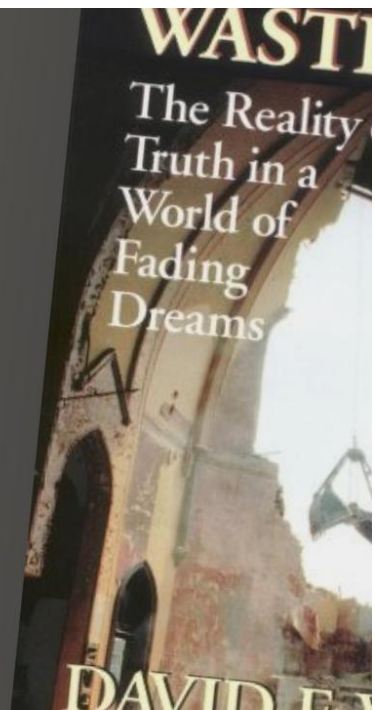


There is a hunger for God but
a disenchantment with dogma
or doctrine.

God in the Wasteland

David F. Wells



Disenchanted with Doctrine?

By Warren E. Berkley

David Wells presents this not as his complaint, but as an observation about a prevalent attitude today—one loudly promoted in the name of tolerance while seeking to silence those who uphold the objective truth revealed by the Creator. The profession is, “I want God but please hold the doctrine!”

We may not have heard this complaint expressed in just this way. We’ve heard people say they are weary of religious controversy, often insisting that love leaves no room for disagreement.

Stop there and open your Bible.

Jesus challenged the first century’s religious and political establishment, provoking controversy He neither regretted nor recanted. He cleansed the temple, over-turned the tables and spoke clearly in that “den of thieves” corrupt men had incorporated into that sacred place (Matthew 21). He directed a bold exposure toward the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23). He admonished His

disciples and us in Luke 17:3 – “Pay attention to yourselves!” And then He added, “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.”

Still tired of controversy? Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves,” (Matt. 7:15). Then the apostles of Christ weigh in: “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8 ESV)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have done out into the world,” (1 John 4:1).

Jude appeals to his readers to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints,” (Jude 3).

Therefore, claiming to want God while rejecting His words contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture, where those words are recorded. “God has spoken,” (Hebrews 1) and Jesus said: “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46).

If you truly have a hunger for God, if it is *hungering and thirsting for righteousness* (Matthew 5:6), get you head and life firmly directed to what He has said through His Son: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves,” (James 1:22).

