

Rock Solid: 12 Gospel Truths to Live By

Posted By [Aaron Menikoff](#) On May 18, 2010 @ 3:22 am In [Reviews](#) | [1 Comment](#)

Rock Solid: 12 Gospel Truths to Live By. Edited by Trevor Archer and Tim Thornborough. The Good Book Company, 2009. 147 pages.

Trevor Archer, a pastor at Chessington Evangelical Church in London, and Tim Thornborough of the Good Book Company have put together a contemporary, doctrinal introduction to the Christian faith. Each chapter is a question, from: "Is Jesus the 'one and only'?" to "How good is 'good enough'?" These provocative questions are doors into historic, Christian truth.

The editors succinctly state the goal of their book: "to help us get to grips with twelve great truths that together form the core of what it means to be an evangelical Christian" (5). These twelve great or "gospel" truths form the fabric of Christian orthodoxy. Each truth flows into the other. This is beautifully explained in the introduction.

The first gospel truth they address is "the unique supremacy of Christ." Evangelicals must not compromise the necessity of turning to Christ alone. We need Christ because of the second gospel truth, "the seriousness of sin." As a result of this sin we deserve the wrath of God. Our only hope in the face of God's wrath is the third gospel truth, "the penal substitution of Christ's death." Christ died in the place of sinners.

Because of Christ's death, God can declare sinners righteous. This leads to the fourth gospel truth, "the justification of believers by grace alone." We can never be good enough to save ourselves—we need God's grace. Furthermore, we can be confident that God's grace can reach the most corrupt sinner because of the fifth gospel truth, "the sovereignty of God the Father." We can trust God an almighty God is able to save sinners!

But how does this salvation become our salvation? Through the sixth gospel truth, "the regeneration of God the Holy Spirit." We must be born again. We must be born again, and that urgency is due to the seventh gospel truth, "the reality of God's coming judgment." If we believe that Jesus is really coming to judge the living and the dead, then we will embrace the eighth gospel truth, "the priority of evangelism." We can evangelize boldly because of the ninth gospel truth, "the authority of Scripture." When we are confident Scripture is true and trustworthy we will share the Bible's Message.

Since we believe the Bible is God's Word, we advocate the tenth gospel truth, "the centrality of Bible-teaching." Good Bible teaching leads to the discovery of the eleventh gospel truth: "the importance of the local church." The local church displays the character of God, which is why the final gospel truth is crucial, "the necessity of holiness." To be a Christian is to pursue holiness.

The writers target young believers still trying to wrap their minds around the importance of Christian doctrine. Each chapter has several features. First, a clear and concise explanation of the doctrine being described. Second, a bible study and questions for further reflection. Third, a historical example. In the first chapter on the supremacy of Christ there is a brief summary of Athanasius's interaction with Arius. Finally, a "real life" example. In the chapter on the authority of Scripture, the author includes an account of how a man named Royston went from believing the Bible is boring and irrelevant to believing it is the living Word of God.

Rock Solid is a compelling introduction to Christian faith and practice. I was recently racking my brain trying to think of one resource to give a new Christian who is starting from scratch. There are so many great books that address the sovereignty of God, the necessity of holiness, the practice of spiritual disciplines, and the importance of the local church. This book has it all. I wanted a quick introduction to the basics of Christian thinking and living. I found it in *Rock Solid*.

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