Detective Way* & Chapter 1: *Don't Be a "Know-It-All"*

Chapter 1 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, explain why it is important to recognize your spiritual presuppositions. How might the influence of philosophical naturalism help or hinder one's pursuit of truth when it comes to spiritual matters? What is the best way to overcome biases? *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JUNE 9

Read: Chapter 2: *Learn How to "Infer"* & Chapter 3: *Think "Circumstantially"*

Chapter 2 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, explain the concept of abductive reasoning. Why is it important to distinguish between what is possible and what is reasonable? How do the principles of abductive reasoning help us evaluate whether the truth claims of Christianity are reasonable? In your answers, please provide some specifics—such as the minimal facts argument presented by Gary Habermas and Mike Licona. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

Chapter 3 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, explain the circumstantial evidence for God. Do you find this evidence convincing? Why or why not? What do you find most convincing? *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JUNE 16

Read: Chapter 4: *Test Your Witnesses* & Chapter 5: *Hang on Every Word*

Chapter 4 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, write down some reasons why we believe the Gospel writers were eyewitnesses. Based on what you read, explain the differences between seeing the Bible as inerrant versus seeing the Bible as reliable. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

Chapter 5 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, construct a reasonable circumstantial case for believing that Mark's account of Jesus was based on eyewitness testimony. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JUNE 23

Read: Chapter 6: *Separate Artifacts from Evidence* & Chapter 7: *Resist Conspiracy Theories*

Chapter 6 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, reflect on why we can trust the biblical evidence pertaining to Jesus. Have there ever been scribal alterations to the biblical text that invalidate the evidence for Jesus? *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

Chapter 7 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, consider the significance of knowing that Jesus's disciples were martyred. What does their martyrdom prove? *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JUNE 30

Read: Chapter 8: *Respect the “Chain of Custody”* & Chapter 9: *When “Enough is Enough”*

Chapter 8 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, reflect on the fact that no church council prior to the fourth century formally acknowledged the complete list of books in the New Testament canon. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

Chapter 9 Journal Assignment: After reading the chapter, write down your thoughts on how much evidence is enough to establish the truthfulness of Christianity. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JULY 7

Read: Chapter 10: *Prepare for an Attack*

Chapter 10 Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, take notes on its important points. *(I expect you to write about half a page of reflection in your notebook, addressing these questions in your own words.)*

WEEK OF JULY 14

Read: Chapter 11: *Were They Present?* & Chapter 12: *Were They Corroborated?*

Chapter 11 Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, create a detailed timeline from Jesus to the Council of Laodicea. *(When school starts, you will use this timeline as part of a group project.)*

Chapter 12 Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, take detailed notes and prepare presentation slides. *(When school starts, you will have a group project where you present the details of this chapter. Each student will need their own slides, which must be prepared before the first day of class.)*

WEEK OF JULY 21

Read: Chapter 13: *Were They Accurate Over Time?* & Chapter 14: *Were They Corroborated?*

Chapter 13 Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, take detailed notes and prepare presentation slides. *(When school starts, you will have a group project where you present the details of this chapter. Each student will need their own slides, which must be prepared before the first day of class.)*

Chapter 14 Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, take detailed notes and prepare presentation slides. *(When school starts, you will have a group project where you present the details of this chapter. Each student will need their own slides, which must be prepared before the first day of class.)*

WEEK OF JULY 28

Read: Postscript: *Becoming a “Two-Decision” Christian*

Postscript Journal Assignment: As you read the chapter, journal any thoughts you have about its content.