



Book Reviews

Volume VII

By

Mark McGee

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Introduction

I began recommending Christian books to students decades ago for the purpose of helping them know about some of the better resources available to them. Many of the books were about Bible study, theology, discipleship, Church history and apologetics. The response was almost always positive, so I decided to review books online to help even more students know about books that would both inform and challenge. Most of the books I review are new or of recent origin.

Book Review Volume VII is the seventh in a series about books on the primary subject of “Apologetics” on FaithandSelfDefense.com. Another series you may find helpful is *A Reading Plan For Christian Apologists*, also on FaithandSelfDefense.com.

Our hope is that you will find books you can add to your Christian library — books that will become your friends and allies as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY AND THE
FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

TRANSHUMANISM AND THE IMAGE OF GOD



"A calm and
comprehensive
account."

ALBERT
BORGMANN

Transhumanism and the Image of God: Today's Technology and the Future of Christian Discipleship by Jacob Shatzer (IVP Academic, 2019) addresses both a challenge and opportunity for Christians today.

Transhumanism is a topic of great interest in our world today. *Transhumanism* is defined by Cambridge Dictionary as “the theory that science and technology can help human beings develop beyond what is physically and mentally possible at the present time.”

The use of the word transhumanism to label a distinctly transhumanist philosophy likely occurred in 1990. However, important influences on the development of transhumanism emerge beginning much earlier, in the Renaissance. Philosopher Pico della Mirandola reacted against the standard Judea-Christian picture of a large gulf between humans and God. Instead, dell Mirandola saw a smaller distinction between the two. In his 1486 Oration on the Dignity of Man, he uses the language of ‘maker and molder of thyself’ to describe humans and charges them with the

ability to 'fashion thyself in whatever shape thou shalt prefer.' While della Mirandola certainly couldn't envision the degree to which humans in the twenty-first century would aspire to shape themselves, this notion begins to move in a transhumanist direction. *TRANSHUMANISM AND THE IMAGE OF GOD, P 45*

Dr. Shatzer approaches the topic from a Christian perspective and helps us understand how to approach transhumanism in the context of Christian discipleship. He begins his book by defining and explaining the history of such terms as *artificial intelligence* (AI & AGI), *augmented reality*, *morphological freedom*, along with *transhumanism*.

Even as modern society experiences some benefits from AI (e.g. smartphones, smart home devices, smart speakers, home security and surveillance, social media feeds, music and media streaming, video games, electronic navigational maps, online banking, booking flights online), there are some concerns about the future of AI and AGI:

First, people could use AGIs for evil goals ... A second danger is that once AGIs reach a certain level of sophistication, they may be able to reprogram themselves or create other AGIs that do evil things ... How can we ensure that we do not create something that destroys us? TRANSHUMANISM AND THE IMAGE OF GOD, P 104

A key to understanding for a Christian is the issue of reality. What is real? Can we change reality?

Virtual reality expands our definition of reality and can tempt us to discard or discount important elements of human life. As we seek to answer the question, 'What is real?' we must answer not only with words but with ways of being that help us orient our lives and order our priorities. We can glean much from Christian theological sources. By exploring the doctrine of the incarnation and its implications for what it means to be human, we will come to a better understanding of the proper place of virtual reality in the life of the disciple, a place that avoids the false promises that

run parallel to the transhumanist and posthumanist visions.
TRANSHUMANISM AND THE IMAGE OF GOD, P 120

I highly recommend Dr. Shatzer's book. It is both timely and helpful for Christians to understand the challenges of Transhumanism and the opportunities we have to share the true reality found only in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Contents

- Introduction
- Technology and Moral Formation
- What Is Transhumanism?
- My Body, My Choice: Morphological Freedom
- The Hybronaut: Understanding Augmented Reality
- Meeting Your (Mind) Clone: Artificial Intelligence and Mind Uploading
- What Is Real? Changing Notions of Experience
- Where Is Real? Changing Notions of Place
- Who Is Real? Changing Notions of Relationships
- Am I Real? Changing Notions of the Self
- Conclusion: The Table

The Author

Jacob Shatzer (PhD, Marquette University) is assistant professor and associate dean in the School of Theology and Missions (STM) at Union University. He is the author of *A Spreading and Abiding Hope* and editor of a volume of essays by A.J. Conyers. Shatzer is also assistant editor for Ethics & Medicine and an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

From the Publisher

We're constantly invited to think about the future of technology as a progressive improvement of tools: our gadgets will continue to evolve, but we humans will stay basically the same. In the future, perhaps even alien species and intelligent robots will coexist alongside humans, who will grapple with challenges and emerge as the heroes.

But the truth is that radical technological change has the power to radically shape humans as well. We must be well informed and thoughtful about the steps we're already taking toward a transhuman or even posthuman future. Can we find firm footing on a slippery slope?

Biblical ethicist Jacob Shatzer guides us into careful consideration of the future of Christian discipleship in a disruptive technological environment. In Transhumanism and the Image of God, Shatzer explains the development and influence of the transhumanist movement, which promotes a 'next stage' in human evolution.

Exploring topics such as artificial intelligence, robotics, medical technology, and communications tools, he examines how everyday technological changes have already altered and continue to change the way we think, relate, and understand reality. By unpacking the doctrine of the incarnation and its implications for human identity, he helps us better understand the proper place of technology in the life of the disciple and avoid false promises of a

posthumanist vision. We cannot think about technology use today without considering who we will become tomorrow.

Reviews

‘Jacob Shatzer deepens our understanding and practice of Christianity by showing us how profound and perilous the influence of technology is on how we think and conduct ourselves today. Shatzer gives us a calm and comprehensive account of how the intellectual community is responding to these transformative forces, both the observers who are enchanted with the lures of technology and the critics who help us see what is at stake. Most important, Shatzer concludes with consolations that are well founded and inspire confidence.’ Albert Borgmann, author of Real American Ethics

‘Jacob Shatzer’s book is a superb guide for the Christian disciple who seeks to be faithful to Christ in a technology-dominant society. It is engagingly written, highly accessible, wide-ranging in its scope, and immensely practical in its

application. I am pleased to recommend this thoughtful, important—indeed, essential—work.’ Paul Copan, Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University, coauthor of Introduction to Biblical Ethics: Walking in the Way of Wisdom

‘Jacob Shatzer demonstrates serious Christian thinking while wrestling with the seemingly overwhelming issues associated with technology and its effect on our world. Moreover, Shatzer probes the questions of how these ever-expanding technologies are influencing us. This most insightful and helpful volume raises important issues for readers about what it means to be human, what it means to be created in the image of God, what it means to function in space and time, what it means to be human in relationship with others, what it means to live in genuine community, and what all of this means for Christian theology, ethics, worship, discipleship, and the practice of authentic fellowship. Shatzer challenges readers to reflect on how technology has changed us and how it continues to change us, recognizing that technology has both drawn us away

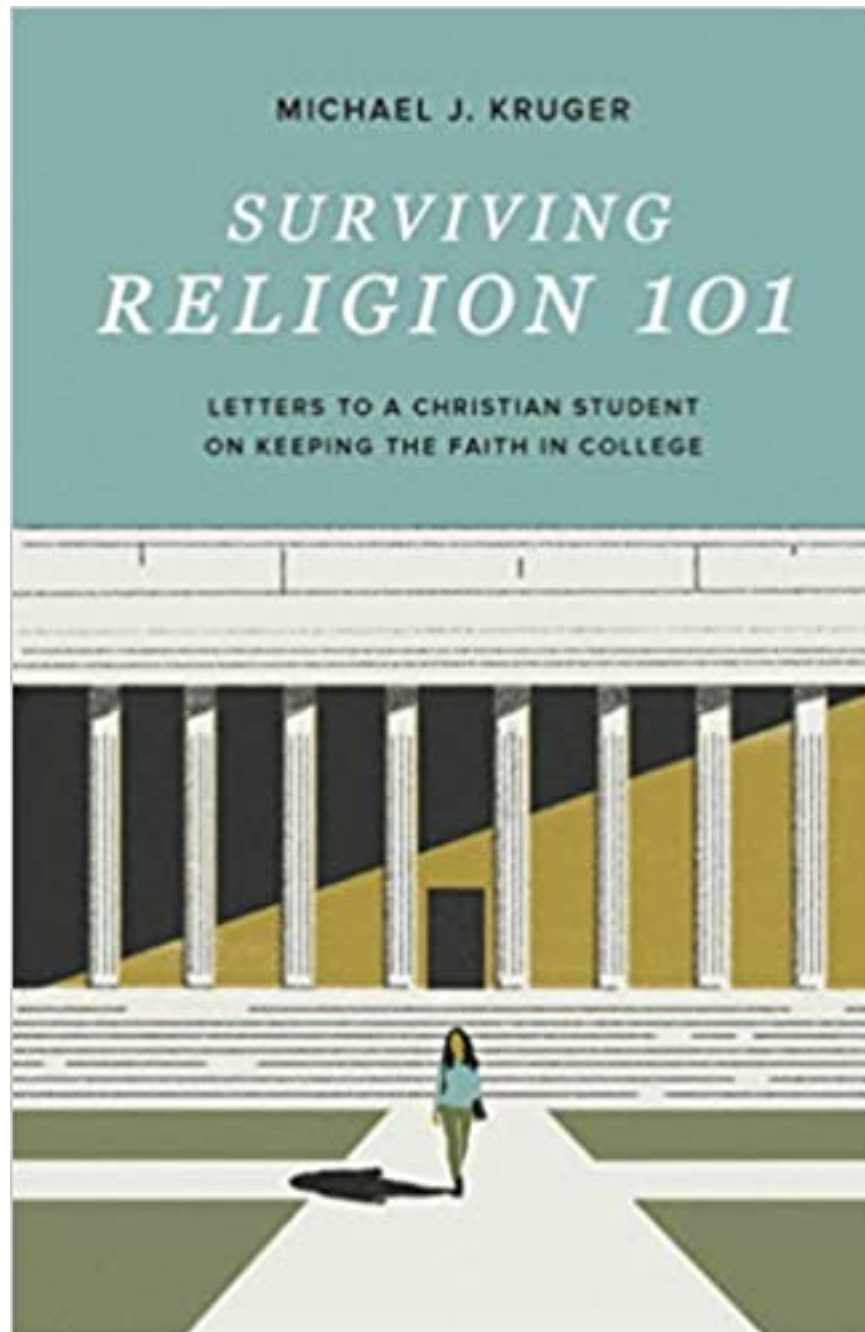
from aspects of our past while opening up new opportunities for the days ahead. This carefully researched and well-written book calls for and deserves thoughtful engagement and reflection. I heartily recommend Transhumanism and the Image of God and congratulate Professor Shatzer on this fine work.’ David S. Dockery, president, Trinity International University/Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

‘During the remainder of this century we will increasingly have the potential to alter the future, not just of individuals, but of the entire human species. Genetic augmentation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and other technologies will either serve a truly human future or human beings will serve those technologies. According to many transhumanists, we are transitional humans on our way to becoming posthuman. So transhumanism offers a vision of a future in which we have the freedom to escape our humanity altogether. Jacob Shatzer—a new and refreshing voice in the conversation—provides cogent analyses of the transhumanist impulse and important practical strategies for

preserving our humanity against the so-called technological imperative. Nothing less than our very humanity is at stake.’ C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, Union University

‘The adage that ‘we shape our tools, and thereafter our tools shape us’ takes on a new meaning with transhumanism. In this timely book, Shatzer explores how the liturgies of certain technologies can nudge us unwittingly toward a transhuman future and recommends practices that remind us what it truly means to be human.’ Derek C. Schuurman, professor of computer science, Calvin College, author of Shaping a Digital World: Faith, Culture and Computer Technology

Transhumanism and the Image of God: Today’s Technology and the Future of Christian Discipleship by Jacob Shatzer
(IVP Academic, 2019, 192 pages)



Surviving Religion 101: Letters to a Christian Student on Keeping the Faith in College (Michael J. Kruger, Crossway, 2021) is a wonderful book for parents and students to read, especially with students heading off to college in a few weeks. Dr. Michael Kruger is the President and Samuel C. Patterson Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the Charlotte campus of Reformed Theological Seminary. He has served as president of the Evangelical Theological Society (2019) and is the author of many books including *Christianity at the Crossroads: How the Second Century Shaped the Future of the Church*, *Canon Revisited* (Crossway 2012) and *The Gospel of the Savior*. He is also editor and contributor to *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament* (Crossway, 2016).

Dr. Kruger wrote that he had planned to write this book years ago, but other projects took precedent. He explained what spurred him to write it now.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the primary reason for the reawakening was a life change relevant to its theme: my daughter Emma was accepted as a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the very place I had begun my own undergraduate studies exactly thirty years before. As I pondered her departure and the many complex and difficult challenges that awaited her, I remembered afresh my own university experience. As I explain in the introduction below, I was decidedly unprepared for what I would experience in college. And I wanted to make sure that she (and many other Christian college students) would not enter that experience unprepared. At that point, I knew this book had to be written. It was time.

“Deconversion” is a problem among young people who leave their homes and high schools for college. Dr. Kruger wrote that no one should be under the illusion that his book would somehow keep Christian college students from converting, but hopes it may be a “nudge in the right direction.”

But this book is written for my children, Emma, John, and Kate, three of the brightest lights in my life. Even if your lights flicker in college, may they never go out. And my prayer is that this book will help your light burn all the brighter, through college and for the rest of your life.

In his Introduction, Dr. Kruger admitted that he was not prepared for college “intellectually” and learned the hard way that intellectual preparation was what he needed more than anything.

But my lack of preparation wasn't just because I was a teenager. The Christian culture in which I grew up also played a role. The most important issues in the evangelical world of my youth were personal conversion (was I saved?) and personal piety (did I live like a Christian?). To be clear, I think these two issues are very important, and I am tremendously grateful to have grown up in churches that did not ignore them (in our current day, many churches need a renewed focus on them). But generally speaking, my theological training stopped there. There was very

limited instruction on the Christian worldview—what we believe and why we believe it—and virtually no instruction on how to respond to non-Christian thinking.

Dr. Kruger shared his personal story of how a young and engaging professor challenged his faith. That professor's name was Bart Ehrman.

Although I could not have known it at the time, I was taking a class with a scholar who would become one of Christianity's loudest and most prolific critics. Ehrman, now the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor at UNC, would go on to publish more than thirty books about the New Testament and early Christianity—five of which became New York Times best sellers. And these books, generally speaking, rehearse the same claims about the New Testament I experienced in the university classroom: it is untrust- worthy, is filled with mistakes, is poorly transmitted, contains many books that are forgeries, and so on.

Dr. Kruger decided to see if there were answers to Ehrman's questions and claims and discovered that Christians had offered answers since the early days of Christianity.

In short, there was a whole other side to the argument, even though that other side was never discussed or explored in class ... My desire is that Surviving Religion 101 provides an intellectual pathway for Christian students so that they can keep their faith without sacrificing their intellectual integrity.

Dr. Kruger approach to writing *Surviving Religion: 101* is unique. He structured each chapter as a letter to her that answers a question or series of questions he knew she would face.

I am not writing for scholars, nor even for skeptics. I am writing for students.

I left church in high school and became an atheist while in college. A book like this may have prepared me to deal with the challenges I faced. It may be just the book for you or your child as they head for college this Fall.



Publisher Description

“I can’t imagine a college student—skeptic, doubter, Christian, struggler—who wouldn’t benefit from this book.” —Kevin DeYoung

For many young adults, the college years are an exciting period of selfdiscovery full of new relationships, new independence, and new experiences. Yet college can also be a time of personal testing and intense questioning—especially for Christian students confronted with various challenges to Christianity and the Bible for the first time.

Drawing on years of experience as a biblical scholar, Michael Kruger addresses common objections to the Christian faith—the exclusivity of Christianity, Christian intolerance, homosexuality, hell, the problem of evil, science, miracles, and the reliability of the Bible.

If you're a student dealing with doubt or wrestling with objections to Christianity from fellow students and professors alike, this book will equip you to engage secular challenges with intellectual honesty, compassion, and confidence—and ultimately graduate college with your faith intact.

Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1: I'm Worried about Being a Christian at a Secular University—How Will I Survive?

Chapter 2: My Professors Are Really Smart—Isn't It More Likely That They're Right and I'm Wrong?

Chapter 3: There Are a Lot of Different Views Here—How Can We Say That Christianity Is the Only Right Religion?

Chapter 4: My Christian Morals Are Viewed as Hateful and Intolerant—Shouldn't I Be More Loving and Accepting?

Chapter 5: I Have Gay Friends Who Are Kind, Wonderful, and Happy—Are We Sure That Homosexuality Is Really Wrong?

Chapter 6: The Concept of Hell Seems Barbaric and Cruel—Wouldn't a Loving God Save Everyone?

Chapter 7: There's So Much Suffering in the World—How Could a Good God Allow Such Evil?

Chapter 8: Science Seems Like It Can Explain Everything in the Universe—Do We Really Need to Believe in God?

Chapter 9: I'm Finding It Harder to Believe Events Like the Resurrection—How Can I Believe in Miracles If I've Never Seen One?

Chapter 10: Everything I Believe Seems to Hinge on the Truth of the Bible—How Do We Know It's Really from God?

Chapter 11: My Professor Keeps Pointing Out Contradictions in the Gospels—Can I Still Trust Them?

Chapter 12: I'm Being Told That Ancient Scribes Changed the Words of the New Testament Thousands of Times—Is That True?

Chapter 13: My Professor Says That Books Were Left Out of Our Bibles—Can We Be Sure We Have the Right Ones?

Chapter 14: Some Parts of the Bible Seem Morally Troubling—How Can a Book Be from God If It Advocates Oppression or Genocide?

Chapter 15: Sometimes It Feels Like My Faith Is Slipping Away—How Do I Handle Doubts about What I Believe?

Postscript: What Do I Do If It Feels Like Christianity Just Isn't Working for Me?

Endorsements

“This is a great book! I can’t imagine a college student—skeptic, doubter, Christian, struggler—who wouldn’t benefit from it. In fact, I’m sure almost anyone would be helped by this warm and intelligent apologetic for the Christian faith. I will recommend this book often, after first giving it to my own children.” **Kevin DeYoung**, Senior Pastor, Christ Covenant Church, Matthews, North Carolina; Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte

“Having sent four children off to large state schools for their college years, I am thankful that Michael Kruger has written this book. With compassion and clarity, he addresses key questions that often precipitate a crisis of faith for young believers. This accessible book equips families for good

conversations about challenges to our faith, helping us trade panic and doubt for blessed assurance.” **Jen Wilkin**, Bible teacher; author, *Women of the Word*; *None Like Him*; and *In His Image*

“Every fall, untold thousands of young Christians step onto the college campus and are instantly engaged in the battle of ideas. They need help and encouragement, and Michael Kruger offers a wealth of both in this timely book. The help comes in his serious and faithful confrontation with the big questions that are unavoidable on campus. The encouragement comes from a wise author who is also a father and friend. The chapters are written as letters, and every college student you know needs every letter in this book. Where was this book when I went to college?” **R. Albert Mohler Jr.**, President and Centennial Professor of Christian Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Surviving Religion 101 is a crucial book for all Christians to read because the world that we inhabit has become the university culture of Michael Kruger’s twenties. An epistolary book composed of letters from a loving Christian father to a faithful daughter entering the university, it invites us to ask crucial questions that help us make our calling and election sure. Are we intellectually prepared to understand and respond to the non-Christian thinking that surrounds us? If we believe that personal conversion and personal piety are enough for the Christian college student to survive, we are dangerously wrong. Our lack of intellectual preparation may explain why so many faithful Christians have had their faith shipwrecked by so-called progressive Christianity, living now with cultural change and social activism as proof of holiness. And for this reason, this book is as necessary for students entering Christian colleges as it is for those entering secular ones. Thanks be to God for this book. May it be used by God to preserve the faith of our college students and bring their unbelieving professors into the kingdom of God.” **Rosaria**

Butterfield, Former Professor of English, Syracuse University; author, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*

“The move from home to college and those influences that grip the mind from the age of eighteen to twenty-two play an absolutely decisive role in shaping the rest of our lives. The need for us to claim the Christian faith as our own at that point—and not as something we have merely absorbed from our parents or school friends—is exhilarating; but the process of so doing is often conflicted and intellectually, morally, and socially difficult. Michael Kruger is a well-known scholar, but he is also a parent with a vested interest in this issue and someone who himself experienced the range of challenges as a young student. In this clearly written book, he draws on all this to engage with the panoply of challenges that people face at college. While he covers the ‘usual suspects’—the intellectual challenges to faith—what is so brilliant and helpful about this book is the way in which he understands and addresses the form of challenges to faith as they manifest themselves in today’s therapeutic culture. Many students struggle with the claims

of their faith because the moral tastes of our modern world make it seem so implausible. Kruger understands this and has written a book that speaks precisely to the kinds of problems that afflict college culture today. Students—and their parents—will find this work most helpful and enlightening.” **Carl R. Trueman**, Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Grove City College

“I wish I’d had a guide like Michael Kruger when I was in college. There’s no one I trust more to help students navigate the difficult challenges to our faith that arise in both the classroom and also the dorm room.” **Collin Hansen**, Vice President for Content and Editor in Chief, The Gospel Coalition; Host, *Gospelbound* podcast

“Today, Christian students in secular universities will face not just intellectual challenges to their faith. Perhaps even more caustic will be the social and moral pressures. Michael Kruger ably addresses the intellectual issues, and as a real, high-powered Bible scholar, he is especially effective in dealing with the objections to God’s word. But

he also strengthens students for the more subtle spiritual trials they will encounter, addressing his readers with empathy and grace.” **Gene Edward Veith Jr.**, author, *Loving God with All Your Mind* and *Post-Christian*

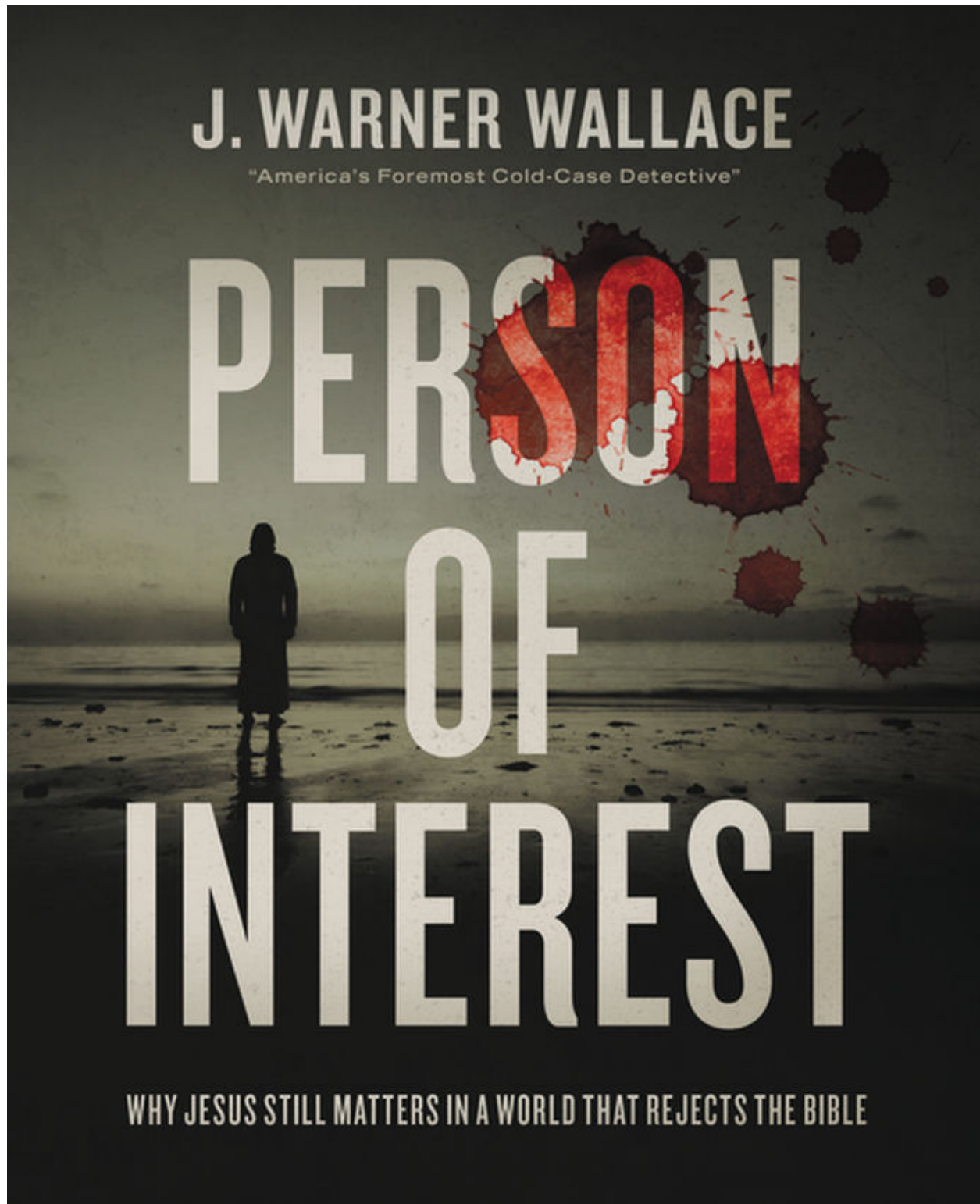
“I’ve been in full-time college ministry for over two decades, and I can say with certainty that Michael Kruger has written a gift to campus ministers and college students everywhere. *Surviving Religion 101* is winsome, personal, intelligent, and incredibly helpful for addressing today’s common objections to Christianity. I plan to buy a copy for each of my elementary school-aged daughters and gift it to them when they graduate from high school. I absolutely loved this book.” **Shelby Abbott**, campus minister; speaker; author, *DoubtLess*

“Michael Kruger has given students and parents a welcome dose of biblical wisdom and insight for the college experience. With rigor and clarity, he provides helpful answers to hard questions. His encouragement to find that

‘band of brothers and sisters’ who share a common focus and concern for truth while moving through the college years is key in awakening confidence and trust in the Lord. If you’re looking for substantive help for difficult conversations, this book will deliver.” **Rod Mays**, National Coordinator Emeritus, Reformed University Fellowship; Adjunct Faculty, Reformed Theological Seminary

Surviving Religion 101: Letters to a Christian Student on Keeping the Faith in College (Michael J. Kruger, Crossway, 2021, 272 pages)

[We received a review copy from Crossway Publishing]



Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World that Rejects the Bible (Zondervan, 2021) by J. Warner Wallace is an apologetics winner! Jim is one of the best known cold-case homicide detectives in America. He's also a former atheist.

I've known Jim Wallace for many years, though we've never met. That's one of the neat things about social media. I contacted him soon after his first book, *Cold-Case Christianity*, was published. I had seen him on Dateline and was excited to learn he had become a Christian.

I was especially interested because we had both used similar methods as atheists investigating the truth claims of Christianity. J. Warner had used decades of investigative experience as a detective. I had used my experience as an investigative journalist. We both came to similar conclusions. The truth claims of Christianity were true!

I've enjoyed all of Jim's books and *Person of Interest* is no exception. One thing about his new book that I especially enjoy is he shares something he didn't do in previous books.

I investigated the claims of the Gospels using every tool I possessed as a detective. I tested the Gospels as eyewitness accounts, investigated the history of early Christianity, evaluated the nuanced differences among the New Testament texts, and applied forensic states analysis to the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I've written about this analysis in Cold-Case Christianity, but there was another important aspect of my investigation I've never written about, until now:

I also investigated Jesus as if he were a person of interest in a no-body homicide case. Person of Interest, p xvii

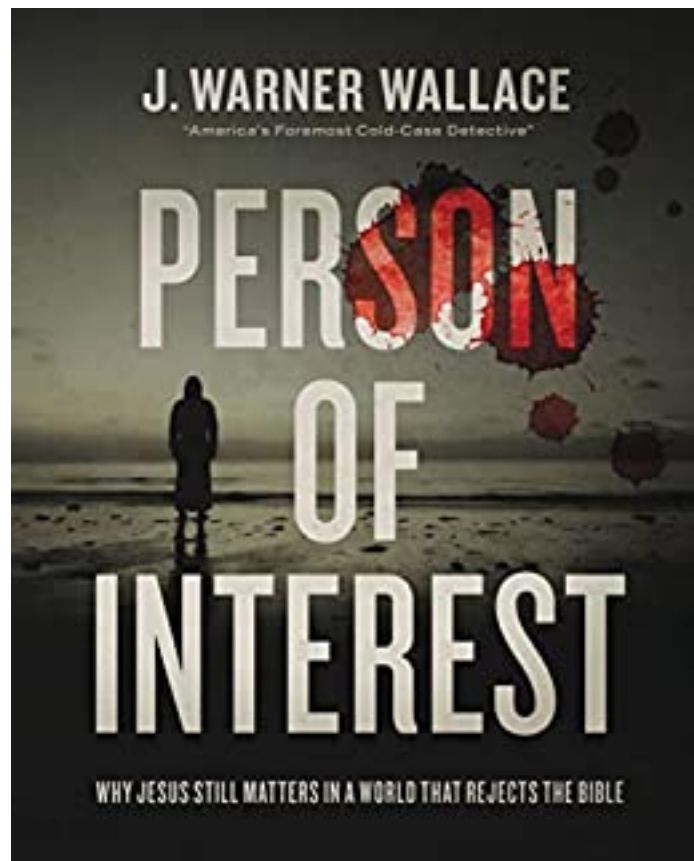
Jim weaves the story of a very difficult “no-body” murder case and how he solved it along with his methodology for determining whether Jesus Christ was a real person of ancient history. Many atheists and other non-believers

challenge Christians to demonstrate the historicity of the person of Jesus *without* using the Bible. Can that be done? J. Warner says **yes!**

The more I investigated the existence and deity of Jesus, the more I realized the Bible wasn't the only available source of information. I didn't need the evidence provided by the Gospels to know the truth about Jesus. If some evil regime had destroyed every Christian Bible before I was born—if there hadn't been a single New Testament manuscript to testify about the life or deity of Jesus—I would still have been able to determine the truth about him. If I had investigated the case for Jesus like a no-body homicide cold case, I would have discovered everything I needed to know. Person of Interest, p xvii

J. Warner is always innovative in the way he produces a new writing project. Person of Interest is no different. The special project includes the **Book, Video Study** and **Investigator's Guide**.

I highly recommend *Person of Interest* for yourself, your family and friends, your small group and your church. May this book increase our faith and knowledge as we go forth to present the soul-saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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Preface: No-Body Homicides

1. The Fuse and the Fallout
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3. Jesus, the Copycat Savior?
4. Jesus, the Mistaken Messiah?
5. In the Fullness of Time
6. Jesus, the Unfounded Fiction?
7. Jesus, the Dreary Deity?
8. Jesus, the Illiterate?
9. Jesus, the Science Denier?
10. Jesus, the One and Only?

Postscript: The Unlikeliest of Suspects

Case Notes

Publisher's Description

Can the truth about Jesus be uncovered—even without a body or a crime scene? Join cold-case detective and bestselling author J. Warner Wallace as he investigates Jesus using an innovative and unique approach he employs to solve real missing person murder cases.

In *Person of Interest*, Wallace carefully sifts through the evidence from history alone, *without relying on the New Testament*. You'll understand like never before how Jesus, the most significant person in history, changed the world.

Features:

- Join a cold-case detective as he uncovers the truth about Jesus using the same approach he employs to solve real murder cases
- Marvel at the way Jesus changed the world as you investigate why Jesus still matters today

- Learn how to use an innovative and unique “fuse and fallout” investigative strategy that you can also use to examine other claims of history
- Explore and learn how to respond to common objections to Christianity

Detective J. Warner Wallace listened to a pastor talk about Jesus and wondered why anyone would think Jesus was a person of interest.

Wallace was skeptical of the Bible, but he’d investigated several no-body homicide cases in which there was no crime scene, no physical evidence, and no victim’s body. Could the historical life and actions of Jesus be investigated in the same way?

In *Person of Interest*, Wallace describes his own personal investigative journey from atheism to Christianity as he carefully considers the evidence. Creative, compelling, and fully illustrated, *Person of Interest* will strengthen the faith of

believers while engaging those who are skeptical and distrusting of the New Testament.

Reviews

“Wallace has an uncanny ability to discover clues where no one else sees them. Now he tackles perhaps his toughest case ever: solving a deeply personal mystery involving his own religious faith.”

—**ROBERT DEAN**, producer of NBC News *Dateline*

“A creative and eye-opening work. You’ll be captivated as Wallace takes you on a thrilling journey of discovery.”

—**LEE STROBEL**, bestselling author of *The Case for Christ*

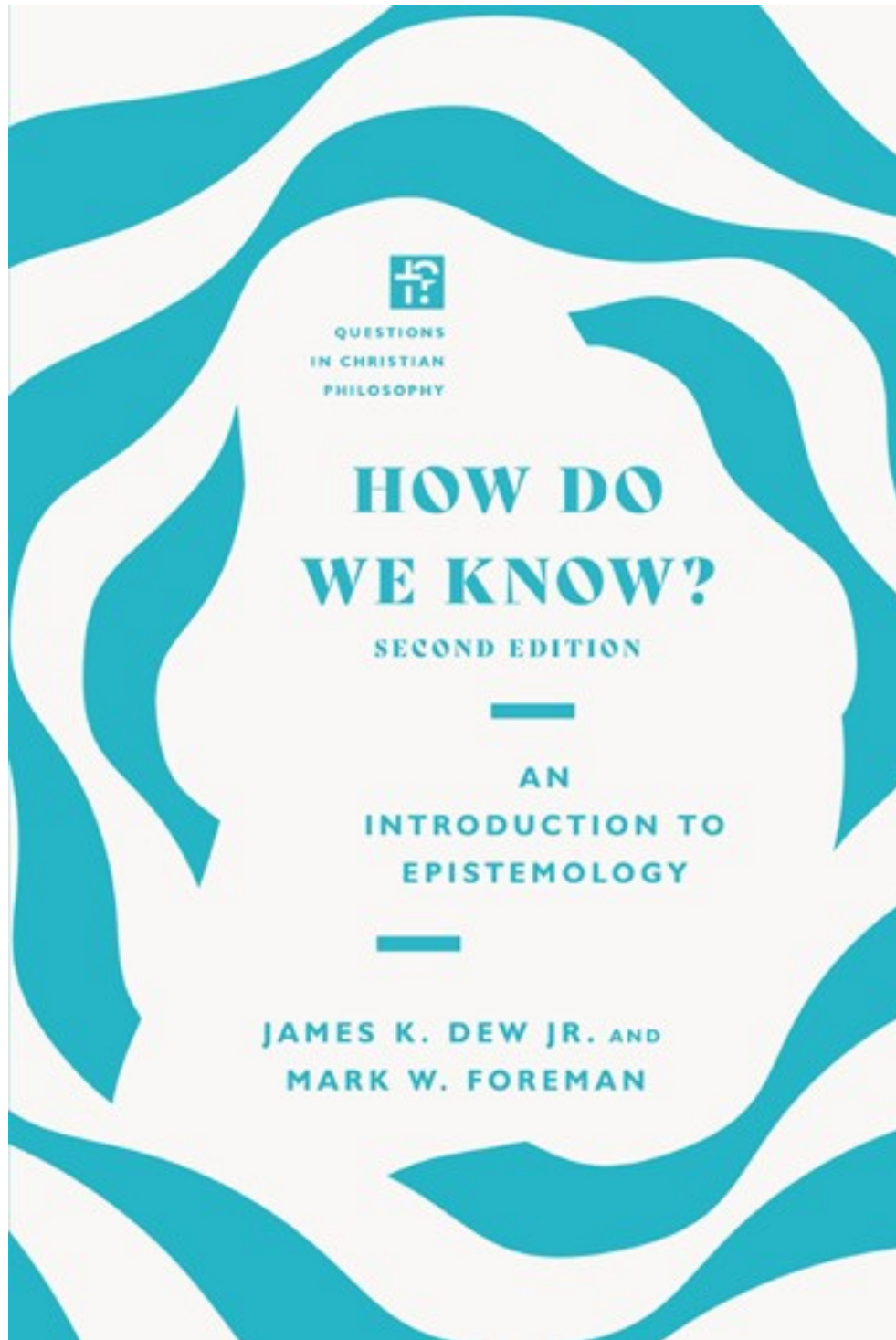
“If you read this book, you will have to reckon with Jesus, not just as a historical person but as Lord and Savior. This is not your typical apologetics book!”

—**ALISA CHILDERS**, author of *Another Gospel*

“Bring your doubts, bring your skepticism—but if you bring them in open-minded honesty . . . be prepared to render a shocking verdict.”

—**SCOTT HANSON**, host of *NFL RedZone*

Person of Interest: Why Jesus Matters In A World That Rejects The Bible, J. Warner Wallace, Zondervan, 2021, 336 pages



How Do We Know: An Introduction To Epistemology (Second Edition, IVP, 2020) is an excellent book for any Christian who wants to understand the basic philosophy of how we “know” things. As simple as that may sound, it is a subject few people understand. As Christian disciples, we need to know that what we know is true and be able to explain that to people with whom we talk about the Truth of Christ. This book will help you do that.

The authors, James Dew Jr. and Mark Foreman, did a great writing job with this book. It is easy to read the entire book in one sitting or a chapter at a time. It’s the kind of book that you can use as a reference guide as you have discussions with people about their worldview. The authors included basic historical information for various philosophical positions that will give you a good background for how we arrived at today’s postmodernism.

Many people believe they know things without knowing how they know them. Does that sounds like a good way to go through life? Helping people know how they know can be a

way to guide them toward the truth of the Gospel of Christ. Once you've read through *How Do We Know: An Introduction To Epistemology*, you will have a better understanding of why people believe what they believe and how to talk with them about their beliefs.

Many people who grow up in church do not know how they know that Christianity is true. That's one reason so many young people drop out of church and away from Christianity in high school or college. There are good reasons to believe that Christianity is true and we need to be able to help our children and teenagers know those reasons.

You can also use the book with family, friends and small groups. Each chapter ends with Discussion Questions that will help guide conversations and studies.

The authors are both professors of philosophy. Dew is president and professor of Christian philosophy at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. He is the coauthor of *Philosophy: A Christian Introduction* and *Understanding Postmodernism: A*

Christian Perspective and the coeditor of *God and Evil: The Case for God in a World Filled with Pain* and *God and the Problem of Evil: Five Views*. Foreman is professor of philosophy and religion at Liberty University. He is also the author of *Prelude to Philosophy: An Introduction for Christians* and *Christianity and Bioethics: Confronting Clinical Issues*.

I've read many Christian books about philosophy that are excellent reads, but are probably best for people with some training in philosophy. *How Do We Know* is a great book for people with or without any philosophical training. I definitely recommend it for people interested in evangelism and apologetics.

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Series Introduction: Questions in Christian Philosophy

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1. What Is Epistemology?
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Publisher's Description

What does it mean to know something? Can we have confidence in our knowledge?

Epistemology, the study of knowledge, can often seem like a daunting subject. And yet few topics are more basic to human life. We are inquisitive creatures by nature, and the unending quest for truth leads us to raise difficult questions about the quest itself. What are the conditions, sources, and limits of our knowledge? Do our beliefs need to be rationally justified? Can we have certainty?

In this primer on epistemology, James Dew and Mark Foreman guide readers through this discipline in philosophy. This second edition has been expanded with new material and now serves as the first volume in IVP's Questions in Christian Philosophy series. By asking basic questions and using clear, jargon-free language, they provide an entry into one of the most important issues in contemporary philosophy.

Reviews

This second edition of How Do We Know? is an exciting, timely provision for the body of Christ. Well-suited to serve as a textbook and a tool for the thoughtful lay reader, this volume is one of the clearest, most accessible introductions to epistemology I have ever read. The selection of topics covered is excellent and highly relevant for equipping believers to engage competently with the fundamental ideas that constitute our increasingly secularized culture. A delightful feature of the book is its regular and careful interaction with key figures in the history of philosophy. I joyfully recommend it. J. P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and author of Scientism and Secularism

Dew and Foreman's How Do We Know? is a remarkably clear and concise discussion of central issues in epistemology. They explain difficult concepts as simply as possible without compromising accuracy, and they provide helpful illustrations throughout to ensure that readers will

not get bogged down in the thicket of technical terminology. Epistemology is a field that can be as forbidding as it is important, and Dew and Foreman have done a wonderful service by giving us such an accessible treatment of the subject. Christian readers will find the book especially useful, as it includes discussions of faith, divine revelation, and other issues related to religious epistemology. Another virtue of the book is the authors' discussion of many major figures in the history of philosophy as well as significant contemporary epistemologists. I highly recommend this text to anyone interested in epistemology as well as students of theology and philosophy of religion. James S. Spiegel, Taylor University

How Do We Know?, now in its second edition, will appeal to students and laypeople looking for an introduction to epistemology that includes the standard topics, theories, and arguments but avoids the complexity, technicality, and abstraction of other texts. In addition, Dew and Foreman provide their Christian readers with welcome resources for integrating the theory of knowledge with Christian theology.

*As a result, their survey of the field is more comprehensive than most. Among other attractive features of the volume are its frequent discussion of many classical and contemporary epistemologists, its helpful illustrations drawn from ordinary life, and its balanced treatment of controversial issues. This primer would serve well as a textbook for courses at Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries or as a guidebook for the general Christian reader interested in what philosophers have to say about knowledge as well as in the importance of epistemology for life, faith, and theology. James E. Taylor, professor of philosophy at Westmont College, author of *Introducing Apologetics and Learning for Wisdom**

Dew and Foreman provide a clear and intuitive introduction to the field of epistemology. This book will empower your mind. The authors skillfully help readers work through a well-organized series of questions about the foundations of knowledge building, and they draw out applications and implications of the different theories. A must-read for every Christian influencer and idea leader. Joshua Rasmussen,

professor of philosophy at Azusa Pacific University, author of How Reason Can Lead to God

The enormous success of movies like The Matrix and Inception shows that nonphilosophers can appreciate the importance of the central questions of epistemology. However, very few books on the topic succeed in addressing these questions on a beginner's level. The first edition of How Do We Know? was a welcome exception that has been very well received by our students, and this updated edition looks even better!
Michael S. Jones, professor of philosophy and theology at Liberty University, president of the Virginia Philosophical Association

How Do We Know: An Introduction To Epistemology (Second Edition, IVP, 2020, 168 pages)