The Love of Wisdom: A Christian Introduction to Philosophy by James S. Spiegel

Philosophy is defined as the love of wisdom, and college students will certainly admire this Bible-informed introductory level textbook’s fun approach to an often heady subject. The Love of Wisdom is made distinct in its engaging style that includes humor and copious popular culture illustrations to heighten reader interest and clarify important concepts. The book even addresses two key topics often omitted by other texts: political philosophy and aesthetics (beauty and the arts). Students and teachers can also make great use of the study questions for each chapter, a glossary of terms, and further reading suggestions.

“Well-written, well-argued and highly accessible, The Love of Wisdom is a marvelous example of what an introductory philosophy text should be. Not only do Cowan and Spiegel provide an up-to-date map of the often perplexing philosophical landscape, but they do so in a way which encourages readers to take every thought captive for Christ.”

—Doug Blount, Professor in Theological Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary

“Cowan and Spiegel provide a thorough, yet accessible, overview of important philosophical themes from a biblical point of view while engaging non-Christian perspectives . . . an instructive, even-handed guide that sets forth fairly the relevant philosophical range of orthodox Christian views. A fine resource!”
My Personal Review:
There are only a few books available on philosophy from a Christian point of view. Examples include Craig's and Moreland's premier and through 654 pgs work entitled "Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview." Then there is Paul Copan's fairly short 224 pgs, "Loving Wisdom" and now there is a new addition, "The Love of Wisdom" by James S. Spiegel and Steven Cowan which has 466 pgs.

Which is better?

And how good is the Love of Wisdom?

To answer the first question, one must ask which is better a car, a ship or a plane?

It all depends on what you're looking for.

If you want a detailed analysis filled with words and notions such as epiphenomenalism, then stick with Craig and Moreland tome. Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview is the most in-depth. This book has more than 200 pages than that of the Love of Wisdom. As the dimension of the book is about 20% larger in length and width (not to mention weight). So this book is a real textbook and for all the detail it sacrifices some readability.

Now "Loving Wisdom" reads like a paperback book, it feels like a book you would take out to the beach to enjoy! It may sound strange, that a philosophy book may be readable but Copan does an excellent job of making it so. This method means some concessions there is no section on logic, fallacious arguments, etc.

While The Love of Wisdom is an excellent middle compromise of some sorts. I say of some sorts because this book is readable itself, so much so that one could just as easily substitute loving wisdom for the love of wisdom, although the latter is more formal in its structure. Am I overstating this book's case? This philosophy textbook starts its section on metaphysics with these exact words, "At the end of C.S. Lewis' The Last Battle..... while Craig and Moreland starts out with Metaphysics has a public relations problem when some people..... I prefer the former allusion to C.S. Lewis great epic to be more interesting. This is not the only intro that creates interest as others start by saying, "In the movie the Lord of the
Rings...." "At the beginning of the film regarding Henry...." The Woody Allen film Crimes and Misdemeanors...." In addition this book's readability its sections have quality writing and its also has helpful recommendation of other books on the topic. This book makes it clear that this book is an intro but for greater detail one can examine some other recommended sources.

Reading over the Kalam Cosmological argument segment was so effortless that I felt envious that I previously spend some much effort in the past trying to understand the points that were being made. This book seems to be the definitive introduction and the book lists of virtues is not its mere readability and quality writing, but it also has review questions after each subheading , for example the section Philosophy of Religion, is there a God? 6.1, 6.2. 6.3 .... All have questions for reflection instead of how other books normally have them clumped at the very end (it has its further reading at the very end.)

This book is also portable, plus it has sections that normal philosophy textbooks lack, sections on political philosophy and Aesthetics (373-451). A section that Craig and Moreland’s book does not have although their book seems to have everything else. If you want a light book without any textbook formality grab loving wisdom, for an excellent introduction grab "the love of wisdom", for dizzying detail and excellent philosophical rigor grab "philosophical foundations for a Christian worldview." But if you are serious I would recommend getting all three. In either case, the Love of Wisdom is well worth the price, is readable, has a reading list, reflection questions and a section on political philosophy and Aesthetics that many other philosophy textbooks lack. Also, if not most importantly, the articles are written are top quality! FIVE STARS.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: