

# Απολογία

*A Newsletter Published for Members of*

*The International Society of Christian Apologetics*

**Donald T. Williams, PhD, Editor**

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## **OPTIMISTIC PESSIMISM**

I am a Southerner. Lost Causes don't bother me. We are used to them.

In the short run, I am not very optimistic for our society or for the church. We as a society are trying to maintain our democracy while dismantling its foundation--the self evident truth that all men are created equal and are endowed by their *Creator* with certain inalienable rights. This project is doomed to failure. Nevertheless, having repudiated the only foundation on which a successful democracy has ever been erected, we presume to teach the rest of the world how to "do" democracy. This is sheer idiocy.

Meanwhile, the conservative church's only response is senselessly to berate the society for departing from a foundation it no longer remembers ever having had, rather than doing the only sensible thing to address the situation: re-evangelizing it from scratch and teaching it the biblical world view again. At the same time, I see our theological birthright, the hard gains of an Evangelical movement that clawed its way up out of Fundamentalist anti-intellectualism, being squandered for a mess of Post-Modern epistemological pottage, soft nihilism masquerading as humility about truth. Look, if there is no resurrection then Christ is not raised; and if there are no valid metanarratives, then Christianity is not true. The Evangelical movement is exactly where the mainline Protestant denominations were a century ago, losing its message to the Spirit of the Age so slowly and subtly that it doesn't realize what is happening. Only now, the friends of Truth, remembering how ugly things turned during the old Fundamentalist days, no longer have any stomach for the fight. Oh, yes, the future is bleak indeed.

Fortunately, both History and Theology save me from despair. History tells me that things have looked this bad before, or worse--right after the fall of Rome, at the height of Medieval papal corruption before the Reformation, and at the height of the Endarkenment of the Eighteenth Century before the First Great Awakening came seemingly out of nowhere. And Theology tells me that God is sovereign and doesn't need favorable cultural situations to accomplish his purpose or preserve His remnant or even initiate a new Reformation leading to a new Awakening. So, thank God, I don't need optimism. In fact, the need to find optimism based on a Pollyanish view of circumstances through rose colored glasses--which a lot of Christians seem to think it their duty to concoct--is the most pessimistic and depressing thing I know of.

We have no hope in this world. Good! That means we've got the Enemy just where we want him. Lift up your heads, for our redemption draweth nigh!

**Donald T. Williams**

## FORTHCOMING ISCA PUBLICATIONS

**Don Williams**, “Text vs. Word: C. S. Lewis’s Doctrine of Inspiration and the Inerrancy of Scripture,” chp. in festschrift for Nom Geisler, Wipf & Stock, 2015; “Expressing Emotion in Poetry: Grief and Recovery in Psalm 6,” *The Luther Rice Journal of Christian Studies*, Jan. 2016; “Anselm and Aslan: C. S. Lewis on the Ontological Argument” (reprinted by permission from *Touchstone*), *Global Journal of Classical Theology*, 2016; “Elizabeth Anscombe’s Final Word on C. S. Lewis’s Miracles, Chapter 3,” *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*, 2016; “The Justice of Hell,” *Christian Research Journal*, 2016.

## RECENT ISCA PUBLICATIONS

**Stephen M. Vantassel** is a blogger on Environmental Issues for the Cornwall Alliance. One of his more recent publications is <http://www.cornwallalliance.org/2015/11/04/californias-fish-and-wildlife-commission-against-the-environment/> His work has been to show how the animal rights movement is both anti-Christian (contra Andrew Linzey of Oxford) and anti-environmental (contra Humane Society of the United States). His dissertation on the Christian Animal Rights Movement was published in expanded form in *Dominion over Wildlife? An Enviornmental-Theology of Human-Wildlife Relations* (Wipf and Stock, 2009).

## PAPERS PRESENTED

**Don Williams**, “Honor and Shame: C. S. Lewis on Anthropology and Hamartiology,” at the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Atlanta, Nov. 18. **Williams** also served as chair of the C. S. Lewis Consultation study group for the ETS.

## PREACHING AND OTHER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Don Williams** gave a week of lectures at Snow Wolf Lodge near Pagosa Springs, Colorado, on the place and importance of literature in the Christian world view Oct. 12-16. For a full report on that ministry go to <http://lanternhollowpress.com/2015/10/19/philology-the-handmaid/>. He also presented a devotional at the Vespers service at the Lenbrook Senior Citizens’ Home in Atlanta, on Tues., October 20.

## ISCA JOURNAL

Greetings! I want to remind the members of ISCA that our submission due date for the journal is approaching quickly. The due date is January 1, 2016.

If you are interested in publishing an article in our journal, please send a copy of it to me at: [roawil@gmail.com](mailto:roawil@gmail.com). Remember, however, to follow the guidelines: 1) I’m looking for your final paper, not a work in progress; 2) It should have footnotes, not endnotes; 3) All block quotes need to be indented on both sides; 4) It should be between 20-30 pages long; 5) It should be formatted in a Turabian style; 6) It should be related to apologetic issues and topics.

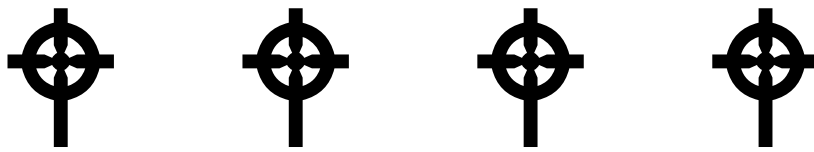
**Bill Roach**, Journal Editor

## ISCA TO MEET AT TOCCOA FALLS!

The next annual meeting of the International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISCA) will be held at **Toccoa Falls College** in NE Georgia April 1-2, 2016. Theme: “Apologetics in an Increasingly Hostile Age.” **Warren Cole Smith**, former editor of *World Magazine*, currently Vice President of The Colson Center and Lecturer for Summit Ministries, will be the plenary speaker. To present a paper you must be a member of the Society. To join or receive further information, go to <http://www.isca-apologetics.org/>. Watch here and on the ISCA website for further details!

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The Executive Council of the International Society of Christian Apologetics includes Donald T. Williams, President; Richard Howe, Vice President; Dan Guinn, Treasurer; Phil Fernandez, Secretary; Tim Adkisson, Webmaster; Bill Roach, Journal Editor; Norm Geisler, Phil Roberts, Kerby Anderson, and Win Corduan, Past Presidents.



Ἀπολογία is a newsletter published quarterly for the members of the International Society of Christian Apologetics, *Donald T. Williams, PhD*, editor. Please send news of publications recent or forthcoming, papers, debates, etc. presented, preaching or other ministries, etc., to the editor (Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 11 pt., single-spaced) at [dtw@tfc.edu](mailto:dtw@tfc.edu). Short news articles, essays, or book reviews (400 words) on issues relevant to your fellow apologists are also welcomed. The deadline for submissions to the next issue is January 15, 2016.

