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Cowan and Wilder's "In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic for the Authority of Scripture" (Book Review)

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The essays in part three, “Theological Reflection,” offer just that. The first of three essays treats how being united to Christ moves to participation in his virtues. The latter two essays reflect on the unity of the body of Christ, the Church, from a Eucharistic and biopolitical perspective respectively.

Most of the essays are clearly written and push beyond the current state of the topic with fresh insights. The contributors are, with a few exceptions, budding scholars that represent a range of approaches (some more fruitful than others in my opinion). Union with or participation in Christ is not generally how Christians in the West frame salvation. This volume will not change that, but it does expose a strong undercurrent in Pauline and theological scholarship (particularly in the evangelical world) that is beginning to surface in more popular theological writings. Highly recommended for libraries that support research level degrees in New Testament or theology.

**In Defense of the Bible: A Comprehensive Apologetic
for the Authority of Scripture,**

by Steven B. Cowan and Terry L. Wilder. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group,
2013. 490 pp. \$34.99. ISBN 9781433676789

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As we draw closer and closer to the time when Christ will return to take His bride to be with Him, the attacks on the authority of His Word come almost daily. To aid believers in their stand for the truth, Cowan and Wilder asked experts in a variety of Bible related fields to write in layman terms how to defend God’s truth to those who scoff at the text. This is not a book one can read in one sitting. The reader must be prepared to engage with the topic being discussed and think through how to answer questions that might arise in future conversations. Personally, I found myself reflecting on conversations I have had in recent weeks with non-believers and how I could have used some of the material given in this book had I read it sooner.

The book is divided into three sections: 1) philosophical and methodological challenges, 2) textual and historical challenges, and 3) ethical, scientific and theological challenges. The writers argue that the Bible is the Word of God and trustworthy in every part. Every challenge can be answered although it must be realized that what the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2: 14 is true – “the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (ESV). Highly recommend for all libraries.