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Mouw's "Called to the Life of the Mind: Some Advice for Evangelical Scholars" (Book Review)

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Jesus. Walter Dembski and Robert Marks II examine the same claim about the uniqueness of this collection of names from a slightly different angle by testing the accuracy of the statistics that support it. Gary Habermas rebuts James Tabor, a New Testament scholar and supporter of the findings of the documentary, who proposes that there was a second hasty burial of Christ, leading to the New Testament reports of an empty tomb after the third day. Last, Michael Licona considers the claim that Paul taught that the resurrection of Christ was purely spiritual, not physical.

Buried Hope or Risen Savior is a comprehensive response to the claims made in the documentary. Thoroughly researched with clear analysis of every finding, these scholars prove the Talpiot tomb does not house Jesus’ remains.

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Much has been written in evangelical circles about the integration of faith and learning and, more recently, about the importance of the doctrine of vocation. Richard J. Mouw, an accomplished philosopher, theologian, provost, and president blends these strands of inquiry into a slender and highly readable volume. Mouw looks over his decades as a professor (and administrator) in higher education and offers wisdom from his personal and professional journey as both a scholar and follower of Christ.

The book offers nineteen brief chapters, some only a page or two, filled with insight into how scholars can faithfully cultivate their minds in the service of Christ. While some readers will find his relatively limited use of scripture troubling, others will be content with the personal nature of his reflections. The largest and dominant portions of Mouw’s scholarly life have been spent inside Christian institutions of higher education, yet his wisdom is equally suitable for those who seek to twin scholarship and discipleship outside of the evangelical academy. Indeed, the target audience for his volume are graduate students but this book will serve as a wonderful reminder to senior scholars that they should approach the challenges of scholarship with hope, humility and a love “for what God has created” (p. 18).

Called to the Life of the Mind is a delightful volume that is a recommended for all college and university collections.