

# SERIES OVERVIEW



**Wharf and Bearings:**  
**Essays on Finding Home and Directions**  
Ralph C. Ennis

## Introduction to WB Series

As land dwelling beings, when we are at sea, two thoughts are always in mind—even if in the back of our minds. Where’s the wharf—a safe place to dock? What’s my bearing—which direction am I going and will it in time get me to a safe wharf?

We all need safe places. Fundamentally, life is filled with uncertainties. Sometimes we feel in control or at minimal risk of danger, but that is always only temporary. Our common human experience inevitably involves risks of the unknown. And through death, not to be feared, we journey to an eternal wharf in Jesus.

We all need a bearing that will get us where we want to go while preserving the ability to plot a course to a safe place. We can play far from this wharf, but we desire home.

Wharf and Bearings Series, a collection of essays, poems and a short story, is intended to present a journey—my journey. I share it with the hope that it will give some guidance as you seek your bearings and wharf throughout your life.

At no time are these essays to be considered exhaustive, they are pathways I have taken to find wharf and bearings for me. And collectively, they represent “philosophical peace” for me.



I dedicate this series to my wife of 45 years (in 2018), our four children and their spouses and our 15 grandchildren and the generations to follow! Here's an overview of the series:

**Wharf and Bearings ONE:**  
*Hope and Beholding the Triune God*

**Wharf and Bearings TWO:**  
*Spirituality and the Triune God*

**Wharf and Bearings THREE:**  
*Knowing, Beauty, Ethics and Reality*

**Wharf and Bearings FOUR:**  
*Love, Longings, Success and Consequences*

**Wharf and Bearings FIVE:**  
*Poems from the Soul*

**Wharf and Bearing SIX:**  
*Oneness in Marriage*

**Wharf and Bearings SEVEN:**  
*The Mind, Decisions and Artificial Intelligence*

**Wharf and Bearing EIGHT:**  
*World View and Culture*

**Wharf and Bearing NINE:**  
*Gospel Implications*

**Wharf and Bearing TEN:**  
*Our Times and Futures*

*"... we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power,  
and the wonders He has done ..."  
Psalm 78:4 -6*

## **WB I: Hope and Beholding the Triune God**

*64 pages*

1. Is There Any Hope Left?
2. Beholding the Triune God: A Lifelong Journey of Spiritual Transformation and Service
3. God and Humankind

## **WB II: Spirituality and The Triune God**

1. A Space Beyond: Perspectives on Various Spiritualities
2. The Jealous Heart of God and Spiritual Transformation
3. Dear God: We Need to Talk about Suffering
4. Toward a Biblical View of Suffering
5. God's Joy and Sorrow: A Journal Entry
6. Giving Motives and Spiritual Transformation
7. Evidences for the Existence of God
8. Many Ways to Jesus
9. Sacred Mysteries of the Triune God

## **WB III: Knowing, Beauty, Ethics and Reality**

1. Relational Knowledge in a Modern and Postmodern World
2. Decisions on Rhetoric: A Playful Response to Amy, Wittgenstein and J. Derrida
3. Meanings in the Ordinary
4. A Few Reflections on Beauty
5. Meta-Language for Ethical Decisions
6. Ethical Perspectives from Biblical Texts
7. Reality and Illusions: Considerations for Consciousness

#### **WB IV: Love, Longings, Success and Consequences**

1. On the Nature of Love
2. Self-Love: A Biblical View
3. On Human Longings and Aversions
4. The Struggle for Identity and Power
5. Success, Significance and Meaning
6. Failures to Avoid
7. Questions to Review My Life Work

#### **WB V: Poems from the Soul**

110 poems

#### **WB VI: Oneness in Marriage**

1. Oneness: Surviving and Thriving
2. Fighting with Rules in Marriage
3. Masculine Musings on Sacred Sexuality
4. Our Story across the Decades

#### **WB VII: The Mind, Decisions and Artificial Intelligence**

1. A Model of the Mind from an Embedded Infinities Perspective
2. Assumptions and Pathways to Artificial General Intelligence
3. An Ethical DNA for Artificial General Intelligence
4. Thought Dynamo Decision Mapping Model
5. A Theoretical Model for Research in Intercultural Decision Making

## **WB VIII: Worldview and Culture**

1. Understanding Worldview
2. Foundations of Culture
3. Culture-General Human Nature
4. Assessing Cultural Health
5. Key Ideas for Intercultural Relations
6. Toward Understanding the USA Cultural Context
7. Intercultural Decision Making

## **WB IX: Gospel Implications**

1. What's Missing in the American Gospel
2. Questions to Do Life Differently
3. Relational Habits for True Friendship with God and Others
4. Four I's of Leading and Influencing
5. Teaching Ethics in the Public Square: A Case in Point
6. Pray! Listen, Discern and Act Ambitiously
7. My Gifts, Calling and Orientation in the Kingdom of God
8. Long Range Planning with Discernment

## **WB X: Our Times and Futures**

1. Why Weep America
2. The Worldwide Freedom Agenda
3. Humanism and Spiritual Pluralism as Drivers
4. Democracy, Capitalism and Technology as Saviors
5. Sexual Diversity, Christian Ideals and Symbols
6. Humanity's End Games
7. Partnering with God in the USA
8. Toward a Global Strategic Agenda
9. The Mighty Clash of Kingdoms

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