



# LIVING WISELY IN AN AGE OF FOLLY



# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
  - Psalm 19:7-9

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- Trustworthy means worthy of trust, and the reason why the statutes of the Lord are worthy of trust is that they correspond to reality. If we follow the directions of the Word of God, we will find salvation, contentment, joy, and eternal life. The one who is open enough to God's instructions to that will become wise.

James Montgomery Boice

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

## Self-Authenticating Witness of Scripture

The Bible makes claims concerning itself that correspond to a consistent witness that is the revelation of God

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- Historical Reliability
  - The Bible is a Source of Verifiable History
  - The Bible Meets the Criteria of Authenticity: particularly in the reliability of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

## Historical Reliability

*“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever contravened a biblical reference”, whereas on the other “Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible.”*

*Nelson Glueck*

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

## Historical Reliability

- *The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth-and-nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.*

*William F. Albright*

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

## ■ Historical Reliability

Using both traditional and critical paths to determine that Jesus firmly taught inspiration, we may reassert our earlier assumption that if God raised Jesus from the dead, then the most likely reason was to confirm the truthfulness of Jesus' teachings. If we are correct in this, then the inspiration of Scripture follows as a verified doctrine, affirmed by God Himself when He raised Jesus from the dead.

Gary Habermas

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- 1. Jesus taught that he is God incarnate
- 2. God authenticated Jesus' teaching by raising him from the dead
- 3. Hence Jesus is God incarnate
- 4. Jesus taught that the Old Testament is divinely inspired, and he promised the inspiration of the New Testament through his apostles
- 5. Therefore the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is divinely inspired

Steven B. Cowan in "In Defense of the Bible"

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- The Bible Gives a Coherent Answer to the Questions of Life
  - Who am I?
  - Where did I come from?
  - Why am I here?
  - How do I live?
  - Where am I going?

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- The Bible answers the first two questions by giving mankind a coherent explanation of the uniqueness of humanity, the dignity and worth of humans, and an identity that is not subject to cultural or circumstantial shifts and structures, nor determined by temporal values. The Scriptures reveal that my identity, dignity, and value are grounded in my relationship to a transcendent God in whose image I was created.

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- The Bible answers the next two questions by giving me a coherent purpose and pattern for my life. My story is a narrative that is part of an overarching narrative that God has designed for me and His unfolding plan of history. History includes both evil and good, and what God has chosen to reveal in the Scriptures presents a coherent answer to moral questions and a pattern for making moral choices.

# TRUSTWORTHY WISDOM

- The Bible answers the last question by presenting God's coherent plan of redemption for mankind and His creation, and the promise of renewal in His presence which satisfies the greatest desire of the human experience:

*“Thou movest us to delight in praising Thee; for Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee.” Augustine*