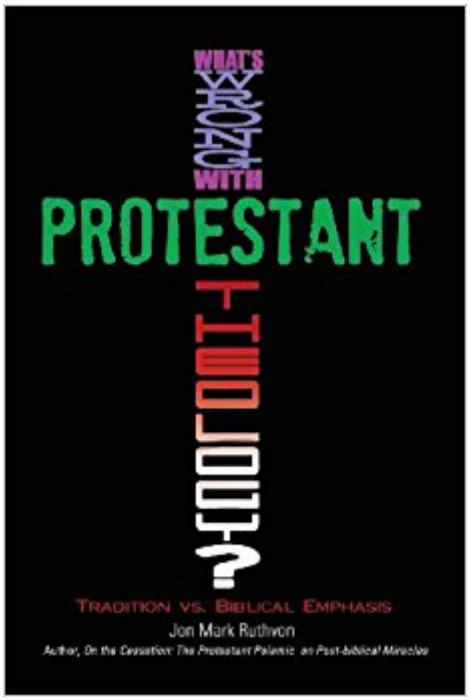
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What's Wrong With Protestant Theology? Tradition Vs. Biblical Emphasis



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Synopsis

What Does the Bible Say? vs. What the Bible Emphasizes! Grateful for the Reformation’s break with errant beliefs and practices of the medieval church, What’s Wrong with Protestant Theology? argues that Protestant theology nevertheless came up short. Influenced by its quarrels with the Catholic Church, it continued the long-standing practice of using scripture mainly to support previously-formulated answers to opponents. Protestant theology asked, primarily, "What does the Bible say about our theology?", while the better question is, "What message does the Bible clearly emphasize?" Asking this question relentlessly, What’s Wrong with Protestant Theology? reveals the radical biblical message. It moves far beyond a Protestant "theology of preparation" to the call to fulfill the purpose of Jesus’ mission throughout this present age of the Spirit. Traditionalists may accuse the author of proposing "another gospel"-but ’another’ from whose perspective: that of traditional theology or of the Bible? What’s Wrong with Protestant Theology? shows what the Bible emphasizes, helping you discover the answer.

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Customer Reviews

This book has arrived at a much needed time, especially with the arrival of John McArthur’s "Strange Fire" conference and book.Ruthven shows how the Protestants of the Reformation and afterwards, in their attempts to preserve what they believed were the true apostolic teachings against Roman Catholicism’s abuse, went too far in supplanting the reality of God’s supernatural works, especially in the area of direct, divine communication, with the intellectual pursuit of the

Bible, in the search and experience of authentic salvation.He shows that the difference between Jesus' message and that of the religious leaders focused on how one hears God, and posits it as the same difference that exists today between cessationist and pentecostal/charismatics. Ruthven acknowledges that even Pentecostal/Charismatics, to some degree, have fallen into the theological view where the experience of God is put behind, if not totally removed, replaced by an intellectual grasp of salvation.As I understand him, Ruthven charges that traditional theology "avoids the emphasis of Scripture which is to communicate directly and obediently with God" (p.1).The first section provides introduces the history of how modern Protestant theology developed this slanted view of Christianity that omits the experience of the miraculous. In the second section Ruthven shows Protestant theology moved away from the Biblical emphasis of having "direct, immediate, prophetic communication with God." The author points out this communication with God is the central theme of the Old Testament.In the third section, the author moves to show that "the experience of the prophetic Spirit - hearing God's voice," is the emphasis and goal of the New Testament. The fourth section focuses on the ministry of Jesus specifically as the one who introduced, modelled, ratified, vindicated, bestowed, and became the New Covenant. Finally, in the fifth section, the author discusses the failure of today's traditional theological education. He concludes that today's theological education "den[ies] the very Scripture it purports to defend, aspecially as the Bible centrally points away from itself too the experience of God in personal revelation and power" (p.310).I find that this is too much of an important book for any minister of the Gospel to ignore, and one which needs to be placed in the hands of any cessationist pastor or teacher. Ruthven's "What's Wrong With Protestant Theology" convincingly challenges not only today's method of theological and ministerial education, but also summons every professing Christian denomination and institution to seriously test the soundness of what they believe by honest engagement with Biblical revelation as it clearly and plainly reads.Ruthven, while reminding us that he is not advocating anti-intellectualism, is calling for a reevaluation of our critical core values and beliefs as believers in Messiah Jesus, a second-look into how we approach the Scriptures, and to realize that "there is nothing more crucial for the [C]hurch to 'stand mature and fully assured in the will of God' (Col 4:12) and to be able to proclaim the [G]ospel 'in demonstration of the Spirit and of power' (1 Cor 2:4) than our understanding of the central charismatice mission of Christ and our relation to it."I cannot make any stronger a recommendation to read this book than to say, in similar words of Mordecai, that this book has been brought into our hands "for such a time as this".

While touring New Zealand on a motorcycle for 2 months my mind was occupied by a thought; what are the most important scriptures? And I began to come up with my own list; John 14-17 for example because these were Jesus last teachings and prayer. I was so delighted when I heard about and then read this book. That the author, in a wonderfully scholarly way, came up with, I think, 6 ways to determine what the Bible itself meant to be the most important or key themes of scripture. Brilliant! I felt the Lord had given me a gift. This is a remarkable book. Scholarly yet very fun to read. I really think it changes everything.

Very insightful with clear theological thinking. The missing link in the narrative for the healing by the Christian believer through the Holy Spirit.

Added to my Library for future reference.

Fantastic resource; I highly commend it to you for a strong Biblical, Theological, and Historical review of the formation of Protestant Theology...and how it is often not nearly as "Biblical" as presented

This book is outstanding. Every Disciple of Christ should read this book. I had the honor of being Jon M Ruthven’s Graduate Assistant for over two years. Jon is one of the finest and smartest yet humblest men I have ever known or had the privilege to work with/for. You can bet your bottom dollar that any book that Jon Ruthven has written or will write is thoroughly researched and well written. I look forward to reading the sequence to this book.

Really speaks to my spirit.

It would be tragic if most believers are missing the essence of the New Covenant, and in fact, the whole Bible. And yet, reading Ruthven’s book you see that that’s exactly the case. He lays it all so clearly that you want to kick yourself and wonder how you didn’t see it before. I believe that the truths in this book will spread and be a major key to the church reaching’the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph 4:13)This book’s style is quite a bit different than Ruthven’s excellent "On the Cessation of the Charismata." In "What’s Wrong with Protestant Theology," Ruthven seems less like a highly advanced scholarship machine and more like a human. WWWPT is easier reading. There

is humor here, reference to a wide range of people, from the Doors to Todd Bentley and Heidi Baker. (Those last two, if you hadn't just read it here but had to buy the book to find out about them, it would be worth the price you paid.) You'll even find out the surprising source of the quote "Religion is what happens after the Holy Spirit leaves the building." (And in case you needed it, there's even a footnote there, at the suggestion of Ruthven's "unhip friends" who deemed it necessary, to explain who it is.)Near the end of the book, Ruthven's quote of Rolland and Heidi Baker succinctly sums the message "We do not expect fruitfulness to come out of anything but intimacy with Jesus."

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