

(*Note from the Counsellors* – It is not uncommon for Year 5 & 6 students to struggle with their faith and the ‘big questions’ in life, amongst the demands and rigour of the IB programme. The struggles can cause certain students to lose their ‘plot in life’; compounded with burnout, faith issue can derail them. Other books which are helpful are *The Case for Faith* and *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel; and *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis)

The book *The Reason For God* is a daring attempt by Christian pastor Timothy Keller at uniting religion and reason, rationally deconstructing the notion often suggested by non-believers that the two are mutually exclusive.

As a pastor schooled from childhood in the Christian doctrine and the founder of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, Keller can certainly be regarded as a man with a thorough understanding of the religion. In his book, Keller draws upon experiences, interviews, philosophy and reasoning in order to address many common questions put forth by skeptics and explains that belief in the Christian God can be a completely rational one. Through reasoned discourse, Keller addresses many major questions concerning Christianity raised by both believers and non-believers, including issues such as the perceived exclusivity of Christianity, interpretation of the Bible and the atrocities committed in the name of the religion.

The Reason for God however cannot be assured to answer all theological questions; Keller himself admits based on his childhood experience that the different approaches taken toward Christianity are almost akin to “different religions”. This book is however a valuable read to all intellectual individuals seeking answers to questions on Christianity that stretch beyond the textbook answers revolving around “faith” offered by most religious leaders. Keller offers his own justification for that faith from a wide variety of sources and while his arguments may not be gospel truth as he acknowledges in the Epilogue, it is a valiant and rather successful attempt to explain the unexplainable and offers readers a fresh perspective on many major issues concerning the religion.