

## THE COURAGE TO BE PROTESTANT



# The Courage to Be Protestant

*Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents  
in the Postmodern World*



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*To*

*The staff of Rafiki*

*who care for orphans in Africa with  
such skill, compassion, and Christian dedication*



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## Preface



This book started out as a simple summary of the four volumes that had preceded it. All books, however, develop a life of their own, and this has been no exception.

I needed to update what had been said in the previous volumes because some of it had been begun more than a decade ago. In addition to this, I had to compress these volumes into a single account. How does one reduce 1,100 pages to 250?

Once this work got under way I found myself not so much compressing as recasting all that I had done and then updating it. The result is that this book is less a summary and more an attempt at getting at the essence of the project that has engaged me over the last fifteen years. And, hopefully, it will be more accessible than the previous books, not to mention less taxing on readers!

The project began with *No Place for Truth; or, Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?* (1993). That book was followed by *God in the Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams* (1994), *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision* (1998), and *Above All Earthly Powers: Christ in a Postmodern World* (2005). Running through these four books have been five main doctrinal themes: truth, God, self, Christ, and the church. It is these five themes that I am taking up here. Since this is so, I am not, for the most part, documenting the literature and research upon which this book rests since that has already been done. It therefore has no footnotes.

## PREFACE

I spent the spring of 2007, while on sabbatical, in Westminster College, Cambridge. I am most appreciative of the kind and generous hospitality that was extended to me during this time. It was there, in their magnificent library, with its extraordinary collection, that I spent many happy hours working on this manuscript. During my time in Cambridge I also worked at Tyndale House. I am grateful for this opportunity.

Books begin, Winston Churchill said, as an adventure, turn into a toy, then an amusement, then a mistress, then a master, then a tyrant, and just before you are about to capitulate finally, you decide instead to declare your independence by killing the monster. It gets sent off to the publisher! So it was here.

Eerdmans has been the publisher of each of these five volumes. Eerdmans has been a most helpful, proficient, and competent publisher. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to them.