



INTRODUCTION TO APOLOGETICS

Rev. Michael Wallace Payne, Ph.D.

September 11 - 15, 2017

**Riga, Akas street 13,
3 rd floor, 18:00-21:00.**

In English, with translation into Latvian.

ABOUT PROFESSOR

Dr. Michael Payne is currently Senior Pastor of Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Virginia (USA). Previously he served as pastor in Taipei, Taiwan and Mexico City, Mexico. Dr. Payne was Professor of Theology and Apologetics at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi from 1997 to 2006. He has numerous publications in the areas of worldview and apologetics as well as ethics. He received his Th.M in Apologetics and Ph.D in Theology from Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia, PA).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to formulate the rational basis for believing in Christian theism, with responses to objections and critiques of competing worldviews. In the first part, the student examines what Scripture says about the natural human condition, especially as it relates to knowledge, particularly the process by which a non-Christian comes to know Christ. In the second part, a brief discussion of the various methods or approaches to apologetics, namely how to do apologetics. Finally, the third part discusses issues under debate between Christians and non-Christians, such as the existence of God, the truth of Scripture, the problem of evil, and the currents of modern and postmodern thought.

Course requirements

1. Class attendance and participation in the discussion
2. Required readings for pastoral students:
 - T.Keller, *The Reason for God*, (Hodder & Stoughton, 2009).
 - J. Frame, *Apologetics: A Justification of Christian Belief*, (Presbyterian and Reformed; First edition, 2015), pages 31 - 154 and 189 - 218.
3. Required readings for lay students:
 - T.Keller, *The Reason for God*, (Hodder & Stoughton, 2009), chapters 1-7.
4. A written case-study (only for pastoral students).
5. Final written examination based on class lectures.

ABOUT THE CLASSES:

Auditors welcome. Participation fee is 14 EUR (includes materials and coffee breaks).

Signing up for the course and additional information: Janis Perkons, phone +371 26356030, janis@brts.edu.lv