



Equipping Christian cultural leaders to live out
the truth, freedom and beauty of the Gospel
in every area of life and culture

Ezra Institute
H. Evan Runner
international academy

ten-day residential course

May 7-17, 2023 · www.ezrainstitute.com · apply today

The most fundamental and urgent battle of our time... is a struggle for the religious direction of human society in its totality. The battle of our time is to determine which spirit is to possess our hearts and give direction to our civilization.

H. Evan Runner



Scripture says of Christ that 'from Him and through Him and to Him are all things' (Rom. 11:36). Christ Jesus is Lord over all of life and culture, and we urgently need a new generation of Christian leaders unashamed of applying the whole counsel of God in the world today. The Runner Academy is raising up leaders for such a task in this hour.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot

Founder of the Ezra Institute
for Contemporary Christianity



Who should attend?

Delegates at the Runner Academy are students and young professionals ages 18 to 40 in fields such as politics, medicine, law, education, theology, philosophy, business, science and technology and the various arts. It is in these areas that the cultural struggle is most vividly brought to light.

Details

Dates: May 7-17, 2023

Cost: Tuition payable is \$1545- queen bed accommodation
OR \$1345 - dormitory accommodation

For more information and to apply :

www.ezrainstitute.com/runneracademy

- Complete our online registration form
- Pay a small application fee of \$50
- Participate in a virtual or in-person interview
- Receive your acceptance letter, pack your bags, and join us in May!

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Testimonials

Change makers

Matthew Grove

Geography specialist,
Runner Grad '19, WLA mentor

Through the resources and teaching programs of the Ezra Institute, God has blessed and encouraged me as He challenged my thinking to be more consistently aligned with His Word.

In particular, the Ezra Institute has helped me to see everything I do, including my work in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), my citizenship in Canada, my familial responsibility as a son, a brother and an uncle, and my church membership, as equally important parts of Christ's earth-enveloping kingdom. It hadn't previously occurred to me that I had been influenced by false ideas about God's kingdom being limited to pursuing personal holiness, church life, and sharing a gospel about going to heaven. This thinking was a major hindrance to my faith and

witness. Once I understood that the real cultural issues in the world are tied to false worship, this changed everything.

God is encouraging and challenging His people through the Ezra Institute. It is liberating to know that nobody is neutral, and that everything is either for Christ or against Him; understanding this is really needed to resist the winds of endless perspectives.

Testimonials

Sarah-Jane Bentley

Head of English, Eton College
Windsor, UK

The Ezra Institute's podcasts and articles are a daily source of wisdom for me as a teacher in a top British private boys' school. The Institute's Christian cultural thinkers speak with a discerning voice which helps me to judge the direction of the cultural current and gives me the confidence to be steadfast in the powerful undertow. The strong biblical guidance of the Institute's fellows has helped me to better understand the motives behind trends in mental health counselling offered to young men, so that I can guide them with the Gospel light. The searching critique of the Soixante-Huiters/ Frankfurt School has re-educated me, opening my eyes to the lens

through which my English degree at Oxford was taught. In my academic work in the schoolroom, I have been inspired by the Ezra Institute to seek a true and full understanding of literature, alerted to the damaging reductionist influence of Critical Theory. This has been liberating and it is joyful to impart to eager young readers in search of meaning. The Ezra Institute's focus on cosmology and the cultural mandate has helped me to see the biblical revelation of Christ's kingdom and how I should faithfully participate in it today.



The Institute's Christian cultural thinkers speak with a discerning voice which helps me to judge the direction of the cultural current and gives me the confidence to be steadfast in the powerful undertow.





Teaching

Many Christians wrestle with how to authentically think and act as a Christian in our culture today. What does it mean to think Christianly about every area of life?

Join us at the Runner Academy for an intensive worldview and cultural apologetics training program like no other. Bringing together faculty and delegates from around the world, attendees will learn about the implications of God's Word for every aspect of life, and their calling as God's people to create and cultivate true, godly culture in the public space.

This ten- day residential course is designed to equip the next generation of Christian cultural leaders to understand their own lives and cultural moment through the lens of God's infallible Word. Law, medicine, politics, education, business, the church, the arts – explore the Christian calling to develop and defend a distinctly Christian vision in all these areas.

Daily Schedule

Delegates will live, work, eat, pray, study and discuss the topics together throughout the program. Each day consists of morning prayer and worship, lectures, group discussion, communal meals, free time or leisure activities and space for quiet reading and reflection.

Location and Accommodations

The Runner Academy 2023 will take place at the Fort Mountain Retreat and Conference Center in Chatsworth, Georgia. Perched high atop Fort Mountain, the center overlooks the beautiful North Georgia landscape 3,000 ft below. It is surrounded by hiking trails and beautiful vistas, and is the ideal place to learn and meditate on God's Word.

Delegates will have the option of shared queen bed or dormitory accommodation, and have access to the center's various amenities, including ping-pong, sports gymnasium, and indoor pool.

Three meals and snacks are provided daily, as well as a semi-formal closing banquet.



Week One

World-and-Life-View

Philosophy

Whether consciously or unconsciously, all of us either utilize or fall prey to a given philosophy on a daily basis and we all process our philosophy through an underlying worldview. These lectures focus on the concepts of worldview and philosophy, the worldviews that have historically shaped western society, and what it means to think in a distinctly Christian way.

Theology

It has rightly been said that the proper result of theology is worship. These sessions explore some of the central Scriptural themes of Christian theology: the kingdom of God, the Lord's covenant with His people, and the comprehensive sovereignty of God.



The Academy took a wholistic view of teaching worldview. It didn't simply say "this is the right way to live" but went through history and showed what pagan worldviews are, what the solid Christian worldview is, and showed how / why the Christian worldview is important. It in essence built a solid foundation for "why the Christian worldview" and then built that Christian worldview on top of it.

James Douitsis, Software Engineer





Week One

World-and-Life View

Culture

Culture is the applied and embodied beliefs of a people or civilization. In the sessions today we consider some key aspects of culture and how those beliefs are applied and embodied in both Christian and antichristian thinking.

Apologetics

Apologetics is the defense of the Christian philosophy of life, articulating and establishing the Christian mind within culture. These lectures explain and defend the Christian way of thinking and knowing, as well as responding to the claims of cults and false religions.



The two weeks I spent at the Runner Academy permanently re-formed my approach to 'life on earth' - the motivation for my God-given purpose and calling has been profoundly transformed.

Aviviere Telang, Entrepreneur





Week Two

Culture

Law

Sovereignty means having the authority to govern, and this authority ultimately resides with Jesus Christ. These sessions focus on the law of God as revealed in Scripture and in creation and consider the basis on which human beings organize societies, as well as make and enforce laws.

Politics

Christ Jesus showed Himself to be Lord of creation when He rose from the dead, and throughout history, nations and states have either acknowledged or suppressed that truth in various ways. These lectures study the cultural legacy of Christendom, secularizing utopian movements as well as the Christian influence on our Western political structure, and the current state of civil society.

Sabbath Rest

Church service and quiet time for rest and reflection. White water rafting excursion in the afternoon.



Through the the Ezra Institute I have learned the significance of the kingdom of God: The kingdom is anywhere and everywhere the king is embraced as having dominion and authority.

Michael Verduyn, Small Business Owner





Week Two

Culture

Witness

Christian witness, the call to be salt and light to the world, is the calling of every believer. These lectures explain in principle the need to place our thinking under the rule of Christ in every area of life, as well as addressing our witness to the world in specific areas of thought like Critical Race Theory.

Culture & The Art of Living

From conception to death, our lives are lived before the face of God, which means that God's Word touches every part of life. The activity of creation and expression –are where we perhaps most self-consciously imitate God the Creator. In these sessions we consider a Christian perspective on beginning and end of life issues, as well as sexuality, marriage, family, work and the arts.

“ The provocative call to redeem all spheres of culture under Christ's lordship – medicine included – inspired me to take on a leadership role where I have been actively involved in pushing back against our contemporary culture of death.

Ted Fenske MD, Physician and Cardiologist



Core Faculty

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot

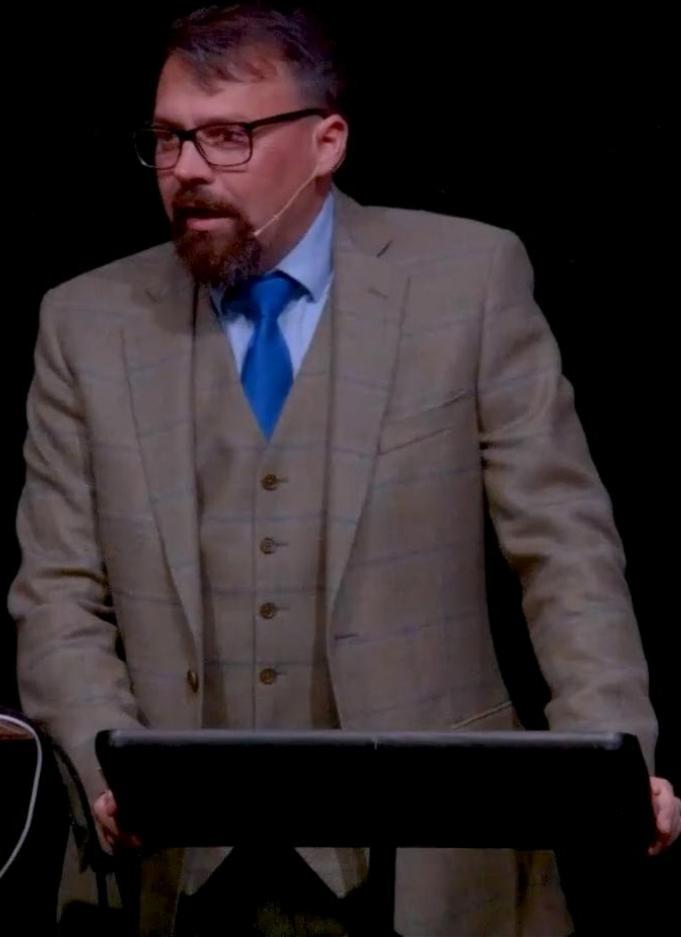
is founder of the Ezra Institute. He is a Christian thinker, cultural apologist/philosopher, and founding pastor of Westminster Chapel, Toronto. Joseph is originally from Great Britain and has worked in the fields of Christian apologetics, worldview education and church leadership for over 20 years on both sides of the Atlantic. He regularly addresses pastors and Christian leaders as well as academic, medical, legal, and political professionals and has publicly debated leading atheistic thinkers and philosophers in Canada and the United States.

Dr. Peter Jones

is Ezra Institute Fellow for New Testament Theology and Christian Worldview, Director of truthXchange, and Scholar in Residence at Westminster Seminary, California. Following two decades of church planting and seminary teaching, Peter began to research the many branches of the 'New Age' movement. His work in this area has established him as an expert on pagan spirituality in North America.

Dr. James White

is Ezra Institute Fellow for Islamic Apologetics and Textual Criticism, professor, author, debater and pastor/elder of Apologia Church. He has taught Greek, Systematic Theology, and various topics in the field of apologetics for numerous schools, and has authored or contributed to more than twenty books.





20 - Rev. Dr. Andrew Sandlin

Core Faculty

Rev. Dr. Andrew Sandlin

is Ezra Institute Fellow for Public Theology and Cultural Philosophy, and President of the Center for Cultural Leadership. He founded CCL in 2001 with the conviction that only eminently-equipped cultural leaders will actually create a new Christian culture — and that only transformed Christians can effect change in the present anti-Christian culture of the West.

Dr. Jeffery Ventrella

is Ezra Institute Fellow for Jurisprudence and Political Thought, senior counsel and senior vice president of academic affairs and training at Alliance Defending Freedom, Fellow of Law and Culture for the Center for Cultural Leadership, Senior Fellow of TruthXchange. He holds a doctorate in church and state studies and earned his juris doctorate. He has practiced law since 1985 and is a member of the state bar of Idaho.

Dr. Ted Fenske

is Ezra Institute Fellow for Medicine and Public Christianity, Clinical Professor with the Division of Cardiology at the University of Alberta, staff cardiologist at the C.K. Hui Heart Centre, and an Elder at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Edmonton. Referring to himself in his hospital role as “a sheep in wolf’s clothing,” he endeavors to shine God’s light in dark places of need and provide compassionate care for his patients, asserting that his personal faith in Christ has been the focus and foundation of his practice.



About Ezra Institute

At the Ezra Institute we train Christian cultural leaders to understand every area of life in the light of God's Word. We prepare them to faithfully participate in Christ's kingdom-advancing work by engaging credibly and confidently with the cultural issues of our day.

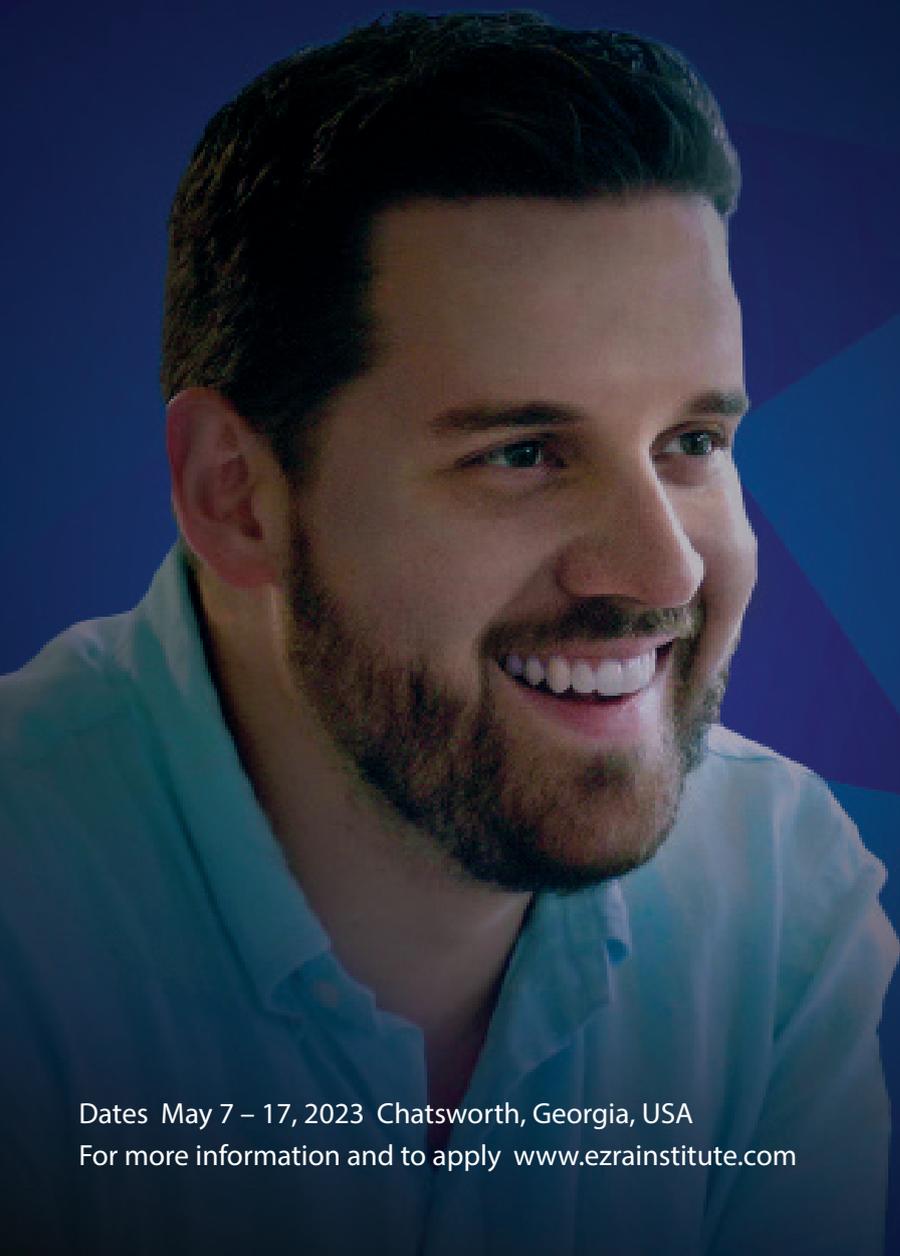
Many believers, particularly younger people who have grown up in the Church, have unwittingly allowed non-Christian ideas to shape their world-and-life view, resulting in a distorted, narrow, and largely privatized faith. Untaught and unsure of how the wisdom of God's Word applies to every sphere of their lives, large numbers are leaving the Church disillusioned.

Our intensive training programs reinforce a biblical world-and-life-view within an immersive learning experience. Our vision is for participants to experience the joy, freedom, and deep sense of purpose that comes with discovering the glorious implications of God's Word for all of life, and to pursue their calling to cultivate Christ-centred culture in the public space to the glory of God.

www.ezrainstitute.com

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Come and join us!



Dates May 7 – 17, 2023 Chatsworth, Georgia, USA

For more information and to apply www.ezrainstitute.com