

Critical Thinking

Supplemental Notes

By Chris Corlett



KOINONIA HOUSE

Critical Thinking - Supplemental Notes

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

Table of Contents

Session 1: Evidence	5
KI Silver Issachar Track	5
<i>Introduction</i>	5
<i>Court of Competent Jurisdiction</i>	6
<i>Team of Truth v. Team of Deceit</i>	7
<i>The Holy Bible as Evidence</i>	8
<i>Dr. Missler’s Discoveries</i>	8
<i>Some Types of Evidence</i>	10
<i>Hearsay Evidence</i>	10
<i>Testimonial Evidence</i>	10
<i>Documentary Evidence</i>	10
<i>Circumstantial Evidence</i>	11
<i>Real Evidence</i>	11
<i>Tests for Evidence</i>	11
<i>Test – From the Bible</i>	11
<i>Test – Laying the Foundation</i>	11
<i>Test – Primary Source</i>	12
<i>Test – Primary Authority</i>	12
<i>Web Research - “Astroturfing”</i>	12
<i>Web Research - Position</i>	12
<i>Test – “Two or Three Witnesses”</i>	12
<i>Witness → EYEwitness</i>	13
<i>“Evidence Against Interest”</i>	13
<i>Reporting Saul’s Death to David</i>	13
<i>US Constitution and Treason</i>	14
<i>Session Summary</i>	14
<i>Reliable Evidence Summary</i>	14
<i>Next Session</i>	14

Session 2: Logic 15

KI Silver Issachar Track 15

Persuasive Burden.15

Faith is Evidence.15

John 5 – The Four Witnesses16

Evidentiary Standards.17

Another Deductive Reasoning.19

Another Inductive Reasoning20

Inductive Reasoning’s Kryptonite20

“The Lord is Longsuffering”.20

“Thy God is a Merciful God”21

Deductive Reasoning Types.21

The Minimal Facts Approach22

Personal Update Articles23

“The Lord is Longsuffering”.23

The Holy Bible as Evidence23

Dr. Missler’s Discoveries23

About the Speaker 24

Session 1

Evidence

KI Silver Issachar Track

Introduction

“It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.”

Mark Twain

This is the first challenge for any critical thinker, listener or reader. What do we know? On what facts does the speaker or writer base the case? Josh McDowell’s *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* completely captures this discipline of mind. What is the evidence? Then, what is the implication of that evidence?

Critical Thinking & Listening

EVIDENTIARY BURDEN

- What are the facts?
- Are the facts reliable?
- Are the facts relevant?

Reliable and Relevant

PERSUASIVE BURDEN

- What are the premises?
- Does the corresponding evidence support it?

Concise and Compelling

I describe this as an evidentiary burden and a persuasive burden on the part of the claimant. Concise → legal “brief.” Perhaps C.S. Lewis had this dual obligation in mind when he said ...”

“I am not asking anyone to accept Christianity if his best reasoning tells him that the weight of the evidence is against it.”

C.S. Lewis

Court of Competent Jurisdiction

While the concepts discussed throughout this presentation are not specific to the Great Commission, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20), our testimony is to be seasoned with salt – the salt is the evidence and the testimony is our reasoning. We are called to be reproducers, not merely reciters.

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15

The Issachar Track compels us to stand against deception; to shine the torch of truth in the darkness of deceit. This passage, along with 1 Chronicles 12:32 (men who understood the times and knew what to do) exemplifies the Issachar Track. Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8). Jesus said as much to the Pharisees about their father the Devil (John 8:44).

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:6

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

1 Peter 3:15

We are of God; he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:6

- Error → “plana”: deceit, delusion, error.

Knoweth God	Hearth Us	Spirit of Truth
Not of God	Hearth Us Not	Spirit of Error

We are in a battle. “Onward Christian Soldiers!” Jesus said if you are not for Me you are against me! (Matthew 12:30). There are “two teams” in view—both with head coaches!

Team of Truth v. Team of Deceit

- There is a well known forum at which – in the simplest analysis – somebody is always pursuing the → “Enforcement of an Error.”
- Where do we expect one team to be judged RIGHT and the other team to be judged WRONG? → Our Judicial Court System.

Our “Two Court System”

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Public Opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advocate acts as the jury. • There are few if any rules for evidence or standards of proof. • Susceptible to “Confirmation Bias” 	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Competent Jurisdiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds the authority to hear and rule on a case. • Is bound by rules of evidence and enforces the burden of proof. • Acknowledges “Confirmation Bias”
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There are lessons to be learned from considering our legal court system and first we turn to some principles concerning evidence.

Reliable & Relevant Evidence

Reliability

- Trustworthy
- Verifiable
- Current
- Corroborated

Probe

Relevance

- Necessary for the conclusion to be reached
- Does the evidence tend to prove the matter asserted?

Probative

Probative → “having the quality or function of proving or demonstrating something; affording proof or evidence.”

The Holy Bible as Evidence

The Holy Bible is both: Reliable Evidence and Relevant Evidence. Bob Cornuke utilizes this extensively → the Bible is the evidence that he follows. And while his discoveries serve as archaeological evidence for the truth of the Bible, his adventures begin with the confidence that the Bible is true and can reliably provide evidence that form the bread crumbs that he pieces together.

This is not the same thing as evidence for the Bible.

Dr. Missler’s Discoveries

*“Sixty-six books penned by forty authors over thousands of years, and yet we discover it is **an integrated message system** from outside our time domain.”*

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.”

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16

Not commentaries, not founding fathers, not church fathers, but the WORD of GOD

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:8

The Bible is the Word of God and claims to be:

- Inspired (Foundation)
- Profitable (Relevant)
- Enduring (Reliable)

Using the Bible as Evidence

Same Gender Marriage – US Supreme Court: June 2015

Same Gender Marriage

- Secular
- Contract
- Majority

Traditional Marriage

- Sacred
- Covenant
- Authority

“I want to enter into evidence a document to which you will surely object. It will pass all evidentiary tests and yet you will not allow it.”

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, – and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Matthew 19:3-6

Jesus when tempted by Satan quoted from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Some Types of Evidence

- Hearsay
- Testimonial
- Documentary
- Circumstantial
- Real

Hearsay Evidence

- “An out-of-court statement introduced to prove the truth of the matter asserted therein.”
- There are several exceptions to this rule.
- Not all jurisdictions (countries) treat it the same way.
- Generally the key evidence in the *Court of Public Opinion!*
- Example: I cannot say I heard somebody yell fire for proof there was a fire. I can say the report was for why I ran out of the building.

Testimonial Evidence

- This is the eyewitness testifying about what they heard, saw, smelled, felt or tasted.
- Subject to Subpoena: Subpoena means under penalty. The other side deems their testimony vital to their own case.
- Subject to Cross Examination – discredit knowledge, senses or credibility
- The apostles were eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus ([Acts 1:22](#)).

Documentary Evidence

- This is a document entered into evidence.
- Subject to Subpoena Duces Tecum.
- Subject to Voir Dire.
- “The Document speaks for itself.”

Circumstantial Evidence

- While the arbitrator must rely on an inference to make it relevant to the instant issue, it is typically deemed reliable evidence.
- Expert witness testimony is a prime example: neither an eye witness nor an author of a document relevant to the instant issue, the evidence is often irrefutable and applicable.

Real Evidence

- This is the entering into evidence of tangible items and artifacts: The murder weapon; an archeological find; stolen items, etc.

Tests for Evidence

- From the Bible
- Laying the Foundation
- Primary Source
- Primary Authority
- “Two or Three Witnesses”
- “Evidence against Interest”

Test – From the Bible

- We need to:
 - Learn our Bible (Berean Track)
 - Invoke our Bible ([Matthew 19](#))
 - Depend on our Bible
- The “LID” test
- “Chapter and Verse”

Test – Laying the Foundation

- Before entering into the court record witness testimony or a document, you must “lay a foundation” for it (remember, Voir Dire?)
- What makes the document or speaker: Accurate? Significant?
- An arbitration where the opposing advocate entered documents which had no probative value.

- Chuck recalls hearing about the astonishing precision of atomic clocks and asked two questions: How do we know? Reliability (probe); Why do we care? Relevance (probative)

Test – Primary Source

- Primary Source – original document or object
- Secondary Source – a copy or reproduction
- We need to track down the origin(al)!

Test – Primary Authority

- Primary Authority – documents binding on a court (for our purpose, THE BIBLE)
- Secondary Authority – purporting to explain the meaning of a text (for our purpose, A COMMENTARY)

Web Research - “Astroturfing”

- “Astroturfing is the practice of masking the sponsors of a message or organization (*e.g.*, political, advertising, religious or public relations) to make it appear as though it originates from and is supported by grassroots participant(s).” – Wikipedia
- Astroturf is fake grass, so fake grassroots!

Web Research - Position

- “New findings from online ad network Chitika confirm it’s anything but lonely at the top. According to the study, the top listing in Google’s organic search results receives 33 percent of the traffic, compared to 18 percent for the second position, and the traffic only degrades from there.”
- [<https://searchenginewatch.com/sew/study/2276184/no-1-position-in-google-gets-33-of-search-traffic-study>]

Test – “Two or Three Witnesses”

For instance, if Fox News and NPR both agree on a subject, you probably have a credible source.

- *Then Jesus answering said unto them, “Go your way, and tell John what things ye have **seen and heard**; how the blind see, the lame*

walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.” - Luke 7:22

- *And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man, but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a **testimony unto them.** - Mark 1:44*
- *This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of **two or three** witnesses shall every word be established. - 2 Corinthians 13:1*
- See also → [Matthew 18:16](#); [1 Corinthians 14:29](#); [1 Timothy 5:19](#); [Hebrews 10:28](#).
- Corroborating testimony and evidence. [John 5](#) is a prime example.
- A way to overcome Confirmation Bias – Fox AND NPR not Fox OR NPR!

Witness → EYEwitness

- *Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were **eyewitnesses**, and ministers of the word. – Luke 1:2*
- *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. – 2 Peter 1:16*
- *Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a **witness** with us of his resurrection. – Acts 1:22*

“Evidence Against Interest”

- Confirmation Bias again!
- Rare is the position on a controversial topic that has no “evidence against interest.”
- In sports and in courts, for any “play” to succeed the likely defense strategy must be considered.

Reporting Saul’s Death to David

“So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.”

US Constitution and Treason

- “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of *two Witnesses* to the same overt Act, or on *Confession* in open Court.” – Article III, Section 3
- Only crime so defined in the US Constitution.
- We see both “two or three (multiple) witnesses” and “evidence against interest.”

Session Summary

- There is a battle for Truth and you are on one of the teams!
- Judicial Court informs contending for Truth in the Court of Public Opinion.
- Every sound argument needs evidence which must be reliable and relevant.

Reliable Evidence Summary

- From the Bible
- Laying the Foundation
- Primary Source
- Primary Authority
- “Two or Three Witnesses”
- “Evidence against Interest”

Next Session

- Persuasive Burden
- Rhetorical Triangle
- Minimal Evidence Approach
- Inductive v Deductive Argument
- Direct v Indirect Proof
- The Role of Faith

Session 2

Logic

KI Silver Issachar Track

From Evidence we build Argument. Correspondence Truth says that truth corresponds to some reality, evidence, or fact.

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.”

Mark Twain

Persuasive Burden

- What are the premises?
- Does the corresponding evidence support it?
- **Concise and Compelling**
- First a last look at Evidence...

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things **not seen**.*

Hebrews 11:1

*But **without faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Hebrews 11:6

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Faith is Evidence

- Arguments can be described as leaking boats.
- Hebrews 11:1 declares “faith is evidence.”

- There is a hole(s) in most defenses of positions taken on controversial topics.
- Some boats have more leaks than others.
- Rare is the premise on any argument supported by all available evidence.
- Evidence and Logic are clouded by Emotion and Agenda.
- Faith Fills the Hole(s)!

John 5 – The Four Witnesses

- *If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. – John 5:1*
- *Ye sent unto **John**, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. – John 5:32-35*
- The most important argument we make is the message of reconciliation as we engage in our mandate from the great commission; as we contend for truth as members of the team of truth v the team of deceit.
- *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the **works which the Father** hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. – John 5:36*
- *And the **Father himself**, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the **scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. – John 5:37-39*

John 5 – The Four Witnesses

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • Not Jesus Himself | • From CT: Evidence |
| 1. John the Baptist | 1. Witness #1 |
| 2. Works of the Father | 2. N/A |
| 3. Father Himself | 3. Witness #2 |
| 4. Scripture | 4. Document |
| • (Moses v:45-47) | • (Witness #3) |
- “2 or 3 Witnesses” “Bible as Evidence” “Documentary”

John 5 – The Outcome

- *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. – John 5:40*
- *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? – John 5:46-47*
- “believe” → pist-yoo’-o → “to have faith”

Evidentiary Standards

- Preponderance of the Evidence
- Clear and Convincing Evidence
- Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
- First two “Civil” and last one “Criminal”
- Mathematics (Stochastic): No precise percentage and I always picture the scales tip more and more to one side as the demand of the standard increases.
- Again, the court system recognizes that the winning side does not always prevail from a pristine and perfect record!

Two Methods of Reasoning

Deductive

- General → Specific
- “There are 5 rooms.”
- “The invoice shows 5 motion detectors bought.”
- Therefore, every room has a motion detector.

Inductive

- Specific → General
- “Every room I enter the lights automatically turn themselves on.”
- Therefore, every room has a motion detector.

Two Methods of Reasoning

Deductive

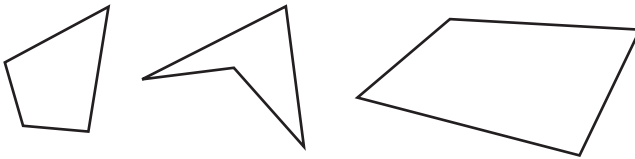
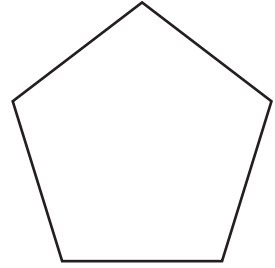
- Evidence based?
- Reliable and Relevant?
- Weakness:
 - Were they all installed?
 - Were they installed in the five rooms under consideration?
- Fails: Incorrect Record

Inductive

- Evidence based?
- Reliable and Relevant?
- Weakness:
 - Is there any other way for lights to turn on automatically?
 - Have I entered all rooms?
- Fails: Incomplete Record

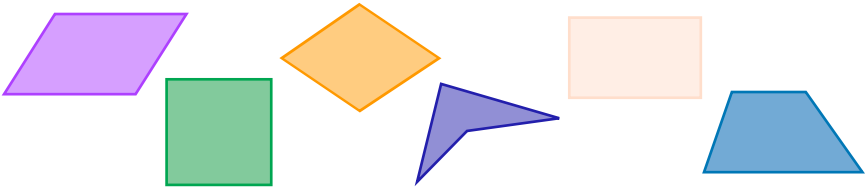
Invalid Deductive Reasoning

- Quadrilaterals have 4 sides.
- **This is a quadrilateral.**
- The measures of the interior angles of a quadrilateral total 360° .
- Therefore, the interior angles total 360° .
- Invalid because one of my general facts is incorrect. [**It has MORE than 4 sides.**]
- Incidentally, the sum of the interior angles is 540° .



Invalid Deductive Reasoning

- Quadrilaterals have 4 sides.
- None of these have opposite sides that are parallel.
- Therefore, no quadrilateral has parallel opposite sides.



Another Deductive Reasoning

- “ab” is the Hebrew word for FATHER (first in [Genesis 2:24](#)).
- “ahab” is the Hebrew word for LOVE (first in [Genesis 22:2](#)).
- The additional letter or mark is a “heh” and it connotes the essence of the word.
- Therefore, the essence of the Father is Love.
 - Is this Deductive?
 - Is this Valid? → The Argument is and its truth stands or fails on the evidence.
 - Is the Bible used as Evidence?

- Is this confirmed by two or three witnesses?
- Is this Primary or Secondary Source? Original v Copy?
- Is this Primary or Secondary Authority? Bible v Concordance?
- Is there an “evidence against interest”?

Another Inductive Reasoning

- “wrath of God is revealed” – Romans 1:18
- “wrath of God abides in him” – John 3:38
- “wrath of God came upon them” – Psalm 78:31
- “wrath of the Lamb” – Revelation 6:16
- Conclusion, God is full of wrath.
- Conclusion, God is angry with mankind.
 - Is this Deductive?
 - Is this Valid? → The Argument is and its truth stands or fails on the evidence.
 - Is the Bible used as Evidence?
 - Is this confirmed by two or three witnesses?
 - Is this Primary or Secondary Source? Original v Copy?
 - Is this Primary or Secondary Authority? Bible v Concordance?
 - Is there an “evidence against interest”?

Inductive Reasoning’s Kryptonite

- The Counterexample.
- Inductive reasoning looks at some and not all instances and from these specific examples draws a general conclusion.
- “More is better.”

“The Lord is Longsuffering”

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

“Wait a minute, you are quoting only from the New Testament and I quoted from both the Old and the New Testament!”

“Thy God is a Merciful God”

For the LORD thy God is a merciful God; he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

Deuteronomy 4:31

Deductive Reasoning Types

- Modus Ponens
- Modus Tollens
- Syllogism
- Contrapositive
- Other Logical Arguments

Syllogism

Valid

- All triangles have 3 sides.
- The building is shaped like a triangle.
- Therefore:
 - The building has 3 sides
- Reasoning is valid.
- “Evidence” is valid.

Invalid

- **No even number is a prime number**
- “2” is an even number
- Therefore
 - “2” is not a prime number
- Reasoning is valid.
- “Evidence” is invalid.

Two Methods of Proof

Direct

- If A then B; If B then C
- Conclusion: If A then C
- Or more often: If A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and KJV, then Z
- Evidential Apologetics

Indirect

- The argument assumes the conclusion is true and then shows this leads to a fallacy.
 - Sherlock Holmes Quote
- “Reductio ad Absurdum”
 - Reduce to an Absurdity
- Pre-suppositional Apologetics

- “Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.” – Fictional Character Sherlock Holmes brought to life in books written by author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- Presuppositional Apologetics → less a battle of evidence and it is not even a battle over the presupposition; it is a battle over the implications of the presupposition which (according to the antagonist) does not align with the available evidence (the Record).

The Minimal Facts Approach

- Pioneered by Resurrection Apologist Gary Habermas
- Two Major Prerequisites:
 - Each claim established by scholarly evidence and by several critically ascertained, independent lines of argumentation.
 - The vast majority of contemporary scholars in relevant fields had to acknowledge the claim’s historicity.
- “Best Evidence Rule” – Some “best evidence” trumps a lot of “mediocre evidence.”
- [http://www.garyhabermas.com/articles/southeastern_theological_review/minimal-facts-methodology_08-02-2012.htm]

Personal Update Articles

- For further reading:
- February 2016
- March 2016
- April 2016
- KI students will have a short third session to explain assignments.
- www.khouse.org

“The Lord is Longsuffering”

*But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those **that oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

2 Timothy 2:23-25

- Speaking the Truth in Love – [Ephesians 4:25](#)
- *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. – [Ephesians 4:29](#)*

The Holy Bible as Evidence

- The Holy Bible is both:
 - Reliable Evidence
 - Relevant Evidence
- Not the same thing as evidence for the Bible.

Dr. Missler’s Discoveries

- *“Sixty-six books penned by forty authors over thousands of years, and yet we discover it is an **integrated message system** from outside our time domain.”*
- *“The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.”*

About the Speaker

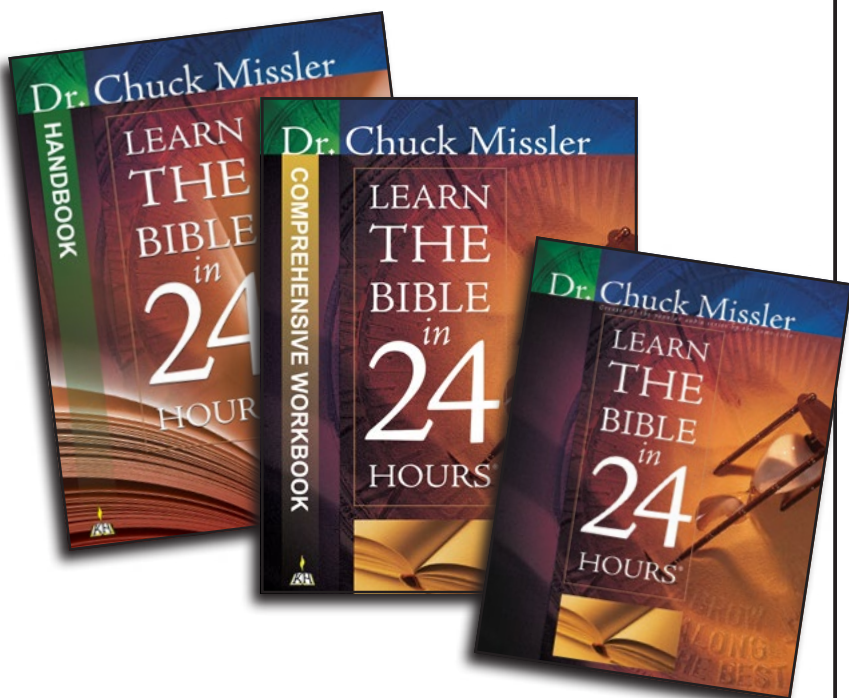
Chris Corlett

Conference Speaker

Chris and his wife of nearly 30 years host regional events and conferences serving primarily North-eastern United States and South-eastern Canada. He speaks and writes on many topics and relies on his background in public education as a teacher and curriculum writer for much of his presentations and publications. He presented at the *Strategic Perspectives* conferences on the topic of “Education as the Everyman Strategic Perspective” and currently moderates a forum on Education available through KI members’ dashboard.



LEARN THE BIBLE



Are you ready for a detailed yet thoroughly enjoyable study of the most profound book ever written?

Using sound scientific facts, historical analysis, and Biblical narrative, acclaimed teacher Dr. Chuck Missler weaves together a rich tapestry of information—providing an accurate understanding of Scripture’s relation to itself, to us and to the world at large.

Examine the heroic tales of Exodus, the lasting wisdom of Proverbs, or even the enigmatic imagery of Revelation with the simple, Scripturally sound insights and fresh perspectives found in *Learn the Bible in 24 Hours*. Whether you want to explore some of the less-discussed nuances of Scripture or you need a comprehensive refresher course on the Bible’s themes and stories, *Learn the Bible in 24 Hours* is a great guide.

HIDDEN TREASURES

For the novice as well as the sophisticate, this book is full of surprises. It includes subtle discoveries lying just “beneath” the text – hidden messages, encryptions, deliberate misspellings and other amendments to the text – that present implications beyond the immediate context, demonstrating a skillful design that has its origin from outside our space and time. Drawing upon over forty years of collecting, Chuck highlights in this book many of the precious nuggets that have become characteristic of his popular Bible studies around the world.

It is guaranteed to stimulate, provoke, and, hopefully, to disturb. It will confound the skeptic and encourage the believer. It is a “must read” for every thinking seeker of truth and serious inquirer of reality.

