

Popcultured Thinking Christianly About Style Media And Entertainment

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Explore how a thoughtful Christian perspective can inform and enrich our engagement with contemporary pop culture. This resource provides insights into discerning style, media, and entertainment through a biblical lens, helping believers navigate modern trends with wisdom and grace.

Students can use these dissertations as models for structuring their own work.

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Popcultured

Drawing on his storied career as a pop-culture wallflower, Steve Turner provides an all-access pass to the pervasive cultures of style, media and celebrity. Passing on his uniquely Christian way of viewing these cultures, Turner opens our eyes to a world of ideas lying just beneath the hype.

Popcultured

Imagine art that is risky, complex, and subtle. Imagine music, movies, books, and paintings of the highest quality. Imagine art that permeates society, challenging conventional thinking and standard morals to their core. Imagine that it is all created by Christians! This is the bold vision of Steve Turner, who has worked among a wide variety of artists for decades. He believes Christians should confront society and the church using art's powerful impact. Art can faithfully chronicle the lives of ordinary people and express the transcendence of God. And Christians should be involved in every level of the art world and in every medium. In this revised and expanded edition of a contemporary classic, Turner builds a compelling case for Christians in the arts. If Jesus is Lord of all of life and creation, then art is part of his cultural mandate. It can and should be a way of expressing faith through creatively, beautifully, and truthfully arranged words, sounds, and sights. Now includes study questions for individual reflection or group discussion.

Imagine

Did you know? 36% of Bob Dylan's songs published between 1961 and 1968 had biblical references, including his 1964 hit "The Times They Are A-Changin'." The book of Ecclesiastes has been a great inspiration on popular music including the song "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Birds, the Pink Floyd album The Dark Side of the Moon, and "Desperado," the 1973 hit by The Eagles, among others. Paul Simon

once advised a young prospective lyricist to raid the Bible for memorable phrases. "Just steal them," he said, "That's what they're there for." There's no question that Scripture has influenced music since the first ever song was penned. In *Turn! Turn! Turn!* author and music connoisseur, Steve Turner, takes an in-depth look at the lyrics and cultural context of 100 of the greatest songs from the 1930s to today to reveal an often overlooked or ignored strand of influence in popular music -- the Bible. Indeed, some of the "greats" -- including Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Bono, Johnny Cash, Sting, and others -- have repeatedly returned to the Bible for such sustenance, as well as musical inspiration and a framework with which they can better understand themselves. "I hope the book prompts, provokes, and intrigues as it reveals this often-hidden history," writes Steve Turner. You'll never listen to your favorite song or popular tune the same way again after discovering how the Bible has influenced music.

Turn, Turn, Turn

Whether you're a regular attender, a leader, or have yet to step foot in a church, you may have questions about church that aren't being answered. How can the church remain relevant while communicating the unchanging integrity of God's truth? Author Tim Stevens makes an inspiring case for leveraging pop culture to reach out to people in the language of their lives. He offers a new perspective that gives relevance and impact to the church by using pop culture, meeting people in the real world with words, sounds and images that speak to them. He encourages us to get out of our comfort zones and look people in the eyes, meeting them wherever they are, relating to their problems and society's challenges, even celebrating pop culture, where there are exciting signs of spiritual seeking. *Pop Goes the Church* will open your mind to church in a way that breaks down walls, engages the culture and speaks to a generation that needs to hear good news.

Pop Goes the Church

Themelios is an international, evangelical, peer-reviewed theological journal that expounds and defends the historic Christian faith. Themelios is published three times a year online at The Gospel Coalition (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/>) and in print by Wipf and Stock. Its primary audience is theological students and pastors, though scholars read it as well. Themelios began in 1975 and was operated by RTSF/UCCF in the UK, and it became a digital journal operated by The Gospel Coalition in 2008. The editorial team draws participants from across the globe as editors, essayists, and reviewers. General Editor: D. A. Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Managing Editor: Brian Tabb, Bethlehem College and Seminary Consulting Editor: Michael J. Ovey, Oak Hill Theological College Administrator: Andrew David Naselli, Bethlehem College and Seminary Book Review Editors: Jerry Hwang, Singapore Bible College; Alan Thompson, Sydney Missionary & Bible College; Nathan A. Finn, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Hans Madueme, Covenant College; Dane Ortlund, Crossway; Jason Sexton, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary Editorial Board: Gerald Bray, Beeson Divinity School Lee Gatiss, Wales Evangelical School of Theology Paul Helseth, University of Northwestern, St. Paul Paul House, Beeson Divinity School Ken Magnuson, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Jonathan Pennington, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary James Robson, Wycliffe Hall Mark D. Thompson, Moore Theological College Paul Williamson, Moore Theological College Stephen Witmer, Pepperell Christian Fellowship Robert Yarbrough, Covenant Seminary

Themelios, Volume 39, Issue 2

Youth ministry succeeds because it directly reflects Jesus Christ's approach. It's not overvalued today; it's undervalued. The hard work required for its success has been misunderstood and misrepresented. The first part of the book establishes that case and analyzes the pros and cons of current, varying philosophies and approaches, merging their best aspects into the holistic approach demonstrated by Christ. Part 2 introduces Attachment Relationship Ministry (ARM), a lens distinguishing four primary adolescent relational styles depending on how secure or insecure teens are with God and parents. Part 3 encourages strategic relational ministry sensitive to those styles, explaining why youth leader efforts succeed or fail. Chapters offer realistic discipleship and evangelism suggestions depending on attachment styles and practically empowering youth workers (volunteers, newbies, experts, and interns) to focus energy and time more wisely. These recommendations relate to spiritual formation, leadership selection, parental approach, and trending issues, such as ministry to LGBTQIA teens. For too many teens today, feeling insecure in crisis is a way of life. Learn how to take what you've done well and make it better. All church leaders should read this book, logging the critical importance of providing ministry specifically targeting teenagers today.

A Defense of Youth Ministry

What is it that makes something beautiful? Is beauty solely in the eye of the beholder, or something deeper, more significant? In *Beauty (and the Banana)*, Nixon writes as an introductory book for Christian leaders, providing the reader an overview of the historical, hermeneutical, and heuristic considerations of beauty. Using the artwork *Comedian* (a banana taped to a wall) by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan as a springboard, Nixon addresses various fundamental factors of beauty—ontology (being), teleology (form and understanding), and immutability (transcendence and eternity). Integrating poetry and classical ideals throughout, *Beauty (and the Banana)*'s response to the above questions may surprise all who read—beauty is more than meets the eye.

Beauty (and the Banana)

Letters to Young Scholars is designed primarily for college students, advanced high school students, and church and parachurch study groups on spiritual development. As a college text, the book introduces beginning students to the general education (or liberal arts) portion of a Christian college education. It gives major emphasis to the humanities and social science disciplines, the integration of the Christian faith with those disciplines, and the application of Christian thought to daily living (applied Christianity). It seeks to challenge the students to become broader in perspective and appreciation, more compassionate toward all of God's creatures, and more confident and committed as they develop their worldviews and personal values.

Letters to Young Scholars, Second Edition

In response to challenges from the emerging world, this book brings together essays that discuss and exemplify various related approaches to academic faith integration and explore how Christian faith should underpin, scaffold, and frame our understanding of academic disciplines, leading to practical implications for work or action in modern society and culture. Written by Christian scholars and practitioners from diverse backgrounds including the USA, the UK, Australia, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, and the Philippines, the contributions here all contribute a global perspective while addressing some specific issue or case in the context of Asia. They represent ingenious endeavors that illustrate the workings of a faith-integrated approach in domains as wide as higher education, business, science, psychology and counseling, politics, environment, media, social services, leadership, research, and technology. This volume will inform and inspire the reader into cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary studies particularly of religion, education, culture, society, and worldview.

Christian Mind in the Emerging World

In Constructing Blue-Collar Leaders in a White-Collar World . . . "Dr. LaMar Herndon considers a group of leaders often overlooked and occasionally denigrated—the bivocational pastor. *Constructing Blue Collar Leaders in a White Collar World* integrates important theoretical leadership concepts with spiritual and practical realities. Dr. Herndon explores important topics such as trends and issues facing the global church and its leaders, leadership models, values and ethics, character and integrity, cultural effects, creativity and innovation, reverse mentoring, and strategic planning. This book is a profoundly honest hands-on guide to what constitutes a true leader serving as a bivocational minister." -Dr. Gary Oster Regent University School of Business & Leadership, Virginia Beach, VA "Down through my thirty plus years of education, ministry, and leadership I have read many books on the subject of leadership. Some have challenged me and inspired me, but none have done so at the level of *Constructing Blue Collar Leaders in a White Collar World*. As a State Minister, I work with many bivocational and blue collar Pastors. I will be using Dr. Herndon's book as a primary resource to assist me in working with those Pastors in challenging and inspiring them in their leadership development." -Dr. Darryl Allen State Minister KY Church of God Ministries, Adjunct Professor at Nazarene Bible College & Mid-America Christian University "It [*Constructing Blue-Collar Leaders in a White-Collar World*] is an excellent presentation of leadership issues every pastor needs to understand to some degree. The chapter on "Values and Ethics" is worth the price of the book. Thanks for sharing the results of your many hours of study and hard work." -Ray Gilder National Coordinator Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network, Bivocational Small Church Ministries Specialist Tennessee Baptist Convention "Dr. LaMar Herndon presents leadership from a very down to earth and practical approach. This book seeks to help the bivocational church leader be effective while balancing these two worlds. I believe this book needs to be in every pastor, minister, and leaders library; whether bivocational or not." -Rev. Jewel D. Williams, M.R.E. (Church of God, Anderson, IN Author of *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, *Living our Theology*, and *the Path of a Preacher*)

Constructing Blue Collar Leaders in a White Collar World

How do Christians go about understanding their cultural context in twenty-first century Britain? What is the relationship between faith and the culture in which it is lived? Considering the most formative influences for people of faith in our culture, and the forces at play in competing for their attention, Cultural Hermeneutics equips those in ministry, and those in formation for roles within the church, to better 'read' the times in which they serve.

Cultural Hermeneutics

Based on the National Study of Youth and Religion--the same invaluable data as its predecessor, Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers--Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling new book, *Almost Christian*, investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about Christianity and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. In *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton found that American teenagers have embraced a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism"--a hodgepodge of banal, self-serving, feel-good beliefs that bears little resemblance to traditional Christianity. But far from faulting teens, Dean places the blame for this theological watering down squarely on the churches themselves. Instead of proclaiming a God who calls believers to lives of love, service and sacrifice, churches offer instead a bargain religion, easy to use, easy to forget, offering little and demanding less. But what is to be done? In order to produce ardent young Christians, Dean argues, churches must rediscover their sense of mission and model an understanding of being Christian as not something you do for yourself, but something that calls you to share God's love, in word and deed, with others. Dean found that the most committed young Christians shared four important traits: they could tell a personal and powerful story about God; they belonged to a significant faith community; they exhibited a sense of vocation; and they possessed a profound sense of hope. Based on these findings, Dean proposes an approach to Christian education that places the idea of mission at its core and offers a wealth of concrete suggestions for inspiring teens to live more authentically engaged Christian lives. Persuasively and accessibly written, *Almost Christian* is a wake up call no one concerned about the future of Christianity in America can afford to ignore.

Almost Christian

An inspiring guide for developing the Christian mind extols the crucial roll of Christian higher education in the intellectual and spiritual formation of believers.

Engaging God's World

Explores the Christian parallels within the themes of the Harry Potter books and explains how parents can use these stories to address everyday issues and challenges with children.

A Parent's Guide to Harry Potter

Do you watch movies with your eyes open? You buy your tickets and concessions, and you walk into the theater. Celluloid images flash at twenty-four frames per second, and the hypnotic sequence of moving pictures coaxes you to suspend disbelief and be entertained by the implausible. Unfortunately, many often suspend their beliefs as well, succumbing to subtle lessons in how to behave, think and even perceive reality. Do you find yourself hoping that a sister will succeed in seducing her sibling's husband, that a thief will get away with his crime, that a serial killer will escape judgment? Do you, too, laugh at the bumbling priest and seethe at the intolerant and abusive evangelist? Do you embrace worldviews that infect your faith and then wonder, after your head is clear, whether your faith can survive the infection? In this thoroughly revised and updated edition of his popular book, Brian Godawa guides you through the place of redemption in film, the tricks screenwriters use to communicate their messages, and the mental and spiritual discipline required for watching movies. *Hollywood Worldviews* helps you enter a dialogue with Hollywood that leads to a happier ending, one that keeps you aware of your culture and awake to your faith.

Hollywood Worldviews

How are sexual abuse survivors to overcome the challenges they are sure to face? Finding strength in community with other survivors is one key to recovery. In *Not Quite Healed*, two survivors join forces to share insight and encouragement on the issues that challenge them most. After a candid discussion about each issue, the authors provide a self-affirming statement that men can study, memorize, and recite on their darkest days.

Not Quite Healed

The new and updated edition of *Political Islam, World Politics and Europe* focusses on the shift within political Islam, in light of 9/11 and the events of the Arab Spring, from a jihadist struggle, to institutional Islamism. Refuting what has often been referred to by commentators as the 'moderation,' of Islamism, the second edition of this book introduces the concept of 'institutional,' Islamism, a process which Tibi argues was accelerated in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Both jihadist and institutional Islamism pursue the same goal of an Islamist state, but disagree fundamentally on the strategy for achieving it. Whilst jihadism is committed to the idea of a (violent) Islamic world revolution, institutional Islamism embraces political institutions as a means to an end. Turning to the events of the Arab Spring in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt this book attempts to determine whether an abandonment of violence is enough to underpin a shift to genuine democracy. Analysing the fall of Morsi in particular, Tibi questions what lessons can be learnt from his presidency, and argues that this event will not change the overall trend of development from jihadism to institutional Islamism. A timely addition to existing literature, this book will be of interest to students and scholars studying Middle Eastern and European Politics, Political Islam and International Relations.

Political Islam, World Politics and Europe

Directing and Producing for Television provides essential tools required to direct and produce effectively in a variety of settings. Ideal for students in television production courses, *Directing and Producing for Television* addresses critical production techniques for various formats, including multiple-camera panel productions, news and demonstration programs, as well as scripted and musical productions, documentaries, sports, commercials, and PSAs. In full color for the first time, this new edition has been updated to include information about online distribution platforms like YouTube and Vimeo, and new production tools such as actions cameras, smart phones, DSLRs, and drones. New, full-colour images throughout give this classic text a fresh look featuring today's latest technology. Written by an expert with years of experience in both the industry and in teaching television directing and producing. An approachable writing style brings a real world perspective to the procedures and protocols of a demanding industry. Visuals showing camera setups and accompanying shots illustrate the best approach to a variety of formats and the related challenges for each.

Directing and Producing for Television

"Movies are our way of telling God what we think about this world and our place in it. . . . Movies can be many things: escapist experiences, historical artifacts, business ventures, and artistic expressions, to name a few. I'd like to suggest that they can also be prayers." Movies do more than tell a good story. They are expressions of raw emotion, naked vulnerability, and unbridled rage. They often function in the same way as prayers, communicating our deepest longings and joys to a God who hears each and every one. In this captivating book, *Filmspotting* co-host Josh Larsen brings a critic's unique perspective to how movies function as expressions to God of lament, praise, joy, confession, and more. His clear expertise and passion for the art of film, along with his thoughtful reflections on the nature of prayer, will bring you a better understanding of both. God's omnipresence means that you can find him whether you're sitting on your sofa at home or in the seats at the theater. You can talk to him wherever movies are shown. And when words fail, the perfect film might be just what you need to jump-start your conversations with the Almighty.

Movies Are Prayers

Incorporating perspectives from religious studies, humor studies, cultural and film studies, and theology, as well as original data from textual analysis and the voices of religious comedians, this book critically analyses the experiences of believers who appreciate that their faith is not necessarily a barrier to their laughter. It is often thought that religion and humor are incompatible, but *Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture* shows that humor is not only a popular means of entertainment, but also a way in which an individual or community expresses their identity and values. Elisha McIntyre argues that believers embrace their sense of humor, actively producing and consciously consuming comic entertainment that reflects their own experiences. This process is not however without conflict. The book argues that there are specific characteristics that indicate a unique kind of humor that may be called 'religious humor'. Through an examination of religious humor found in stand-up comedy, television sitcoms, comedy film and satirical cartoons, and drawing on interview data, the book outlines the main considerations that Christians take into account when choosing their comedy entertainment.

These include questions about ideology, blasphemy, taboos around the body, and the motives behind the joke.

Religious Humor in Evangelical Christian and Mormon Culture

What can zombies teach us about the gospel? The hit show *The Walking Dead* is set in a post-apocalyptic world inhabited by mindless zombies. The characters have one goal: survive at all costs. At first glance there doesn't seem to be much the show can teach us about God or ourselves. Or is there? Author and speaker Danielle Strickland didn't expect to be drawn to a show about zombies, but she was surprised by the spiritual themes the show considers. In *The Zombie Gospel* she explores the ways that *The Walking Dead* can help us think about survival, community, consumerism, social justice, and the resurrection life of Jesus. After all, in the gospel God raises up a new humanity—a humanity resuscitated and reanimated by the new life of the Holy Spirit. Fans of the show will resonate with the book's exploration of spiritual themes, and can follow along with the episode discussion guide included within. And even if you haven't yet encountered *The Walking Dead*, you may be surprised to find another, greater story within the show's story.

The Zombie Gospel

The gospel of Jesus Christ is always situated within a particular cultural context: but how should Christians approach the complex relationship between their faith and the surrounding culture? Should we simply retreat from culture? Should we embrace our cultural practices and mindset? How important is it for us to be engaged with our culture and mindset? How might we do that with discernment and faithfulness? William Edgar offers a biblical theology in the light of our contemporary culture that contends that Christians should -- and indeed, must -- engage with the surrounding culture. By exploring what Scripture has to say about the role of culture and glean insights from a variety of theologians -- including Abraham Kuyper, T. S. Eliot, H. Richard Niebuhr and C. S. Lewis -- Edgar contends that cultural engagement is a fundamental aspect of human existence. He does not shy away from those passages that emphasize the distinction between Christians and the world. Yet he finds, shining through the biblical witness, evidence that supports a robust defence of the cultural mandate to 'be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it' (Genesis 1:28). With clarity and wisdom, Edgar argues that we are most faithful to our calling as God's creatures when we participate in creating culture. Introduction Part 1: Parameters of culture Part 2: Challenges from Scripture Part 3: The cultural mandate Epilogue

Created and Creating

Noted pastor J. D. Greear addresses the important but rarely explored topic of Christians who doubt their salvation or have an unclear notion of what "asking Jesus into your heart" really means.

Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart

Everyone has a worldview. A worldview is the lens through which we interpret the cosmos and our lives in it. A worldview answers the big questions of life: What is our nature? What is our world? What is our problem? What is our end? As Anderson, Clark and Naugle point out, our worldview cannot simply be reduced to a series of rational beliefs. We are creatures of story, and the kinds of story we tell reveal important things about our worldview. Part of being a thoughtful Christian is to understand and express the Christian worldview. It also means developing an awareness of the variety of worldviews. An *Introduction to Christian Worldview* explores answers to questions such as Why do worldviews matter? What characterizes a Christian worldview? How can we analyse and describe a worldview? What are the most common secular and religious worldviews? Well organized, clearly written and featuring aids for learning, *An Introduction to Christian Worldview* is the essential text for either the classroom or personal study. 'Readily accessible . . . a valuable resource for all Christians who desire a deeper understanding of the conceptual foundations of our faith.' Steve Wilkens, Professor of Philosophy and Ethics, Azusa Pacific University

An Introduction to Christian Worldview

Freedom All The Way Up proposes four intertwined elements that make up the meaning of life—self-worth, purpose, identity, and hope. Materialism (atheism) claim the universe has no meaning, so there is no larger purposeful story into which we can place ourselves—we are left on our own to construct meaning for our lives. Barrigar argues, though, that the universe possess God's meaning and

purpose—to provide the space and conditions by which to bring about the existence of agape-capable beings in agape-loving relationships with God and with others. In effect, the universe is a great ‘freedom system’ designed by God with freedom built in ‘all the way up’, from the Big Bang to the emergence of big brains and free will. Barrigar describes the emergence of this system through his novel agape/probability account of God’s design for the universe, which integrates such disciplines as quantum physics, statistical mechanics, probability theory, evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, and game theory. This system sets up the conditions for a fundamental choice between autonomous freedom, which focuses principally on self, and agapic freedom, which focuses principally on God and on others. Materialism chooses autonomous freedom, but thereby introduces nihilism into each of the elements of meaning. It turns out that nihilism is a much greater problem for Materialism than suffering is for Theism. In contrast, agapic freedom infuses self-worth, purpose, identity, and hope with God’s agape-love, dispelling Materialism’s inherent nihilism. *Freedom All The Way Up* provides a dramatic new proposal for God and the meaning of life in our scientific and humanist age.

Freedom All The Way Up

A riveting look at the transformative year in the lives and careers of the legendary group whose groundbreaking legacy would forever change music and popular culture. They started off as hysteria-inducing pop stars playing to audiences of screaming teenage fans and ended up as musical sages considered responsible for ushering in a new era. The year that changed everything for the Beatles was 1966—the year of their last concert and their first album, *Revolver*, that was created to be listened to rather than performed. This was the year the Beatles risked their popularity by retiring from live performances, recording songs that explored alternative states of consciousness, experimenting with avant-garde ideas, and speaking their minds on issues of politics, war, and religion. It was the year their records were burned in America after John’s explosive claim that the group was “more popular than Jesus,” the year they were hounded out of the Philippines for “snubbing” its First Lady, the year John met Yoko Ono, and the year Paul conceived the idea for Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band. On the fiftieth anniversary of this seminal year, music journalist and Beatles expert Steve Turner slows down the action to investigate in detail the enormous changes that took place in the Beatles’ lives and work during 1966. He looks at the historical events that had an impact on the group, the music they made that in turn profoundly affected the culture around them, and the vision that allowed four young men from Liverpool to transform popular music and serve as pioneers for artists from Coldplay to David Bowie, Jay-Z to U2. By talking to those close to the group and by drawing on his past interviews with key figures such as George Martin, Timothy Leary, and Ravi Shankar—and the Beatles themselves—Turner gives us the compelling, definitive account of the twelve months that contained everything the Beatles had been and anticipated everything they would still become.

Beatles '66

Most Christian college students separate their academic life from church attendance, Bible study, and prayer. Too often discipleship of the mind is overlooked if not ignored altogether. In this lively and enlightening book, two authors who are experienced in college youth ministry show students how to be faithful in their studies, approaching education as their vocation. This revised edition of the well-received *The Outrageous Idea of Academic Faithfulness* includes updates throughout, two new substantive appendixes, personal stories from students, a new preface, and a fresh interior design. Chapters conclude with thought-provoking discussion questions.

Learning for the Love of God

Kids and adults alike love Pixar’s movies. We come out of the theater not just entertained or amused, but inspired. Everybody agrees: Pixar makes fun, clean, terrific movies. But what makes these movies so appealing is not merely amazing CGI animation, clever humor or fantastic imagination. These movies are not just great. Pixar’s movies are good. Robert Velarde unpacks the movies of Pixar and shows how they display the best of classic Christian virtues. Pixar’s films resonate with us because of their moral character. Their virtuous themes of hope and courage, friendship and love connect with our deepest human longings. Whether we identify with the plight of a lost fish or the adventures of toys, bugs or cars, Pixar’s characters help us build our own character, with the kind of virtue that we want for ourselves and those around us. Insightfully exploring each of Pixar’s movies, this book is a friendly companion for fans, parents and church leaders. Discover how the imagination of Pixar can awaken in you a Christian vision for a moral life and a better society.

The Wisdom of Pixar

Crouch unleashes a stirring manifesto calling Christians to be culture makers. By making chairs and omelets, languages and laws, Christians participate in God's own making and transforming of culture.

Culture Making

One of Library Journal's Best Books Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award Finalist Midwest Publishing Association Honorable Mention Thousands of people start each day with a shot of Coffee with Jesus, the enormously popular online comic strip. Irreverent at times, yet always insightful, this volume features classic entries and all new, exclusive material that was born out of artist David Wilkie's frustration with the polarized political climate in America. "Originally created as a one-off, single-panel comic on my blog, utilizing old advertising clip art for the main characters and Sunday school clip art for the person of Jesus, I simply enjoyed the notion of Jesus appearing at table with these people (dressed as they were and sharing coffee with them) to refute their claims of how he might vote on any particular issue, to convince them that they cannot confuse their flag with their God—to set them straight, as it were," explains Wilkie. But it didn't stop here. Soon the Jesus of Coffee with Jesus could be seen offering counsel to a recurring cast of characters on their personal and work lives. The characters—Carl, Lisa, Ann, Kevin and Joe—all honestly engage with Jesus about their successes and failures and wants and needs, effectively showing what conversation with God—or prayer—might look like. Poignant, pointed, and rife with good theology, Coffee with Jesus is organized around six themes: getting to know Jesus, spiritual disciplines, relationships, culture, church, and the challenges of life. With exclusive material like twelve-panel mega-strips and "behind the strip" reflections on life, faith and art, Wilkie inventively poses answers to the perpetual Christian speculation, "What would Jesus do?"

Coffee with Jesus

A companion to the Harry Potter books features an overview of the life of J. K. Rowling; discusses the themes presented in the books; offers an A-to-Z of beings, places, things, and events; and includes plot summaries of all seven books.

Field Guide to Harry Potter

This 50th-anniversary edition, with a new foreword by the distinguished historian Martin E. Marty, who regards this book as one of the most vital books of our time, as well as an introduction by the author never before included in the book, and a new preface by James Gustafson, the premier Christian ethicist who is considered Niebuhr's contemporary successor, poses the challenge of being true to Christ in a materialistic age to an entirely new generation of Christian readers.

Christ and Culture

Honored in 2006 as a "Year's Best Book for Preachers" by Preaching magazine. Perfect body. Perfect clothes. Perfect family. Perfect house. Perfect job. We strive for excellence in all areas of our lives. And there's nothing wrong with a healthy, mature pursuit of excellence. But what begins as healthy and normal can sometimes become neurotic and abnormal, leading to debilitating thoughts and behaviors: eating disorders anxiety and depression obsession and compulsions fear of failure relational dysfunction In Perfecting Ourselves to Death, Richard Winter explores the positive and negative effects of perfectionism on our lives. He looks at the seductive nature of perfectionism as it is reflected in today's media. He examines the price and perils of perfectionism. And he explores the roots of perfectionism, delving into what originally awakens this drive in us. After analyzing the negative feelings and defeatist behaviors that unhealthy perfectionism births, he provides practical strategies for how to change. "The important thing to see," writes Winter, "is that we are to strive to become better people, not just to be content with who we are or how we measure up to the standards of the culture around us." For Christians this means becoming more like Christ in every area of our lives. Here is the "perfect" book for those who struggle with perfectionism and for those pastors, counselors and friends who want to understand and help perfectionists.

Perfecting Ourselves to Death

Christian apologetics has become very popular among 21st Century evangelicals. Unfortunately, it is often enjoyed rather than employed. It is a novelty, or hobby subject for believers who enjoy talking theology and philosophy in the tradition of the Athenian intelligentsia to whom Paul preached in Acts seventeen. When Christian apologetics is employed, it is often misused. Rather than seeking to impact

the heart and mind of an individual, a believer who is enamored with Christian defense might use novice approaches to "win" an argument. However, the desire of the church should be for God to win an individual's heart and mind. The goal of this work is to aid and inspire the people of God in the work of evangelism. Introducing Christian apologetics for the sake of novelty is not in view. Instead, the author sees Christian defense as a practice that is often necessary when carrying out the evangelistic task. Some have referred to this great discipline as a pre-evangelistic endeavor. While this makes sense in a practical way, it improperly describes what is actually taking place during an apologetic appeal. In the author's view, no Christian apologist has accomplished his work until he has presented, and in some cases defended, the truth of the gospel. Such a presentation is, by definition, an evangelistic one. In this Volume:- Christian Apologetics in the 21st Century- The History of Christian Apologetics- The Major Divisions of Christian Apologetics- The State of Evangelism in the 21st Century - The Compatibility of Evangelism and Christian Apologetics- The Integration of Evangelism and Christian Apologetics- Apologetics and Doctrinal Differences- Theistic Arguments- Evidences in Favor of the Resurrection of Jesus- Arguments and Evidences Specific to Various Methodologies- Guidance in Choosing an Apologetic Method for Types of Evangelistic Ministries- Instruction on Delivery of Evangelistic Apologetics

Evangelistic Apologetics

Improve your management skills and take control of your career with the new edition of this bestselling one-stop-shop for every manager. Pick up tips and advice on 12 core management skills- from communicating and motivating to conducting a company presentation. Explore all your options and put them into action with the aid of charts and diagrams. Plus, discover how to handle work issues whatever your level, with over 1,200 essential power tips. Follow as a complete management course or dip in and out of topics for quick and easy reference. Take it wherever life takes you!

Essential Manager's Manual

Whether this is your first visit to C. S. Lewis's wonderful fantasy world or you have been there many times, you'll want to bring along this handy companion to the landscape and inhabitants of Narnia, including an A to Z guide to its characters, places, objects, and events.

Field Guide to Narnia

"Nemesis, the Diabolic, and Tyrus face new challenges and old enemies as Tyrus ascends to the throne, and the two struggle to prove Nemesis' humanity to those who oppose her position as Empress and keep them from full power over the galaxy"--

The Empress

Thousands of people start their day with a shot of Coffee with Jesus, the critically acclaimed online comic strip. Find yourself in your favorite characters and laugh with Jesus at the absurdities of our world and the ways we walk in it with this venti-sized second collection, brought to you by Radio Free Babylon and InterVarsity Press.

A Second Shot of Coffee with Jesus

The interpretation of end-time prophecy is not an easy venture. To make matters worse, most of the authors who have interpreted the metaphors have in fact added their opinions instead of studying the revelations as the Lord intended. So how do we catch the message of the Lord instead of being misled by our own interpretations? The End of Times can help us to interpret the will of God, since his revelations are written throughout the Word and we need to humbly understand his thoughts. Authors Roy and Julia Burger invite believers to join them in a search through the Bible to uncover the intentions of God behind the symbolism—thus gaining the knowledge of God. They also provide other views that may have gone astray of the Word, comparing scriptures and letting the Word speak for itself. Colossians 1:10 (NASB) reads "so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Because the end times are approaching, now is the time to heed this divine wisdom and listen to God directly.

The End of Times

