UTT Series Book II: Apologetics Overview

Course Description: Apologetics is the second volume in the four-part Understanding the Times series, and uses Scripture and a Student Textbook as primary texts to:

- help students understand, experience, and live out the Christian worldview.
- guide students in sharing, defending, and commending the Christian faith to others.
- demonstrate how the Christian worldview stands up to common objections in society today.
- equip students with biblical teaching on topics including faith, pluralism, relativism, science, evil, hell, violence, science, gender, and more.

This course integrates the content with a review of the Bible's metanarrative and a defense of its trustworthiness to prepare students to share the gospel with sensitivity and critical thinking.

Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1. Ever Been There?
- 2. Purpose of this Book
- 3. The Bible and the Mission of God
- 4. The Call to Participate in the Mission of God
- 5. An Introduction to Evangelism and Apologetics
- 6. Some Misconceptions About Evangelism and Apologetics
- 7. Approaching Evangelism and Apologetics
- 8. The Limitation of Reason and the Role of Doubt
- 9. Some Questions of Apologetics
- 1.10 Conclusion

Chapter 2: A Trustworthy Bible

- 2.1 Encountering the Bible
- 2.2 What the Bible Is and Isn't
- 2.3 The Word of God through Humans
- 2.4 Is the Bible True?
- 2.5 Are There Myths and Scientific Inaccuracies in the Bible?
- 2.6 Evidence for the Historical Reliability of the Bible
- 2.7 How We Got the Bible—Part I
- 2.8 How We Got the Bible—Part II
- 2.9 Reading the Bible with an Open Mind
- 2.10 Conclusion

Chapter 3: The Shape of God's Story

- 3.1 The Power of Stories
- 3.2 The Bible as a Metanarrative
- 3.3 Act 1: Creation—God's Good World
- 3.4 Act 2: The Fall—Sin and Its Consequences
- 3.5 Act 3: Redemption Initiated—Israel
- 3.6 Interlude—The Second Temple Period
- 3.7 Act 4: Redemption Accomplished—Jesus
- 3.8 Act 5: Restoration Initiated—The Church
- 3.9 Act 6: Restoration Accomplished—New Creation
- 3.10 Conclusion

Chapter 4: Participating in God's Story

- 4.1 Who You Are Underneath
- 4.2 Staying Rooted in God's Love
- 4.3 Remembering Our True Story
- 4.4. Christian Mission: Being, Doing, and Telling
- 4.5 Evangelism, Discipleship, and Missions
- 4.6 Evangelism, Discipleship, and Missions in Action
- 4.7 Apologetics
- 4.8 Apologetics in Action
- 4.9 Learning from Paul
- 4.10 Conclusion

Chapter 5: Empowered to Love

- 5.1 The Church Faces Persecution
- 5.2 Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- 5.3 Motivated by Love
- 5.4 Spiritual Preparation
- 5.5 Intellectual Preparation
- 5.6 Emotional Preparation
- 5.7 A Loving Approach
- 5.8 A Loving Encounter
- 5.9 Planting, Watering, and Reaping
- 5.10 Conclusion

Chapter 6: Not All Is Faith in Love and War

- 6.1 A Reason to Reason
- 6.2 Logically Speaking
- 6.3 Critical Thinking
- 6.4 Fallacies, Part 1
- 6.5 Fallacies, Part 2
- 6.6 Fallacies, Part 3
- 6.7 Listening Goes a Long Way
- 6.8 Asking Questions
- 6.9 Employing Scripture with Love
- 6.10 Conclusion

Chapter 7: What to Do with Doubt

- 7.1 Experiencing Doubt
- 7.2 The Nature of Faith
- 7.3 Doubt and Unbelief
- 7.4. Deconstruction and Reconstruction
- 7.5 Doubt and the Intellect
- 7.6 Doubt and Emotions
- 7.7 Doubt and Experience
- 7.8 Doubt and Our Actions
- 7.9 Attending to Doubt
- 7.10 Conclusion

Chapter 8: Truth and Tolerance

- 8.1 What Is Truth?
- 8.2 The Nature of Truth
- 8.3 The Necessity of Trust
- 8.4 A Christian View of Truth
- 8.5 Modernism: Truth Is Found through Reason and Science
- 8.6 Postmodernism: Truth Cannot Be Known
- 8.7 Relativism: Truth Is Individual and Cultural
- 8.8 A Christian Response to Other Views of Truth
- 8.9 Tolerance
- 8.10 Conclusion

Chapter 9: Religion Roundup

- 9.1 Does Religious Truth Matter?
- 9.2 Religious Terminology
- 9.3 Religious Pluralism
- 9.4 Critiquing Misguided Notions of Religious Pluralism
- 9.5 Religions of the World, Part 1
- 9.6 Religions of the World, Part 2
- 9.7 Religions of the World, Part 3
- 9.8 Fruitful Interreligious Dialogue
- 9.9 Case Study: A Dialogue with a Muslim
- 9.10 Conclusion

Chapter 10: Questioning Religion

- 10.1 The Nones
- 10.2 Foundational Nonreligious Worldviews
- 10.3 Religion and Reality
- 10.4 Religion and Reason
- 10.5 Religion and Human Flourishing
- 10.6 Religion and Meaning
- 10.7 Religion and Morality
- 10.8 Religion and Relationship
- 10.9 True Religion and Right Worship 10.10 Conclusion

Chapter 11: The Supernatural and Truth

- 11.1 Supernatural Encounters
- 11.2 Existence of God: Kalam Cosmological Argument
- 11.3 Existence of God: Design Argument
- 11.4 Existence of God: Moral Argument
- 11.5 Existence of the Christian God
- 11.6 The Possibility of Miracles
- 11.7 The Resurrection Miracle: Four Facts Plus One
- 11.8 The Resurrection Miracle: Confronting Alternative Theories
- 11.9 Existence of Other Supernatural Beings
- 11.10 Conclusion

Chapter 12: Christianity and Science

- 12. 1 Introduction
- 12.2 The Relationship between Christianity and Science
- 12.3. Christianity and the Development of Modern Science
- 12.4 Science, the Bible, and the Church
- 12.5 The Nature of the Universe
- 12.6 The Science of Origins
- 12.7 Four Christian Views of Origins
- 12.8 The Nature of Human Life and Death
- 12.9 The Science of Health and Medicine
- 12.10 Conclusion

Chapter 13: Evil and Suffering

- 13.1 Facing the Darkness
- 13.2 Framing the Problem of Evil and Suffering
- 13.3 Evil Is Everyone's Problem
- 13.4 Free Will and the Origin of Evil
- 13.5 God's Foreknowledge and Sovereignty
- 13.6 Evil as a Personal Problem
- 13.7 God With Us
- 13.8 Victory over Evil
- 13.9 The Church's Response to Evil
- 13.10 Conclusion

Chapter 14: Hell

- 14.1 What's the Deal with Hell?
- 14.2 The Concept of Hell in Scripture
- 14.3 The Concept of Hell throughout Church History
- 14.4 What Is the Purpose of Hell?
- 14.5 How Long Does Hell Last?
- 14.6 Is Hell a Choice?
- 14.7 Is Hell Just?
- 14.8 What about Children and Those Who Haven't Heard?
- 14.9 Talking about Hell
- 14.10 Conclusion

Chapter 15: Slavery, Racism, and Violence in the Bible

- 15.1 A Troubling Scripture
- 15.2 The Descriptive and the Prescriptive
- 15.3 Cultural Context and Redemptive Movement
- 15.4 Slavery in the Old Testament
- 15.5 Slavery in the New Testament
- 15.6 Violence: When God Does It
- 15.7 Violence: When God Commands It
- 15.8 Violence: When God's People Pray for It
- 15.9 Violence: When Jesus Teaches about It
- 15.10 Conclusion

Chapter 16: Gender and the Bible

- 16.1 Introduction
- 16.2 Postmodernism, Technology, and Sexuality
- 16.3 Created as Embodied Souls
- 16.4 The Meaning of Marriage
- 16.5 Fallen People, Fallen Bodies
- 16.6 Sexual Orientation and Gender
- 16.7 The Fall and Sexual Brokenness
- 16.8 Redeemed and Resurrected Bodies
- 16.9 Sexuality and the Church
- 16.10 Conclusion

Chapter 17: Being a Faithful Witness

- 17.1 Developing a Personal Apologetic Approach
- 17.2 Pray
- 17.3 Become Equipped
- 17.4 Be Strategic
- 17.5 Be Winsome
- 17.6 Persevere
- 17.7 Practice 17.8 Reflect
- 17.9 Next Steps
- 17.10 Conclusion

Chapter 18: Conclusion

- 18.1 Scripture and the Mission of God
- 18.2 Participating in God's Mission with Confidence and Joy
- 18.3 Five Challenges to the Christian Faith
- 18.4 Four More Challenges to the Christian Faith
- 18.5 Engaging at the Worldview Level