

# CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Educating and training ministerial leadership*



## THE453 Apologetics

### Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

### Professor

### Course Description

Having faith and knowing are two consistent themes of this course, which examines and explains the relationship between them for the Christian life. Each unit of study progressively develops this theme: God and Faith: Knowing That God Lives; The Word and Faith: Knowing That God Communicates; Experience and Faith: Knowing That God Acts. The student is presented with various views of each of the subjects addressed along with a biblical response. Ample opportunities are given for applying the eternal truths of God's Word to meet the challenges and demands of life in a complex and changing world.

### Resources

You will use *Apologetics, a Study Guide* by William Menzies with the textbooks it was written to accompany: *Know Why You Believe* by Paul E. Little (Revised Edition) and *A Christian Appeal to Reason* by Bernard L. Ramm. The Holy Bible is also required. Bible quotations in this Study Guide are from the New International Version (NIV), 1978 edition, unless otherwise noted. Some assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site. Instructions for accessing the Internet are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet.

### Objectives

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

### Course Procedures

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

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## **Course Introduction**

From the beginning of the Church Age, Christians have been called upon to give an account for their belief in what the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. In our present generation, we find scoffers, cynics, and doubters everywhere who ridicule Christian faith and try to dissuade believers from the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Every Christian should be able to give a reasoned and compelling answer for the “hope that is within him.” A study of Christian apologetics will help you to understand the importance of knowing how to explain what you believe about Jesus Christ and why you believe it.

The relationship of faith and reason is a dominant theme of this study. You will learn that subjective faith—your personal relationship with Jesus Christ—is made possible and must be supported by objective truth—the gospel message recorded in the Bible. The apostle Paul speaks of this in Colossians 1:3–6.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.

Christian apologetics makes no excuses for the teachings or practices of biblical faith. The purpose of this course is to convince you and help you to persuade others that man’s only hope is faith in and obedience to the God of the Christian Scriptures.

We live in an age of doubt in which relativism rules. For many people there is no longer an absolute truth. They ask, “How can I be sure of anything?” As a result, the meaning and purpose of their lives are seriously affected. But we can be sure. We can know the truth about God, and this knowledge will give direction to our lives. Why? Because God broke into human history through the life, death, and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ. Because of Him, we have the answers to life’s most perplexing questions and hope for the future.

Your prayerful and diligent study of Apologetics will guide and direct your thoughts toward the One who can fulfill all of your needs and the needs of everyone who will come to Him seeking truth.