

Entry Points for the Gospel in Europe Today

Is Europe simply post-Christian? Secular? In economic free-fall? Anti-Semitic? Despite dire predictions, there are recent signs of significant spiritual awareness. According to recent studies, many Europeans desire “believing without belonging.” Traditional religions, such as Islam, as well as new religious movements of all kinds are on the rise. Christian faith is having a come-back as well. How may we engage these entry points without being naïve as to their pitfalls? Our seminar will look carefully at the facts about Europe’s religious landscape, noting the differences from country to country. We will look at a few entry points and then address the best kind of apologetics for effective persuasion of the people of this historic continent.

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Introduction

I Europe’s identity

- A. Three layers: Greco-Roman, Jewish, Christian
- B. The Renaissance heritage
- C. The great divide: Protestant, Roman Catholic (Orthodox)
- D. Storms of Enlightenment, incursions of revival
- E. Two great wars
- F. The European Union
- G. The presence of Christianity today

II Four great challenges and gospel opportunities

- A. The European Union, global markets, but what of meaning?
- B. Persistent guilt and ongoing reconciliation, how far?
- C. Immigration, is there any way out?
- D. Secularization and de-secularization, where are we?

III Vignettes of Gospel presence

- A. Quo Vadis Institute, Salzburg
- B. Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication, NLA, Kristiansand
- C. Christian Heritage, Cambridge
- D. Parvis des arts, Marseille
- E. Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics
- F. IFED, Padova

Conclusions