

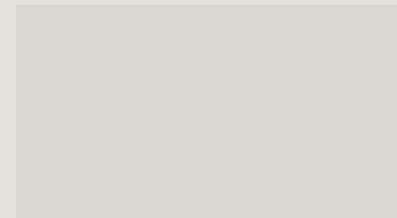


**THINK  
THEISM**



# Welcome!

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Ratio Christi, meaning “reason for Christ” in Latin, serves to defend the Christian faith in honest dialogue with both our skeptical & believing friends.

**Weekly Meetings: Thursday @ 8:30 pm**

**MSC 2401**

RC-TAMU.org



RATIO CHRISTI

# Connect

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[tx.ag/RCSlack](https://tx.ag/RCSlack)



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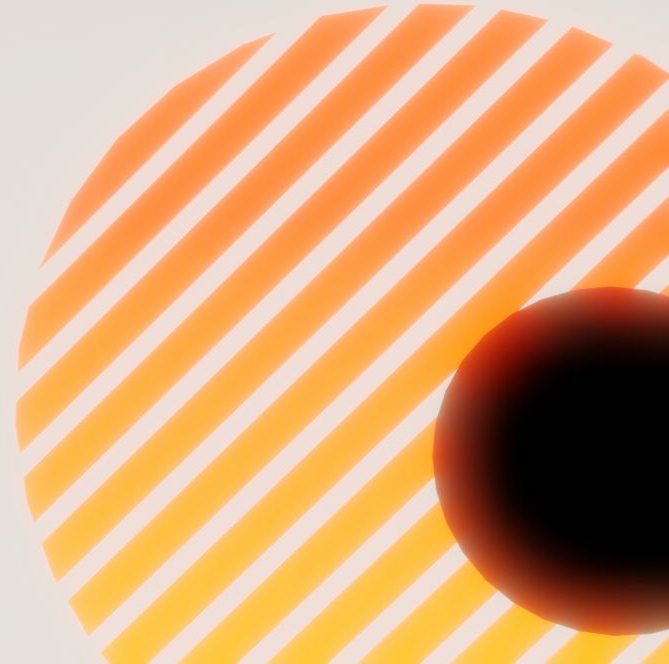
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Ratio Christi  
Texas A&M



Search: “**Think Theism**” in your podcast provider or go to [ThinkTheism.org](https://ThinkTheism.org)



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# Thomistic Institute

The Thomistic Institute exists to promote Catholic truth in our contemporary world by strengthening the intellectual formation of Christians at Texas A&M University, in the Church, and in the wider public square. The thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Universal Doctor of the Church, is our touchstone.

## Reading Group Details in the Slack

[thomisticinstitute.org/texas-am](https://thomisticinstitute.org/texas-am)



THOMISTIC  
INSTITUTE

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# Secular Students Alliance

The Secular Student Alliance seeks to provide a support network for the atheists, agnostics, and otherwise secular peoples of Texas A&M University.

SSA brings together people from a wide range of religious and ideological backgrounds in order to foster deeper levels of understanding through discussion and dialogue.

**Weekly Meetings: Thursdays @ 8:30 pm, MSC L526A**

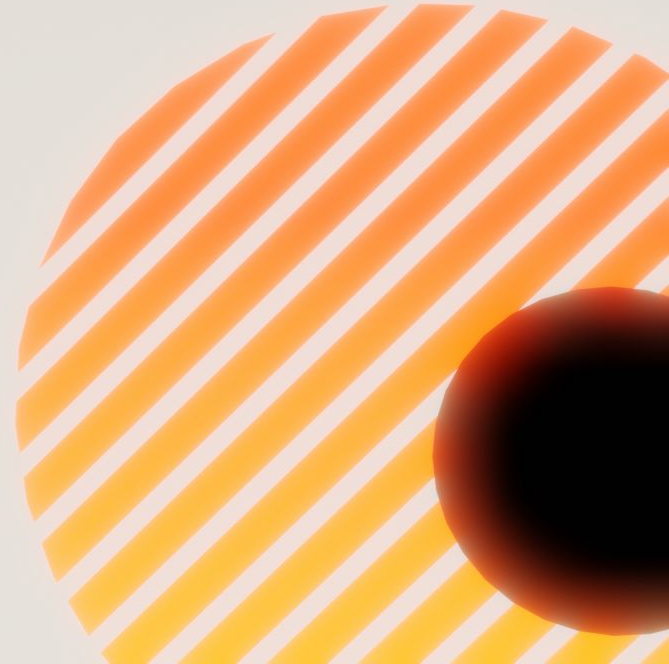
[facebook.com/groups/TAMUSecularStudentAlliance](https://facebook.com/groups/TAMUSecularStudentAlliance)



# Disclaimer

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Think Theism lectures are supported by Ratio Christi @ Texas A&M, but the opinions represented herein **do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or values of Ratio Christi**. This content is presented to encourage discussion and critical thought about challenging questions.



The background features a dark space filled with small white stars. A large, glowing yellow arc, resembling a rising or setting sun or moon, spans across the upper half of the image. Below the arc, the foreground is composed of a complex, purple wireframe landscape with many sharp, jagged peaks and valleys, creating a sense of depth and texture.

# But what about people that leave the Church?

*Apostasy as a message of freedom?*



# Example 1

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# Example 2

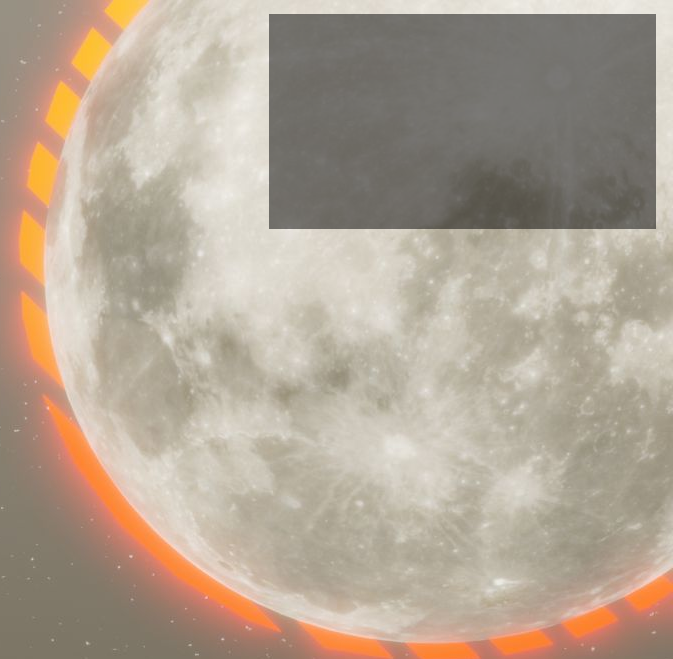
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# Example 2



How do  
You  
Respond?



# Answering the Apologetic Questions

We are not going to deal with all of the questions today, but Ratio Christi TAMU has in the past dealt with almost all of the challenges discussed here:

1. Interpretation of Genesis w/ Science:
  - a. [https://youtu.be/xhRrKgoA\\_JQ](https://youtu.be/xhRrKgoA_JQ)
  - b. <https://youtu.be/OUhLEE-8gvE>
2. Evolution:
  - a. [https://youtu.be/rlBw\\_Ve3OyU](https://youtu.be/rlBw_Ve3OyU)
3. Problem of the Unevangelized:
  - a. <https://youtu.be/8RRHL7xHeGs>
4. Problem of Hell:
  - a. <https://youtu.be/YO3dmKFjR4M>
5. Jesus and the Resurrection:
  - a. <https://youtu.be/4iBse8wZCPk>
6. The Exodus:
  - a. <https://youtu.be/l3loJ7Urljc>
7. The Conquest:
  - a. <https://youtu.be/WKajqONzd4o>
8. Old Testament Genocide
  - a. <https://youtu.be/cwhgCj97StA>

# What is the Argument?

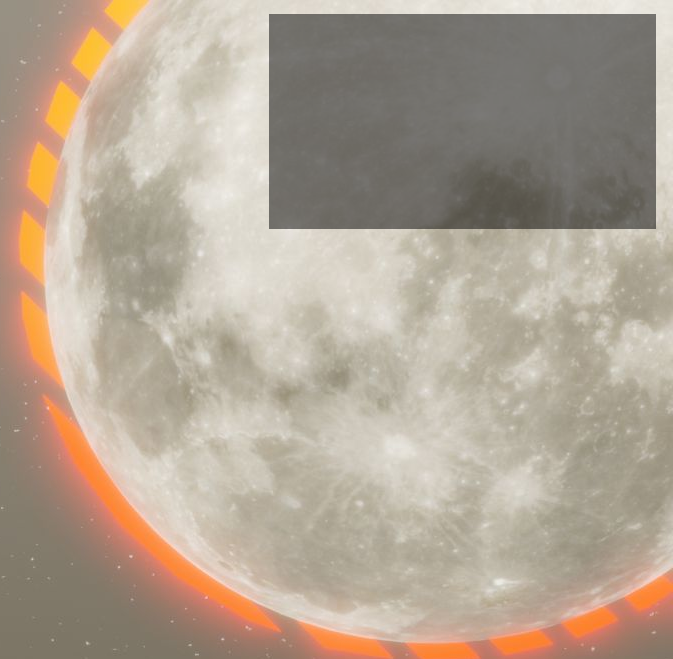
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- There are two different ways this problem can be addressed:

1. How do we address the deconvert herself?

2. How do we address those who are convinced by the deconvert?

How do  
You  
Respond?



# Why do People Leave the Church?

People leave the Church for a variety of reasons. Let's take their position at face value:

## 1. Reason

a. Intellectual Challenges

## 2. Justice and Politics

a. Racial

b. LGBTQ+

## 3. Personal Experiences

A good friend of mine was a real sold-out Christian, but eventually found out that all of that was fake and she left the church. Why should I believe your testimony over hers?

Alvin the Atheist

Carol the Christian



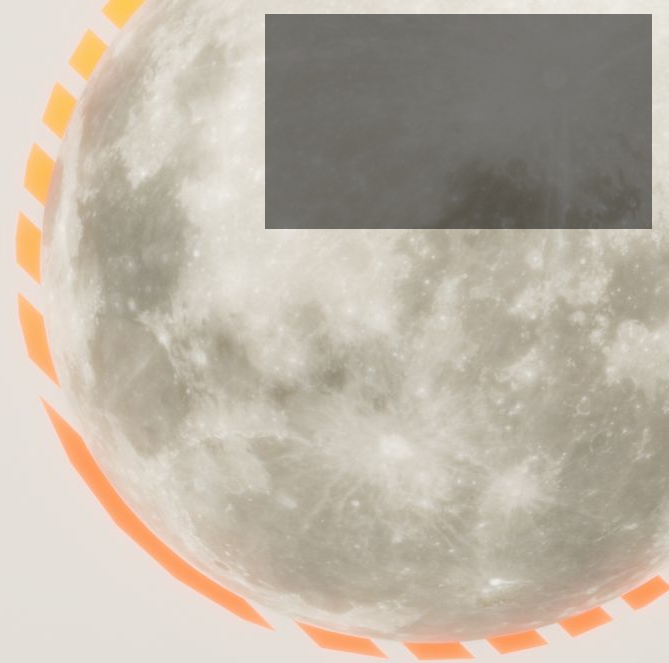


# What does the Bible Say?

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- Hebrews 5:4-6,

*For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*



# Theological Positions

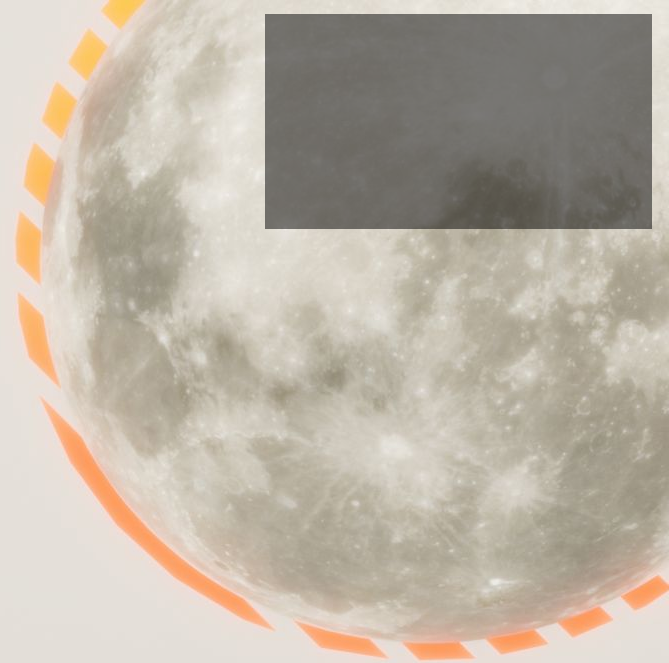
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## 1. Calvinism (Perseverance of the saints)

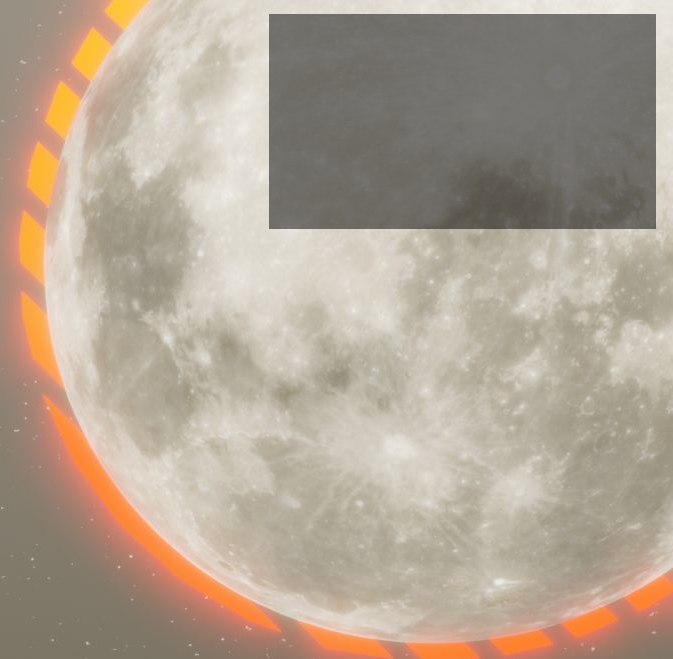
- a. The deconvert was never elect
- b. The deconvert will return in the end

## 2. Arminianism

- a. Salvation (and perseverance) is conditioned upon remaining in Christ.
- b. Apostasy requires willful rejection of Christ



How do  
You  
Respond?



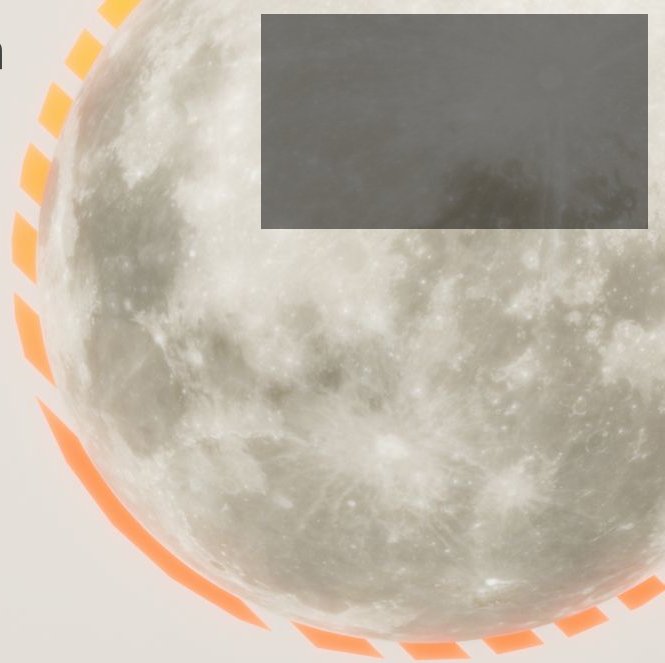
# Disenculturation: An Alternative to Deconversion

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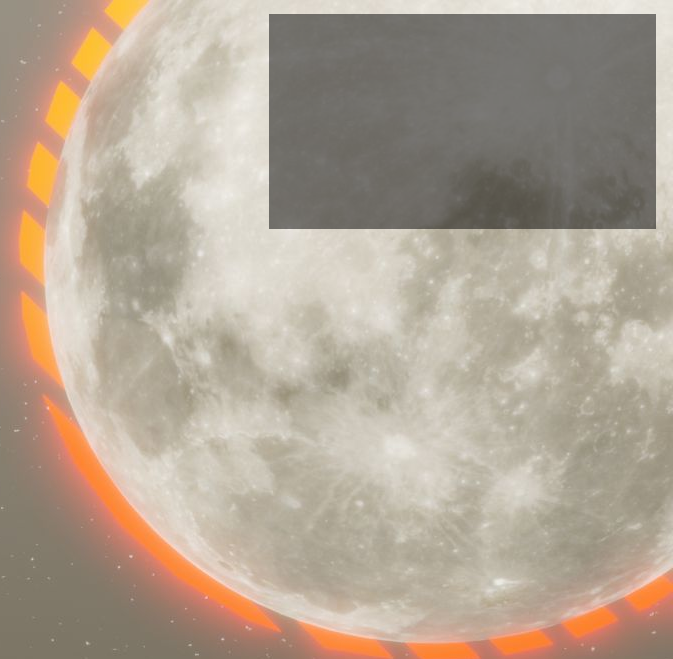
Many of the problems people have with “Christianity” are actually problems with the white, affluent, american, 21st century evangelical subculture.

**Why don't we retranslate the Gospel out of this subculture?**

*Bible translators use disenculturation to translate the Bible without carrying too much of a foreign culture the readers will not understand.*



How do  
You  
Respond?



# Takeaways...?

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- Take the stories of deconverts at face value
  - Don't immediately minimize it
- Deconversion stories are stories, not histories
  - We are not reliable narrators
- Don't just accept someone's deconversion experience as evidence for yourself!
- A rigid certainty, especially unfounded, is brittle
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