

Tradition and the Renewal of Evangelical Theology

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I. Critique of Evangelicalism in the West

The invitation to contribute an article to this journal on the broad theme “Theology of Evangelical Faith: Trends and Developments” has presented me with the opportunity to organise my thoughts on the subject in a more coherent fashion. In recent decades, evangelical scholars and theologians have presented several important critiques of evangelicalism, especially the way in which it has developed in America. In 1994, Mark Noll published a seminal book entitled, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* in which he called attention to the woeful fact that the intellectual life of the faith has ceased to impact the religious agenda of evangelical Christians.¹ In the similar vein, David Wells from Wheaton College has through various publications criticised the theological illiteracy of evangelicals in North America.² Wells highlights the inability of evangelicals to

1 Mark Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), 12.

2 David Wells, *No Place for Truth, or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993).