

Two Attorneys—Two Excellent Apologetic Publications

For many years I've read modern apologetic books citing the work of Simon Greenleaf, founder of the Harvard Law School, called "*An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists, by the Rules of Evidence Administered in Courts of Justice. With an Account of the Trial of Jesus.*" Greenleaf's work, written in 1847, consists of a harmony of the gospels and essays he wrote to challenge the legal community of his day to seriously consider the evidence for faith in Jesus from a legal perspective. Until recently I had not read Greenleaf's original work, but only brief excerpts or summaries in various modern publications. Having now read Greenleaf's work I especially encourage you to read his examination (p. 64ff). It is a powerful presentation of the credibility of the gospel writers. You can still purchase the book or you can download a free pdf of it from Project Gutenberg.

More recently I read another work by contemporary attorney W. Mark Lanier written in the same vein as Greenleaf's work. The book is entitled, "*Christianity on Trial: A Lawyer Examines the Christian Faith.*" Lanier summarizes his goals in writing this work: "The goal behind our activity is to see, after due scrutiny, whether it is reasonable to believe in: 1) God, who is infinite, personal and moral, who has made human beings in his image, and who has communicated to humanity through revelation; 2) humans as creatures who can really make choices in life; and 3) Jesus as a human who died and was then physically resurrected and will come again in an eternal reigning kingdom."

Lanier marshals his notable skills as an accomplished practicing attorney to interact with various "witnesses" he appeals to in the course of his discussion. Though rather long, it is an interesting and helpful treatment of many crucial questions that arise in discussions with unbelievers.

In addition to his writings, Lanier has also founded the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, TX. You may be interested in exploring the library and its resources. The library hosts a monthly lecture series presented by scholars from around the world. The videos of these lectures are archived so that one may view them at leisure. I have enjoyed listening from time to time to some of Lanier's guest lecturers at the library.