Gavin Rutherford Ortlund

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2016
- Concentration: Historical Theology
- Dissertation: "The Doctrine of Heaven in Anselm of Canterbury's *Proslogion*"
- Supervisor: Dr. Oliver Crisp

Master of Divinity, Covenant Theological Seminary, 2009

Bachelor of Arts, University of Georgia, 2006
- Majors: Philosophy and Religion
- Areas of Research: Existentialism, Kierkegaard, Eastern religions

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Fellow, Carl F.H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (The Creation Project), 2017-2018 school year

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *You Can Keep Going: How to Flourish in the Different Seasons of Your Calling*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, forthcoming.
- *The Faith Once Delivered: Five Christian Views* (contributor). Eugene, OR: Cascade, forthcoming.
- *Why Christianity Makes Sense: A Book About Jesus, The Mysteries of the World, and the Longings In Your Heart.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2026.
- *The Art of Disagreeing: How to Keep Calm and Stay Friends in Difficult Conversations*. London: Good Book Company, 2025.
- *What it Means to Be Protestant: The Case for an Always Reforming Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2024.
- *Humility: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2023.
- *Why God Makes Sense in a World That Doesn't: The Beauty of Christian Theism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.
- *Retrieving Augustine's Doctrine of Creation: Ancient Wisdom for Current Controversy*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020.
- *Finding the Right Hills to Die On: The Case for Theological Triage.* Wheaton: Crossway, 2020.
- *Anselm's Pursuit of Joy: A Commentary on the* Proslogion. Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2020.
- *Theological Retrieval for Evangelicals: Why We Need Our Past to Have a Future*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2019.
- *I and II Kings: A 12-Week Study.* Knowing the Bible. Wheaton: Crossway, 2017.

Articles and Essays

- "Angelic Fall Theodicy in Dialogue with Tolkien, Augustine, and Aquinas," *Themelios* 50.2 (2025): 329-337.
- "The Approach: Exposing Unbelief as Unlivable," in *The Gospel after Christendom: An Introduction to Cultural Apologetics*, ed. Collin Hanson, Ivan Mesa and Skyler Flowers (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2025).

- "How Church History Can Help Us Reconstruct Evangelicalism," in *Reconstructing Evangelicalism*, ed. Gerald Hiestand and Joel Lawrence (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2025).
- "Trinity and Aseity," in *The Doctrine of the Trinity*, ed. Matthew Barrett (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2024).
- "The Harmony of Faith and Reason in Anselm's Theological Epistemology," in *New Readings of Anselm of Canterbury's Intellectual Methods*, ed. Eileen C. Sweeney and John T. Slotemaker (Leiden: Brill, 2022).
- "Will We See God's Essence? A Defense of a Thomistic Account of the Beatific Vision." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 74.4 (2021): 323-332.
- "Augustine on Animal Death," in *Evil and the Doctrine of Creation*, ed. David Luy, George Kalantzis, and Matthew Levering (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).
- "Why Not Grandchildren? An Argument Against Reformed Paedobaptism." *Themelios* 45.2 (2020): 333-46.
- "'A Losing Battle Against Reality:' C.S. Lewis on the Nature and Necessity of Hell." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 176 (July-September 2019): 327-342.
- "Why Should Protestants Retrieve Patristic and Medieval Theology?", in *The Task of Dogmatics: Explorations in Theological Method*, ed. Oliver D. Crisp and Fred Sanders (Los Angeles Theology Conference Series; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017).
- "Explorations in a Theological Metaphor: Boethius, Calvin, and Torrance on the Creator/creation Distinction." *Modern Theology* 33.2 (2017): 167-186.
- *"Sola Scriptura* Then and Now: Biblical Authority in Late Middle and Reformation Context." *Credo* 6.4 (December 2016).
- "Conversion in C.S. Lewis' *That Hideous Strength*." *Themelios* 41.1 (2016): 8-19.
- "On the Fall of Angels and the Fallenness of Nature: An Evangelical Hypothesis Regarding Natural Evil." *Evangelical Quarterly* 87.2 (2015): 114-136.
- "Divine Simplicity in Historical Perspective: Resourcing A Contemporary Discussion," *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 16.4 (2014): 436–53.
- "Image of Adam, Son of God: Genesis 5:3 and Luke 3:38 in Inter-canonical Dialogue," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 57.4 (2014): 673-88.
- "The Voice of His Blood': Christ's Intercession in the Thought of Stephen Charnock," *Themelios* 38.3 (2013): 375-89.
- "On the Throwing of Rocks: An Objection to Hasty and Un-careful Criticisms of Anselm's Doctrine of the Atonement," *The Saint Anselm Journal* 8.2 (2013): 1-17.
- "Resurrected as Messiah: The Risen Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 54.4 (2011): 749-66.
- "Wholly Other or Wholly Given Over? What Van Til Missed in his Criticism of Barth," *Presbyterion* 35.1 (2009): 35-52.

Online Articles

- "Is the Bible Pro-Slavery?" Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics 2024.
- "Thomas Was Not Judas: Counsel For Those Who Doubt." Desiring God 2024.
- "Why Christians Should Believe in Divine Simplicity: Three Reasons." *Credo* 15.1 (April 2024).
- "Christ and Cancel Culture: A Lesson From the Alistair Begg Controversy." Christianity Today 2024.
- "Misconceptions About Humility." Gospel-Centered Discipleship 2023.
- "5 Ways to Cultivate Humility." Core Christianity 2023.
- "Apologetics in an Age of Despair." Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics 2023.
- "The Deceptively Easy Path to Prideful Humility." Crossway 2023. Republished at Eternal Perspective Ministries.
- "10 Practices to Kill Pride." Crossway 2023. Republished at Scottsauls.com.
- "On Lapsarian Theodicy." Sapientia 2021.

- "When I Recognized Race." United We Pray 2021.
- "Should Pastors Get PhDs? -- Questions to Ask First." Center for Pastor Theologians 2021.
- "7 Ways Augustine Can Enrich Our Understanding of Creation." Biologos 2020.
- "Should Churches in California Defy Government Restrictions? A Response to John MacArthur." Center for Pastor Theologians 2020.
- "3 Ways to Keep Social Media from Stealing Your Joy." The Gospel Coalition 2020.
- "An Open Letter to Those Who Divide over Doctrine." Crossway 2020.
- "5 Myths About the Reformation." Crossway 2019.
- "Humility is Not Hating Yourself: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness." Desiring God 2019.
- "Why Study 1 and 2 Kings?" Crossway 2019.
- "8 Ways to Find Sermon Illustrations." The Gospel Coalition 2019.
- "There is One Baptism, But Not One Baptist View of Baptism." Mere Orthodoxy 2019.
- "Can we Reject Paedobaptism and Receive Paedobaptists?" Mere Orthodoxy 2019.
- "Life without God is Weird." The Gospel Coalition 2019.
- "Pastors Should Like People (Not Just Love Them)." The Gospel Coalition 2018. Republished at Crosswalk.com 2018.
- "Why It's Wrong to Say the Bible is Pro-slavery." The Gospel Coalition 2018.
- "Make Sundays the Sweetest." Desiring God 2018.
- "The Real Reason You Love Music." The Gospel Coalition 2018.
- "7 Ways to Work Hard at Rest." The Gospel Coalition 2018.
- "Four Problems with Downplaying God's Wrath." The Gospel Coalition 2018.
- "He Lay in the Manger Without Leaving Heaven." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "Did Augustine Read Genesis 1 Literally?" Sapientia 2017.
- "The Missing Virtue in the Creation Debates: Augustine on Why Humility Matters." Sapientia 2017.
- "What We Forget about Creation: How Augustine Expands Our Vision." Sapientia 2017.
- "Can Creation Debates Find Their Rest in Augustine?" Sapientia 2017.
- "The Eternal Shore: Five Things We Forget About Heaven." Desiring God 2017.
- "When Should Doctrine Divine?" The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "When the Darkness Does Not Yield." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "Is Genesis History? Revisiting an Age-Old Debate." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "Keep Obeying on Dark Saturdays: A Meditation on Jesus' Burial." Desiring God 2017.
- "How C. S. Lewis Put the Ontological Argument for God in Narnia." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "Suffering is a Doorway, Not a Dead End." For The Church 2017.
- "Keep Learning to Lead: Five Practical Lessons." Desiring God 2017.
- "How Not to Help a Sufferer." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
- "The Problem of Evil is a Problem for Everyone." The Gospel Coalition 2017.
  "3 Ways to Respond When Slandered." The Gospel Coalition 2016.
- "10 Ways to Grow Your Marriage While Having Young Kids." The Gospel Coalition 2016. Republished at Churchleaders.com 2016.
- "4 Steps to Kill Nagging Sins." Desiring God 2016.
- "5 Ways to Make it Through a Difficult Season." The Gospel Coalition 2016.
- "Repentance Versus Defensiveness. The Gospel Coalition 2016.
- "3 Ways Our Culture is Different From Every Other Culture in History." The Gospel Coalition 2016.
- "20 Qualities of Good Listeners." For the Church 2016.
- "7 Ways to Fight Distraction During Prayer." The Gospel Coalition 2016. Republished at Crosswalk.com 2016.
- "7 Principles of Sabbath Rest." For the Church 2016.

- "3 Ways Movies are Searching for the Gospel." The Gospel Coalition 2015. Republished at Crosswalk.com 2016.
- "5 Strategies for Daily Bible Reading." For the Church 2015. Republished at Crosswalk.com 2016.
- "4 Steps Toward Joy in Repentance." Desiring God 2015.
- "What Does it Mean to Find Your Identity in Christ?" For The Church 2015.
- "5 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor Without Exalting Him." Desiring God 2015.
- "Why I'm Complementarian." For The Church 2015.
- "5 Ways to Deepen Your Preaching." The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "3 Reflections on Cultivating Theological Poise." The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "How to Fight Unhealthy Snacking: Dealing with Daily Depletion." Desiring God 2015.
- "Four Appeals to Christians Embracing Gay Marriage." Canon & Culture 2015.
- "5 Prayers for When Conflict Strikes." The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "When a Leader Lets You Down." The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "Why do Pastors Get Discouraged Amid Success? The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "Did C.S Lewis Have a Crisis of Faith in 1948?" Explore God 2015.
- "3 Leadership Lessons From Winston Churchill." The Gospel Coalition 2015.
- "Four Dangers for Complementarians." The Gospel Coalition 2014.
- "Jesus Did More to Save Us than Die." The Gospel Coalition 2014.
- "Is There Life After Life?" Explore God 2014.
- "Waiting in the Wilderness." The Gospel Coalition 2014.
- "The Bible's View of Faith and Science." Explore God 2014.
- "Fighting Porn By F.A.I.T.H." The Gospel Coalition 2014.
- "Reformation Creeds and Catechisms." ESV online Study Bible (September 2013)
- "The Bible's View of Pain and Suffering." Explore God 2013.
- "What Do I Have To Do To Get Into Heaven?" Explore God 2013.
- "Naked and Unashamed." The Gospel Coalition 2013.
- "Gospel-Centeredness is as Old as the Gospel." The Gospel Coalition 2013.
- "Why I Changed My Mind About Baptism." The Gospel Coalition 2013.
- "An Annotated Bibliography on Hell." 9Marks eJournal. September/October 2010.

Book Reviews

- Review of Sarah Irving-Stonebraker, Priests of History: Stewarding the Past in an Ahistoric Age (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2024). TGC reviews. 2024.
- Review of James Eglinton, Bavinck: A Critical Biography (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020). Christianity Today. 2021.
- Review of Bruce Riley Ashford and Craig G. Bartholomew, The Doctrine of Creation: A Constructive Kuperian Approach (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2020). *International Journal for Systematic Theology* 23.4 (2021).
- Review of Craig Allert, Early Christian Readings of Genesis One: Patristic Exegesis and Literal Interpretation (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2018). *Themelios* 44.1 (2019).
- Review of Matthew Levering, Engaging the Doctrine of Creation: Cosmos, Creatures, and the Wise and Good Creator (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017)." *Nova et Vetera* 17.2 (2019).
- Review of Kenneth Stewart, In Search of Ancient Roots: The Christian Past and the Evangelical Identity Crisis. TGC reviews. 2017.
- Review of W. M. Paul Young, Lies We Believe About God. TGC reviews. 2017.
- Review of Chris R. Armstrong, Medieval Wisdom for Modern Christians: Finding Authentic Faith in a Forgotten Age with C. S. Lewis. TGC reviews. 2016.
- Review of W. David Buschart and Kent D. Eilers, Theological as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church. TGC reviews. 2015

- Review of Scott R. Swain and Michael Allen, Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval for Theology and Biblical Interpretation. TGC reviews. 2015.
- Review of Kelly Bean, How to Be a Christian Without Going to Church: The Unofficial Guide to Alternative Forms of Christian Community. TGC reviews. 2014.
- Review of Engaging with Keller: Thinking Through the Theology of an Influential Evangelical. *Themelios* 39.1 (2014).
- Review of Jerram Barrs, Delighting in the Law of the Lord: God's Alternative to Legalism and Moralism. TGC reviews. 2013.
- Review of Tim and Kathy Keller, The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God. *Themelios* 38.3 (2013).
- Review of Mark Batterson, All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life." TGC reviews. 2013.
- Review of Derwin Gray: Limitless Life: You Are More Than Your Past When God Holds Your Future. TGC reviews. 2013.
- Review of Andrew Wilson, If God, Then What? Wondering Aloud about Truth, Origins, and Redemption. TGC reviews. 2013.
- Review of Judah Smith, Jesus Is: Find a New Way to be Human. TGC Reviews. 2013.
- Review of Stephen J. Lawson, The Heroic Boldness of Martin Luther. TGC Reviews. 2013.
- Review of D.A. Carson and Tim Keller, eds., The Gospel as Center: Renewing our Faith and Reforming our Ministry Practices. *Themelios* 37.3 (2012).
- Review of Kevin DeYoung, The Hole in our Holiness: Filling the Gap Between Gospel Passion and the Pursuit of Godliness. TGC Reviews. 2012.
- John Piper, Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and Christian Ministry. *Themelios* 37.2 (2012).
- Review of Jerry Bridges, The Transforming Power of the Gospel. TGC Reviews. 2012.
- Review of J.D. Greear, Gospel: Recovering the Power That Made Christianity Revolutionary. TGC Reviews. 2011.

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Speaking to the Ache: Christian Apologetics and the Opportunity of Our Moment." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting Plenary Address, November 17, 2026.
- "From Nietzsche to Sam Harris: How Atheism Has Changed, and What That Means For Cultural Apologetics." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 18, 2026.
- "The State of Protestant Apologetics: An Assessment and Plea." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 18, 2025.
- "The Argument for God From Eternal Truths." Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 20, 2025.
- "The Problem of Divine Hiddenness: A Pascalian Response." Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 21, 2024.
- "What Can Evangelicals Learn From the 10th/11th Christianization of Scandinavia?" Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 16, 2022.
- "Problems With the Papacy: Responding to Roman Catholicism's Most Distinctive Doctrine." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 18, 2021.
- "An Abductive Argument for God From Music." Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 16, 2021.
- "Will We See God's Essence? Aquinas Versus the Protestants on the Beatific Vision." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2020.
- "An Abductive Argument For God From Math." Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 18, 2020.
- "How Classical Angelology Can Resource Tolkienian Angelic Fall Theodicy." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 16, 2020.

- "Augustine on Humility in Engaging Science." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 20, 2019.
- "Why Not Grand-Children? A Critique of Reformed Paedobaptism." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 22, 2019.
- "Augustine on Adam and Eve." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 14, 2018.
- "Augustine on Animal Death." Creation and the Problem of Evil Colloquium, Wheaton College, March 23-24, 2018.
- "Retrieving Augustine's Doctrine of Creation." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 16, 2017.
- "Substitution as Both Recapitulation and Satisfaction: Atonement Themes in Convergence in Irenaeus, Athanasius, and Anselm." Evangelical Theological Society Far West Meeting, April 21, 2017.
- "Why Should Protestants Retrieve Patristic and Medieval Theology?" Los Angeles Theology Conference, January 12, 2017.
- "An Expected Piece of Furniture: C.S. Lewis on the Nature and Necessity of Hell." Evangelical Theological Society Far West Meeting, April 15, 2016.
- "An Einsteinian Thought Experiment: Boethius, Calvin, and Torrance on the Creator/creation Distinction." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 18, 2015.
- "Anselm's Epistemology in Historical Context." Reading Anselm: Context and Criticism, July 30, 2015, Boston College.
- "In Defense of Hell: Some Explorative Reflections." Rethinking Hell Conference, Fuller Theological Seminary, June 19, 2015.
- "Conversion in That Hideous Strength." Evangelical Theological Society Far West Meeting, April 10, 2015.
- "Beyond 'The Problem of Anselm:' A Fresh Look at Anselm of Canterbury's Theological Epistemology." Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, November 21, 2014.
- "Son of God, Image of Adam: Genesis 5:3 and Luke 3:38 in Inter-canonical Dialogue." Evangelical Theological Society Far West Meeting, April 11, 2014.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Visiting Professor of Historical Theology at Phoenix Seminary (2025-present)
- Adjunct professor for week-long intensive course on ecclesiology, Wheaton College, June 2026
- Adjunct professor for "Christianity and Culture," Lipscomb University, Fall 2025
- Adjunct professor for week-long intensive course on theological retrieval, Western Seminary, July 2024
- Adjunct professor for week-long intensive course on the life and theology of St. Anselm, Bethlehem College and Seminary, January 2020.
- Adjunct professor for week-long intensive course on the life and theology of St. Anselm, Bethlehem College and Seminary, January 2018.

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Fellow, The Tim Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics
- Fellow, The Center for Baptist Renewal
- Fellow, Credo
- Member, The Center for Pastor Theologians (St. Basil Fellowship)
- Visiting Scholar, Reasons to Believe
- Editorial Board, *Themelios* (2016-2021)

- Evangelical Theological Society
- International Association for Anselm Studies