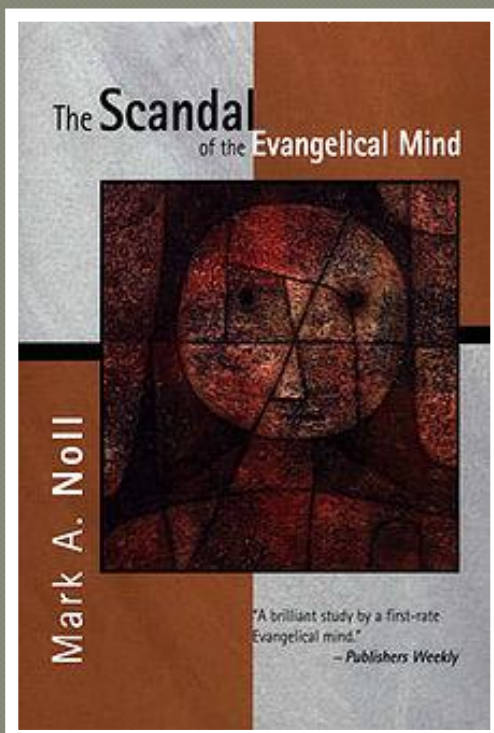


Becoming Thinking Christians

1 John 4:1-6

Mark Noll, *Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*

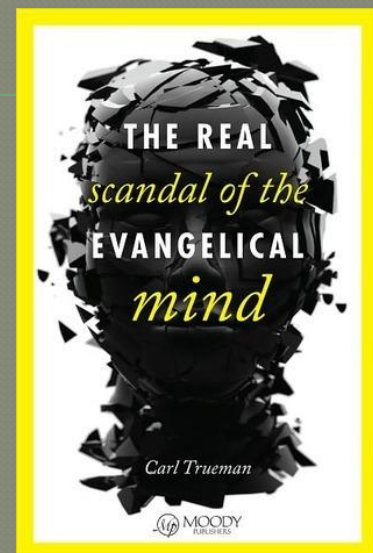
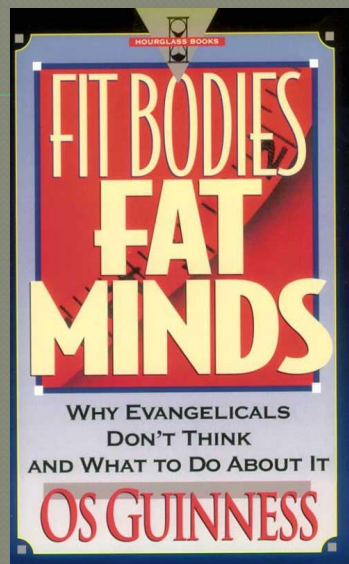
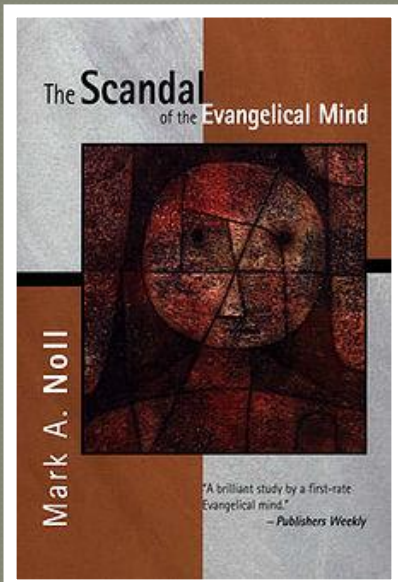


"The scandal of the evangelical mind is that there is not much of an evangelical mind. An extraordinary range of virtues is found among the sprawling throngs of evangelical Protestants in North America, including great sacrifice in spreading the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, open-hearted generosity to the needy, heroic personal exertion on behalf of troubled individuals, and the unheralded sustenance of countless church and parachurch communities. Notwithstanding all their other virtues, however, American evangelicals are not exemplary for their thinking, and they have not been so for several generations"

Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!

- “Test the spirit... because many false prophets have gone out into the world...”



Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!

- “Test the spirit... because many false prophets have gone out into the world...”

Acts 17:10-11

“As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 1 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!

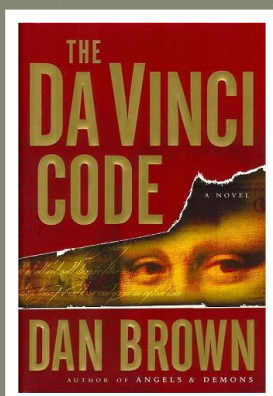
- "Test the spirit... because many false prophets have gone out into the world..."
- Test the thoughts of the world as well!
- E.g. Architecture in Hong Kong? What does it say about what we value?

Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!

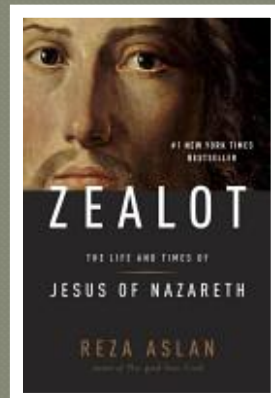
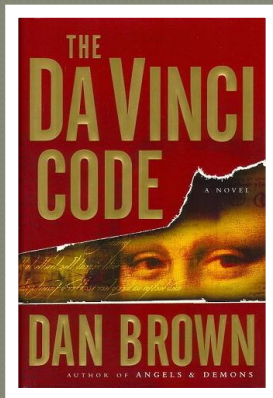
2. Test 1: What Do They Say about Jesus?

- Cerinthus the early Gnostic



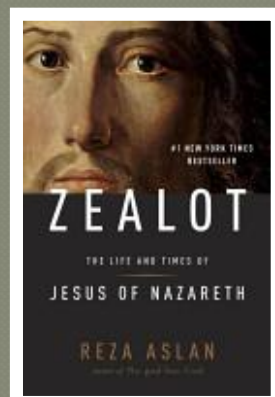
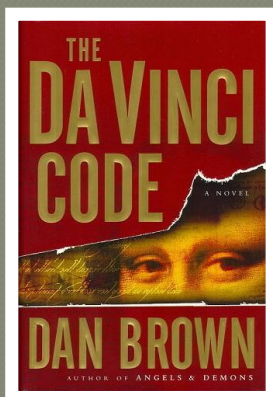
Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!
2. Test 1: What Do They Say about Jesus?
 - Cerinthus the early Gnostic



Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!
2. Test 1: What Do They Say about Jesus?
 - Cerinthus the early Gnostic
 - Other religions?



John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!
2. Test 1: What Do They Say about Jesus?
3. Test 2: Who's the Authority?
 - Who do they/we listen to?
 - Scripture or the world?

1 Thess 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Becoming Thinking Christians

1. Don't Be Naïve!
2. Test 1: What Do They Say about Jesus?
3. Test 2: Who's the Authority?
 - Who do they/we listen to?
 - Scripture or the world?
 - One reason why we listen to the world is because we haven't thought things through biblically!