

# Proposal

## Background:

In the realm of Christian education and personal growth, believers are often encouraged to engage with a wealth of theological resources. These resources range from books recommended for personal edification, group study, to deepening one's prayer life. However, the sheer volume of these resources poses a significant challenge: many individuals find themselves strapped for time, unable to sift through the vast array of books available. Currently, while AI technology exists to compile information from the web, it often lacks the depth, accuracy, and reliability found in scholarly theological texts penned by esteemed academics. An AI capable of intelligently navigating and synthesizing content from these trusted sources could revolutionize how believers access theological knowledge, potentially driving interest and sales towards books authored by reputable theologians.

## The Problem:

The crux of developing an AI system trained on biblical and theological content lies in ensuring the integrity of its theological underpinnings. It's paramount that the AI only incorporates and references 'correct' theology, as deemed by esteemed theologians, to avoid the propagation of erroneous doctrinal interpretations. We anticipate the involvement of a theological expert, possibly from Talbot School of Theology, to curate and vet the AI's training materials, ensuring alignment with sound Christian doctrine.

## Objectives:

- **Aim 1:** To validate the ability of an AI to accurately reflect theological wisdom found in scholarly texts. This shall be achieved by training the AI on a curated selection of books, followed by a testing phase where the AI would respond to a series of questions reflective of potential user inquiries. Authors of the selected texts will be asked to provide 'model' answers to these questions, allowing for an evaluation of the AI's responses against these gold standards.
- **Aim 2:** To develop an AI proficient in referencing and synthesizing information from a pre-approved compilation of theological resources, thus ensuring doctrinal soundness. Success in Aim 1 will lead to the expansion of the AI's capabilities, enabling it to draw from a broader array of "Biola Endorsed" theological content. This AI will undergo rigorous testing to assess its ability to address complex theological inquiries, thereby validating its effectiveness.
- **Aim 3:** Deployment of this AI on a global scale, making it accessible for personal study, small group discussions, and broader educational purposes. This would mark the culmination of our project's objectives, offering an invaluable resource to the Christian community worldwide.

## Significance:

I've already had a few Christians who are interested in the use of AI in things such as their small groups and some who already use premature AI in their small groups already. Without the advent of our creation then many Christians will be subjected to be using AI with subpar theology.

This AI stands to democratize access to deep theological insights, mitigating the time constraints that often hinder comprehensive study. Furthermore, by guiding users towards credible sources of theological wisdom, the AI plays a pivotal role in fortifying the doctrinal integrity of Christian believers.

## Innovation:

Embarking on this mission, we introduce a pioneering approach to theological study. Our AI promises a revolutionary method for aggregating and disseminating knowledge from trusted theological texts, making accurate and profound doctrinal insights readily accessible to a broad audience. In doing so, we endeavor to forge a resource that not only enlightens but also inspires a deeper exploration of Christian theology.

# Concerns and Growth Opportunities

## Potential Areas of Growth

**Enhancing User Engagement and Community Building:** By integrating interactive features that empower users to contribute to the platform's evolution, we can transcend the traditional boundaries of a digital tool to foster a vibrant community. Enabling users to submit inquiries, provide ratings on the utility of responses, and suggest valuable theological resources for potential inclusion will not only enhance the personal relevance of the tool but also cultivate a sense of ownership and participation among its user base. This proactive engagement strategy promises to enrich the platform with diverse insights and perspectives, thereby continually refining its efficacy and reach.

## Anticipated Challenges

**Navigating the Complexity of Theological Diversity:** Subjective nature of 'correct' theology. How do we determine 'correct' theology where professors might have differing beliefs than their office neighbor? One of the most nuanced challenges we face is the inherent diversity within theological thought and interpretation. Defining 'correct' theology is a task mired in subjective judgment, especially when respected scholars may hold differing views on foundational doctrines.