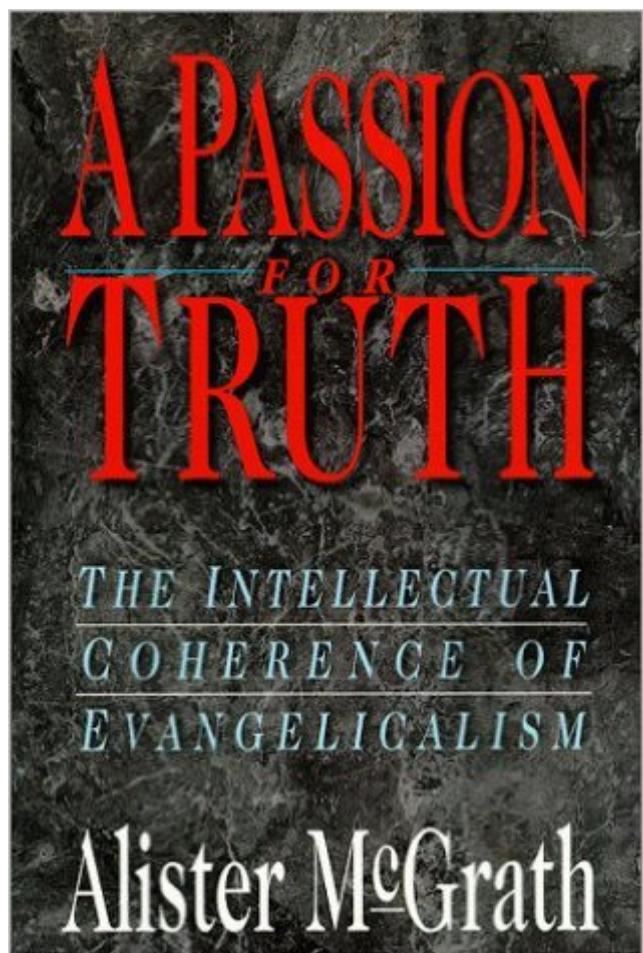


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A Passion For Truth: The Intellectual Coherence Of Evangelicalism (Theology)



Synopsis

Voted one of Christianity Today's 1997 Books of the Year! Decades ago, evangelicalism was given up for dead in the academy. But since World War II, evangelical intellectualism has made a surprising comeback. Esteem has been regained especially in such disciplines as history and philosophy. Now evangelical theologians are making their bid for academic respectability. *A Passion for Truth*, written by one of evangelicalism's outstanding younger theologians, seeks to show that the movement has in its heritage excellent resources to engage the scholarly debates of the day. McGrath first sets forth the constructive ground on which evangelicalism stands, then shows how this revivified school of thought might respond to such important theological and cultural realities as postmodernism, religious pluralism and postliberalism. His book is fresh and exciting evidence that evangelicalism is coming of age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the introduction Alister McGrath concisely states his purpose in writing this book. "This study therefore aims to explore the coherence of evangelicalism by bringing out the inner consistency of the evangelical approach and demonstrating the internal contradictions and vulnerabilities of its contemporary rivals." In the remaining five chapters he proceeds to do just that. The first two chapters are devoted to discussing what he considers to be the primary unique cornerstones of evangelicalism: the belief in the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, and a particular and high view of the

authority of Scripture. While looking at the uniqueness of Christ he meshes into the discussion modernity's influence on the thinking of the age. He concludes by pointing out the significance of Christ (and evangelicalism's view of Him) in this present context. While looking at the authority of Scripture he examines several alternative approaches to authority, namely, the finding of authority in either culture, experience, reason, or tradition. He concludes that "the evangelical appeal to the authority of Scripture is coherent and informed." In the next three chapters he discusses postliberalism (chapter 3), postmodernism (chapter 4), and religious pluralism (chapter 5). In each case he explains the interaction between the particular "ism" and evangelicalism, and he shows the internal weaknesses of the "ism." In the midst of the discussion, of course, the internal coherence of evangelicalism becomes evident as it is compared to ways of thinking which are fraught with internal problems. My overall reaction to the book is one of satisfaction with McGrath's analysis and his conclusions. Yes, evangelicalism is internally coherent.

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