

SITS Conference 2022

BR Surviving Religion 101: Letters to a Christian Student on Keeping the Faith in College.

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This easily read introduction to evidences was written by Michael Kruger 30 years after he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Now his daughter, Emma, was about to enter the same university. He wanted her to be prepared.

Michael confesses that he was “decidedly unprepared for what (he) would experience in college. He wanted to make sure his daughter did not enter that experience unprepared.

Krueger shares that his first year religion class was taught by Dr. Bart Ehrman, now the James A Gray Distinguished professor at UNC. Michael’s experience in that class was that the Bible is “untrustworthy, is filled with mistakes, is poorly transmitted, contains many books that are forgeries, and so on.”

Michael Kruger went on to see if there were answers to Ehrman’s questions while others tried to protect their faith by not engaging or withered and renounced their belief in Christ. Michael went on to discover that there were answers to these challenges and that these objections were answered with depth, precision and intellectual rigor. “In short, there was a whole other side to the argument, even though that other side was never discussed or explored in class.”

Allow me to share some of the chapter titles for further investigation.

My Professors are Really Smart – Isn’t it more likely that They’re right and I am Wrong?

Can we say that Christianity is the Only Right Religion?

My Christian values are viewed as Hateful and Intolerant – Shouldn’t I be more loving and accepting?

There is so much Suffering in the World – How could a Good God Allow Such Evil?

Science seems like it can Explain Everything in the Universe – Do we really need to believe in God?

How can I believe in Miracles if I’ve never seen one?

The next few chapters deal primarily with Textual Criticism.

Notes: I found it to be an excellent and winsome read for a late teen. I recommend it to college students that I work with on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University.

Alan Yeater