

(The following column appeared in the *Calvary Herald* (vol. 10, no. 6, 1994), a publication of Calvary Reformed Presbyterian Church in Hampton, Virginia <[www.clearlight.com/~crpc/](http://www.clearlight.com/~crpc/)>.)

## **Necessary Consequence: A Brief Note on Sources**

**by Michael Holloway**

In looking back over the previous installments of *Necessary Consequence*, I realized that no column to date has discussed the sources on which these discussions are based. This month's brief column will correct that deficiency.

In order to ensure accuracy, I check all the definitions I give against three different logic textbooks. Two of these books were written by Christian authors:

*Logic*, by Gordon H. Clark, The Trinity Foundation, Jefferson, Maryland, 1988

*Introductory Logic*, revised edition, by Douglas J. Wilson, Mars Hill Textbook Series, Canon Press, Moscow, Idaho, 1992.

Wilson's book is used in teaching logic to 8th graders at the Logos School in Moscow (and at other Christian and home schools across the country). It contains a number of examples and exercises. There is a solution manual, which I also consult from time to time, that contains the answers to all of the exercises. The Trinity Foundation has also published a workbook and solution manual to go along with Clark's book.

The third textbook that I consult in writing this column was written by unbelievers:

*Introduction to Logic*, 9th edition, by Irving M. Copi and Carl Cohen, Macmillan Publishing Company, New York, 1994.

This book has a solution section at the back that contains answers to a representative selection of the exercises given in the main text. Taking into account all of the nine editions that have been published, this book is far and away the most commonly used introductory logic text in college and universities in this country.

All three of these books agree on the basic definitions and descriptions of the important terms in logic that I've presented in *Necessary Consequence* columns so far. That is, the definitions given to terms such as *premise*, *conclusion*, *validity*, *soundness*, and *fallacious* are those that are generally used by all logicians and philosophers, whether they are believers or not. Only in the choice of symbols used in describing and using symbolic logic (which we won't be covering in this column anytime soon) is there any substantial disagreement among these three books. So, if there's anyone out there who is thinking that I might be making things up, or that I might be giving incorrect definitions, please be assured that this is not the case.

If anyone is interested in further study on the subjects presented in *Necessary Consequence*, you should obtain at least one of these books. If you want more information on purchasing one or more of the books, please write to me at the *Calvary Herald*. Also, please write to me if you have any suggestions for subjects to address in future columns.