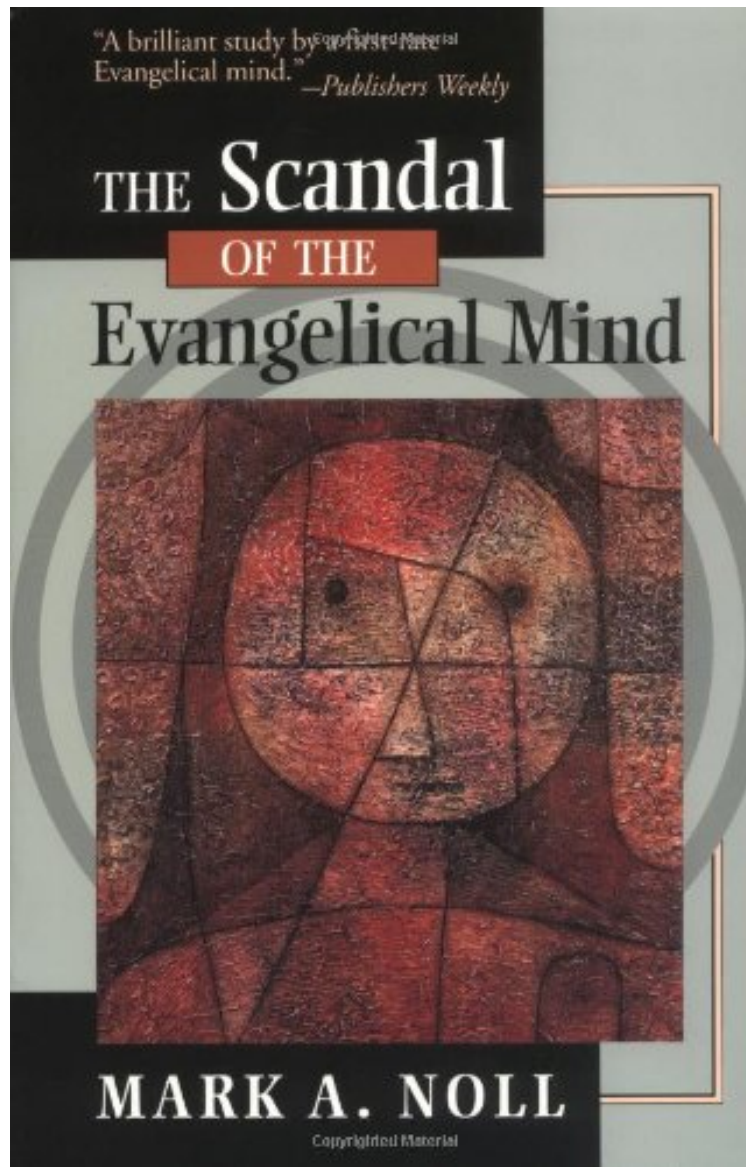


[Free download] The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind

## The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind

Mark A. Noll

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#305304 in Books Mark A Noll 1995-10-19 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .71 x 6.00l, .89 #File Name: 0802841805274 pages The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind | File size: 60.Mb

**Mark A. Noll : The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly useful By C. D. Varn Mark A. Noll is a first rate historian, a powerful voice for evangelicals, and a stern critic of the intellectual and social position evangelicals found

themselves in at the end of the last century. While not an evangelical, Noll documents how a mixture of populism and activists forced a diverse tradition with religious intellectuals to freeze its thought in the popular sentiments of the late 19th and early 20th century, making the tradition that produced luminaries such as Jonathan Edwards into a revivalist remembered for a largely uncharacteristic fire and brimstone sermon mostly read in secular public schools. Noll documents that the populist tradition that produced borderline socialists like Bryant became more and more related and interlinked with the right alone. Noll does not totally acknowledge the larger social context moved similarly because he seems to believe that evangelicals should have known better, and Noll finds more hope when he wrote the book than the next decade or two of American religious life has born out. Evangelicals pulling from mainline and Catholic intellectuals did not completely revive their thinking, and evangelical political thinking has declined some dramatically even in the US's current right-wing mood. As a non-evangelical and a non-Christian, I find this book indicates trends in American life that have religiously oriented but have manifested in secular populist movements left and right. The trend of activism and actionism moves people to shut down their mind and opportunistically reply the sentiment of a public at a particular time; however, the public learns and moves on and the true believers believe in capitulation as a gospel truth. The scandal of the evangelical mind is that isn't one, but this is not remotely unique to the evangelical, or Protestant, or Christian, or even religious, mind.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Church History Made Personal By Mary MI was gripped by this book and did not want to stop reading it until I was done. I read a lot of nonfiction, but seldom do finish them, even when I'm fascinated. So many things distract me, especially so many other books. But this book, difficult as it was, it was personal - like I was reading about my own extended family. It shed light on things that have been troubling me most of my life. I had been wanting to read some church history for a while and have investigated a lot of the books available on . This is the one I happened on though, by accident. Church history made personal. I've read some complaints here that it's very hard to read - well it is kind of. I found it fascinating enough that I struggled through. Some things I probably missed - not sure if it was because of his lack of clarity or my own ineptitude. Would have appreciated a little more clarity early on in the book about what was meant by Baconian science. This figured big in Noll's description of the evangelical mind - it wasn't until late in the book that I got a bit more clarity on what was meant by Baconian science - still not sure I understand it 100%. I have enough experience with evangelicalism though, that I think I have a pretty good intuitive feel for what he was talking about. Another thing I will say regarding how difficult the book is - he did dedicate it to the faculty and trustees of Wheaton College. Those were the people he wanted to have front row seats for this - the rest of us may have to struggle a bit. But it was fascinating and worth the struggle. I have a list now of people and ideas mentioned that I want to do further reading on. It really was a good read. I had Dr. Noll as a history professor many years back. If evangelicalism is a part of your life and you want to do some thinking - this is a book for you - I think you'll like it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Historical Survey of Christian Intellectual Thought By John P. Mueller This is a good primer on the historical development of Christian thought. It gives you a sense of the key periods and influences. Consequently it is much easier to understand where we are today. Anyone looking for more understanding behind the key influences and developments will find this helpful. The writing has a bit too much rhetorical flourish and the meaning could have been conveyed more efficiently through better editing.

"The scandal of the evangelical mind is that there is not much of an evangelical mind." So begins this award-winning intellectual history and critique of the evangelical movement by one of evangelicalism's most respected historians. Unsparing in his judgment, Mark Noll asks why the largest single group of religious Americans--who enjoy increasing wealth, status, and political influence--have contributed so little to rigorous intellectual scholarship in North America. In nourishing believers in the simple truths of the gospel, why have evangelicals failed at sustaining a serious intellectual life and abandoned the universities, the arts, and other realms of "high" culture? Noll is probing and forthright in his analysis of how this situation came about, but he doesn't end there. Challenging the evangelical community, he sets out to find, within evangelicalism itself, resources for turning the situation around.

.com The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind, by Mark Noll, is "an epistle from a wounded lover." Noll loves God and he loves academics, but he is wounded because many of his colleagues deny the possibility of maintaining the integrity of both loves. Noll's epistle is a memoir, a historical study, and a wide-ranging piece of cultural criticism that argues, "The scandal of the evangelical mind is that there is not much of an evangelical mind." Noll considers the effects of evangelical intellectual atrophy on American politics, science, and the arts, and he ultimately offers wise and practical advice for readers who want to explore the full intellectual implications of the incarnation of Christ. -- Michael Joseph Gross From Publishers Weekly Claiming that "the scandal of the evangelical mind is that there is not much of an evangelical mind," historian Noll sets out to trace the reasons for what he sees as the great divorce between intellect and piety in North American Evangelical Christianity. In a breathtaking panorama of evangelical history from the Great Awakenings to the present, Noll shows that early Evangelicals like Jonathan Edwards embraced the use of reason as an expression of faith in the Creator of the natural world. The advent of Fundamentalism and Pentecostalism, Noll contends, with their emphases on dispensationalism and other-worldliness, fostered anti-intellectualism. Since

politics and science, in the form of the religious right and creationism, have been the secular arenas in which the Evangelical mind has most publicly expressed itself, Noll focuses on them to explore ways in which the mindlessness "scandal" has created a lack of adequate Christian thinking about the world. Finally, Noll is hopeful that the work of contemporary Evangelical scholars will recover a respect for intellect. Required reading for those seeking to understand the often peculiar relationship between Evangelical religion and secular culture, this is a brilliant study by--yes--a first-rate Evangelical mind. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Noll (history, Wheaton Coll. A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada, LJ 11/1/92) castigates his fellow American conservative evangelicals for losing their intellectual credibility since Darwin. They have followed St. Paul's injunction to be "fools for Christ" to the point of being simply fools, instead of heeding Jesus' call to be "wise as serpents." Their scholarly pursuits include such dead-end propositions as "creation science," end-time apocalyptic prophecies, and biblical inerrancy instead of research and writings contributing positively to American intellectual life. What distresses Noll most is that evangelicals seem not to care. He provides extensive historical background showing how this was not always the case and indicates how Christian scholars might recapture lost ground. Passionately and brilliantly argued, this book is recommended for informed lay readers and specialists. Richard S. Watts, San Bernardino Cty. Lib., Cal. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.