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Reasonable Faith, Third Edition: Christian Truth And Apologetics



Reasonable Faith



Christian Truth and Apologetics

THIRD EDITION

WILLIAM LANE CRAIG

UNABRIDGED | READ BY JIM DENISON



Synopsis

J. Gresham Machen once said, "False ideas are the greatest obstacles to the reception of the Gospel" - which makes apologetics that much more important. Wanting to engage not just academics and pastors but Christian laypeople and seekers, William Lane Craig has revised and updated key sections in this third edition of his classic text to reflect the latest work in astrophysics, philosophy, probability calculus, arguments for the existence of God, and Reformed epistemology. His approach - that of positive apologetics - gives careful attention to crucial questions and concerns, including the relationship of faith and reason, the existence of God, the problems of historical knowledge and miracles, the personal claims of Christ, and the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. He shows that there is good reason to think Christianity is true. As Craig says, "If you have a sound and persuasive case for Christianity, you don't have to become an expert in comparative religions and Christian cults. A positive justification of the Christian faith automatically overwhelms all competing worldviews lacking an equally strong case."

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 18 hours and 55 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Two Words Publishing, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: July 4, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B071G954ZK

Best Sellers Rank: #44 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Apologetics #78

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity #184 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

Customer Reviews

I found this book to be the best apologetic text I have read regarding reasons to believe in God and who Jesus could have possibly have been. It has some serious academic vocabulary and concepts in it. I recommend if you do not understand what you are reading, look up some of the topics and read the chapter/section again so you can get the full weight behind the meaning. I have a science background, philosophical background, historical background, and religious background and found it delightful. Craig cites myriads of sources and understands what he is writing about; very

refreshing. If you're not an academic or enjoy the theoretical, you should be able to understand enough of the book for it to have an impact. He tends to over explain some concepts and does not go enough in depth on others that I thought could have used more explanation. I'm still waiting for a text which explains the some topics presented in this book on a much deeper level. It would be nice to see a perspective from every angle. Note: this book is not exhaustive, there exists much more evidence or reasons for the faith than this book presents. I also recommend reading Norman Giesler and Ravi Zacharias texts as well.

This book is for the serious Christian who desires to step up to the next level in the field of Apologetics. Dr. Craig is trained in philosophy which gives his apologetic arguments great precision. While I may not be persuaded by all the arguments (such as the ontological) it was informative reading the strongest possible presentations of these arguments. The arguments from morals values and the teleological arguments are very strong. Also, the historical argument for the resurrection is very strong and Dr. Craig has written a whole book on that topic. Let me write two strengths and two weaknesses as I see it. Strengths 1. Excellent historical overview to the traditional arguments for God's existence such as the cosmological and teleological arguments. 2. I liked the interaction with modern cosmology such as the big bang, inflationary models, multiverse models and others. I will be looking to find more in-depth apologetic treatment of this field preferably from a trained cosmologist. Weaknesses 1. I think we can do without the Bayes Theorem analysis since as Dr. Craig admits the probabilities are not calculable. 2. Too much space is spent refuting historical relativism. I can't believe any reputable historian would support that. Overall I would say that this will be an excellent read for those with a philosophical leaning. This will also serve as a good reference book to the various arguments presented.

Deep, thoughtful, balanced, and at the same time, understandable, easy to read, and most importantly for me, it is practical. Reasonable Faith it is not a book that aims to create "smart" people who put others down or embarrass them. It is a book that helps Christians to give in love an account for their faith, to show that is reasonable and make them able to communicate the truth of God with very sufficient reasons of support. Also, a very good feature is the recommended works for further study at the end of each chapter! One of the best books on apologetics! Thank you Dr. Craig for your vigorous and hard work.

This is one of the best books on apologetics I have ever read. William Lane Craig is one of the

leading Christian apologists and philosophers of our time. The book starts out answering the question of knowing if Christianity is true. Craig explains in this book; three arguments (the cosmological, teleological and, moral) in proving the existence of God, the explanation of miracles, the historical knowledge of Jesus and Jesus' resurrection. I recommend this book to anyone that is interested in apologetics.

Dr William Lane Craig is one of the most intelligent, logical thinkers I've ever encountered. This book serves as his ministry's (reasonablefaith.org) founding book. It is a great read for any mature Christian seeking to evangelize in our modern society.

Outstanding and comprehensive review. I love his practical applications at the end of each section which include some of Craig's experiences in personal evangelism. A couple of defects, though: Craig is a "Big Banger," buying into creation-via-Big-Bang-singularity billions of years ago. As brilliant as he is, he acquired the horrific blind spot of not connecting creation with The Fall and thence the Gospel. In Genesis 1, God pronounces creation "good" several times. Man's sin produced corruption and death. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, the 2nd Adam (Jesus) came as a consequence of the 1st Adam's sin. But even so, Craig does a good job refuting a purely naturalistic (and fictional) Big Bang. How much more he could do if he simply embraced a literal creation as recorded in Genesis! Also, a minor defect . . . Like so many other books on apologetics, the author seems to presume that it's easy to get skeptics to sit down for extended dialogues. It's not. And so apologetics must be tightly intertwined with an approach to cold-turkey, one-to-one street evangelism. A public speaker like Craig, along with other apologetics authors who have radio shows, etc., are able to attract callers or challengers. Unknown saps like the rest of us have to generate our own opportunities and must do so regularly or we simply won't be competent when the opportunity arises. Bottom line -- you can use Craig's work, but will have to translate it to make it practical in short one-to-one encounters.

Craig is the quintessential apologist. You cannot go wrong with this resource.

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