

Books for
People of the Book

R. Andrew Myers

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Introduction

“Reading books comes naturally for Christians. Of course, the primer for all our reading is the Word of God. Together, we confess, “We are people of one Book.” Yet, our reading is not limited to the Bible. We read book after book, which helps us understand and apply the Word of God.”

– David L. McKenna

“The Lord God, in providing, that the books of Holy Scriptures should be written, effectually commended the writing and reading of other books touching all subjects, and sciences lawful, and lawfully handled. For though the difference be ever to be held between Divine and human writings, so as the former may worthily challenge absolute credence, and obedience, as breathing out only truth, and godliness; whereas the other are not only to be learned, but judged also: yet even in human writings, the truth in its kind, is taught commonly both more fully, and more simply, and more piously, than by speech.”

– John Robinson

Wise Solomon said that “Of making many books there is no end” (Eccl. 12.12), and this is true of making *lists* of books as well. I have attempted here to craft a recommended reading list for the average English-speaking Christian that draws primarily on practical and scholastic Reformed theology, and the Western canon of classic and edifying literature. This reading list, which is admittedly a long one, is not a finished product. It something I have spent quite a bit of time compiling, yet it will no doubt be amended as life goes on, if the Lord wills. It is grouped topically and not intended for all ages or circumstances, and is offered humbly as one list among many that are out there, from the perspective of one who would spare the aspiring reader from junk reading and encourage reading that is profitable for this world and the world to come.

Discernment is still required. Thomas à Kempis said, “A book has but one voice, but it does not instruct everyone alike.” I would add that it is often better to read slowly and meditate upon that which you read, rather than to read titles for the purpose of checking off a list. Quality is better than quantity; the purpose of reading is to grow in edification for God’s glory and the betterment of ourselves and others.

"It is not the reading of many books to make a man wise or good, but the well-reading of a few, could he be sure to have the best."

- Richard Baxter

“Choose an author as you choose a friend.”

- Sir Christopher Wren

“Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen.”

- Rainer Maria Rilke

“He resolved well that said, Books and friends would I have few and choice; He advised well that wished, Be courteous to all, familiar with few: Many there are both books and men that meet us in our journey to heaven, whom, a man that meet what he hath to do, would not once deigne to salute; others, whom he would grudge any more then a courteous salutation at most: Amid all that almost infinite riety of Books that offer themselves to our view (wherein it is both an easy and an ordinary thing for a man, while he travels after knowledge, to wander and life himself) it is not the least part of a man’s wisdom to cull out such, as he may most familiarly converse withal; Next to the Book of books, such most deservedly challenge an interest in our thoughts, as conduce most to that which is the end of man, for which the Book of God it self was writ, that is, to bring man unto a conformity to God, into a Communion with God, which end they are like to attain according as they more or less discover those deep and hidden things, which are laid up in the sacred Treasury”

– John Cotton

“REFLECT ON WHAT YOU READ. Meditation and reflection are the better half of study. It is the more difficult, but the more profitable. We like the luxury of letting new thoughts enter our minds, without the trouble of weighing their truth and value. Like the Athenians, we are desiring new things rather than the truth. But the way to make thoughts our own, and to attain solid knowledge, and new and original ideas; to compare it with similar things; and thus both ascertain its real value, and profitably apply it to use. -- 'It is not so important,' says Mrs. More, 'to know every thing, as to know the exact value of every thing, to appreciate what we learn, and to arrange what we know.' Miss Bowdler, with great justice observes, 'The best book or the most instructive conversation will afford little pleasure or advantage, by being merely remembered, in comparison with what it might afford, by exciting new reflections in the mind, which lead to a new train of thought, and make the riches of others become in sort sort its own.'

Students who are always reading without intermission, and seldom weighing or deliberating, make but little progress in true wisdom. Study and reading, as Locke has observed, are distinct things. A man of great reading is not therefore a man of great knowledge. But patient reflection, and unbroken attention have been the great secrets of acquiring the profound knowledge which distinguished such men as Bacon and Newton. Luther thus expresses his views of the best way to make a Christian divine. 'Three things make a Divine; meditation, prayer, and temptation: and three things must be done by the minister of the word -- search the Bible, pray seriously, and always remain a learner.'”

– Edward Bickersteth

These recommendations are very much the product of my own experience, observations relating to literature that have been most profitable to me, and titles which in some cases I wish I had been exposed to much earlier in life. The titles that have been most influential in my own life I have marked with an asterisk(*). But I have sought to make this list a help to others, and in so doing, I have looked for guidance from other places in assembling and compiling it (besides the friends and family I have consulted, please see below for the other resources I have referred to in preparing my list). I am indebted to many, but I wish to offer a particular thanks to the Rev. Sherman Isbell for his kind assistance in providing some of the resources listed below, and to my wife, Jessica Myers, for her steadfast love and support, and whose own personal reading list this year has helped to influence this list. I have many friends who share a love of books – of *good books* – and them I thank for their inspiration and encouragement as well.

“There is a strange idea abroad that in every subject the ancient books should be read only by the professionals, and that the amateur should content himself with the modern books.... It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones.”

– C.S. Lewis

“Even an apostle must read. Some of our very ultra Calvinistic brethren think that a minister who reads books and studies his sermon must be a very deplorable specimen of a preacher. A man who comes up into the pulpit, professes to take his text on the spot, and talks any quantity of nonsense, is the idol of many. If he will speak without premeditation, or pretend to do so, and never produce what they call a dish of dead men's brains—oh! that is the preacher. How rebuked are they by the apostle! He is inspired, and yet he wants books! He has been preaching at least for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He had seen the Lord, and yet he wants books! He had had a wider experience than most men, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the third heaven, and had heard things which it was unlawful for a man to utter, yet he wants books! He had written the major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books! The apostle says to Timothy and so he says to every preacher, "Give thyself unto reading." The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own. Brethren, what is true of ministers is true of all our people. *You* need to read. Renounce as much as you will all light literature, but study as much as possible sound theological works, especially the Puritanic writers, and expositions of the Bible. We are quite persuaded that the very best way for you to be spending your leisure, is to be either reading or praying. You may get much instruction from books which afterwards you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service. Paul cries, "Bring the books"—join in the cry.”

– Charles Spurgeon

This list is not intended to limit, but rather to encourage further reading. If I have included one or two titles from a particular author, there are usually many more by that same author worth reading. Lists are often rightfully subject to criticism for both what they leave out as what they include, but I have strived not to cover every possible good work in every possible field; rather, in particular I have aimed to highlight those that stand out to me personally as worth reading, and if a title is not found on my list, it may serve as an inspiration for you, nevertheless, to *tolle lege*, “take up and read.” This list may be faulted for being too long; as I view it, this list is merely the beginning. So may it serve to open the door to further reading as the heart and mind find seek after the glory of God and the edification of the brethren.

“I therefore made it my study to search out the wisest and best authors on every branch of necessary knowledge...”

– Thomas Smyth

“Ministers are living Books, and Books are dead Ministers; and yet though dead, they speak. When you cannot heare the one, you may read the other.”

– Matthew Poole

“O, I have lost a world of time—time, the most precious thing in the world; whereof had I but one year more, it should be spent in David's Psalms and Paul's epistles. O sirs, mind the world less, and God more.”

– Claudius Salmasius

“These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

– Acts 17.11

First, I beseech you, keep your constant hours every day with God. The godly man is a man set apart, Ps. iii. not only because God hath set him apart by election, but because he hath set himself apart by devotion. Give God the Aurorae filiam. Begin the day with God, visit God in the morning before you make any other visit; wind up your hearts towards heaven in the morning, and they will go better all the day after! Oh turn your closets into temples; read the scriptures. The two Testaments are the two lips by which God speaks to us; these will make you wise unto salvation: the scripture is both a glass to shew you your spots, and a laver to wash them away; besiege heaven every day with your prayer, thus perfume your houses, and keep a constant intercourse with heaven.

Secondly, Get books into your houses, when you have not the spring near to you, then get water into your cisterns: so when you have not that wholesome preaching that you desire, good books are cisterns that hold the water of life in them to refresh you. When David's natural heat was taken away, they covered him with warm clothes, 1 Kings i. So when you find a chillness upon your souls, and that your former heat begins to abate, ply yourselves with warm clothes, get those good books that may acquaint you with such truths as may warm and affect your hearts.

– Thomas Watson

“*Scrutamini scripturas* (let us search the scriptures). These two words have undone the world.”

– John Selden

“Search, scrutinize, ransack the Scriptures.”

– John (Rabbi) Duncan

“Read the scripture, not only as an history, but as a love-letter sent to you from God which may affect your hearts.”

– Thomas Watson

Bible Commentaries

Each Christian ought to own, if possible, a copy of the **Holy Bible**, and a **metrical Psalter**. For English-speaking Christians, the **King James Bible** and the **1650 Scottish Metrical Psalter** are highly recommended.

Johann Albrecht Bengel (German) - New Testament

John Brown of Haddington (Scottish) - The Self-Interpreting Bible

John Calvin (French-Swiss) - Most of the Bible

Samuel Clarke (English) - Whole Bible

John Diodati (Swiss) - Whole Bible

Philip Doddridge (English) - The Family Expositor

Dutch Annotations - Whole Bible

English (Westminster) Annotations - Whole Bible

Geneva Bible Annotations (1560/1599)

John Gill (English) - Whole Bible

Joseph Hall (English) - Whole Bible

Matthew Henry (English) & Continuator - Whole Bible*

Robert Jamieson (Scottish), **A.R. Fausset** (Irish), **David Brown** (Scottish) - Whole Bible

Carl Friedrich Keil (German) & **Franz Delitzsch** (German) - Old Testament

Edward Leigh (English) - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, New Testament

John Lightfoot (English) - New Testament

Cotton Mather (American) - Whole Bible (in process of publication)

Simon Patrick (English) - Genesis-Song of Songs

Matthew Poole (English) & Continuator - Whole Bible (Annotations & Synopsis)*

Thomas Scott (English) - Whole Bible

Charles Simeon (English) - Horae Homileticae

John Trapp (English) - Whole Bible
Thomas Adams (English), 2 Peter
Henry Ainsworth (English), Pentateuch, Psalms, Song of Songs
James A. Alexander (American), Acts, Matthew, Mark, Psalms, Isaiah
William Attersoll (English), Numbers, Philemon
Bernard of Clairvaux (French), Song of Songs
Charles Bridges (English), Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Psalm 119
John Brown of Edinburgh (Scottish), Galatians, Hebrews, Romans, 1 Peter
John Brown of Haddington (Scottish), Psalms
John Brown of Wamphray (Scottish), Romans
Jeremiah Burroughs (English), Hosea
Joseph Caryl (English), Job
Jean Dailé (French), Philippians, Colossians
David Dickson (Scottish), Psalms, Matthew, Pauline Epistles
James Durham (Scottish), Song of Songs, Job, Revelation
E.B. Elliott (English), Revelation
Patrick Fairbairn (Scottish), Ezekiel, Jonah, Pastoral Epistles
James Ferguson (Scottish), Pauline Epistles
William Gouge (English), Hebrews
William Greenhill (English), Ezekiel
James Hamilton (Scottish), Ecclesiastes
Ernst Wilhelm Theodor Herrmann Hengstenberg (German), Psalms, Ecclesiastes,
Revelation
George Hutcheson (Scottish), Job, John, Minor Prophets
William Jenkyn (English), Jude
Robert Leighton (Scottish), 1 Peter
Herbert Carl Leupold (American), Genesis, Psalms
Hugh Martin (Scottish), Jonah
Martin Luther (German), Galatians
Thomas Manton (English), Jude, James, Psalm 119
Edward Marbury (English), Obadiah, Habakkuk

Thomas M’Crie the Elder (Scottish), Esther

Alexander Nisbet (Scottish), Ecclesiastes, 1 & 2 Peter

John Owen (English), Hebrews

William S. Plumer (American), Psalms, Romans, Hebrews

Edward Reynolds (English), Ecclesiastes, Psalm 110

Richard Rogers (English), Judges

Charles Spurgeon (English), Psalms

Thomas Taylor (English), Titus

“While commenting upon the One Hundred and Nineteenth Psalm, I was brought into most intimate communion with Thomas Manton, who has discoursed upon that marvellous portion of Scripture with great fulness and power. I have come to know him so well that I could choose him out from among a thousand divines if he were again to put on his portly form, and display among modern men that countenance wherein was a ‘great mixture of majesty and meekness.’ . . . Ministers who do not know Manton need not wonder if they are themselves unknown.”

– Charles Spurgeon

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

– Rom. 11.33

“True theology is not theoretical, but practical. The end of it is living, that is to live a godly life.”

– Martin Bucer

“Theology is ‘the science of living blessedly forever.’”

– William Perkins

“Theology is the ‘doctrine of living to God.’”

– William Ames

“He alone is a true theologian who adds the practical to the theoretical part of religion.”

– Herman Witsius

Theology

- Archibald Alexander** (American), *The Canon of the Old and New Testaments Ascertained*
- Pierre Allix** (French), *The Judgment of the Ancient Jewish Church Against the Unitarians in the Controversy Upon the Holy Trinity and the Divinity of Our Blessed Saviour*
- William Ames** (English), *The Marrow of Theology*
- Anselm** (Italian-English), *Cur Deus Homo*
- Thomas Aquinas** (Italian), *Summa Theologica*
- John Arrowsmith** (English), *Armillae Catecheticae*
- Athanasius** (Egyptian), *On the Incarnation* with introduction by **C.S. Lewis** (Irish-English);
Letter to the Archbishop of Alexandria, Marcellinus, on the Interpretation of the Psalms
- Augustine** (African), *City of God; Divine Providence*
- John Ball** (English), *A Treatise of the Covenant of Grace*
- James Bannerman** (Scottish), *Inspiration: The Infallible Truth and Divine Authority of the Holy Scriptures*
- William Bates** (English), *The Harmony of the Attributes of God*
- Herman Bavinck** (Dutch), *Reformed Dogmatics*
- John W. Beardslee III** (American), *Reformed Dogmatics*
- James Begg the Younger** (Scottish), *A Handbook of Popery*
- Louis Berkhof** (Dutch-American), *Systematic Theology*
- Gerrit Cornelis Berkouwer** (Dutch), *The Providence of God*
- Thomas Blake** (English), *Vindiciae Foederis, or, A Treatise of the Covenant of God Entered With Man*
- Lorraine Boettner** (American), *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination**
- Horatius Bonar** (Scottish), *Catechisms of the Scottish Reformation*
- Thomas Boston** (Scottish), *Human Nature in Its Fourfold State; An Illustration of the Doctrines of the Christian Religion, With Respect to Faith and Practice, Upon the Plan of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism, Comprehending A Complete Body of Divinity (Commentary on the Shorter Catechism)*

Wilhelmus à Brakel (Dutch), *The Christian's Reasonable Service**

John Brown of Edinburgh (Scottish), *Exposition of the Discourses and Sayings of our Lord*

John Brown of Haddington (Scottish), *An Essay towards an easy, plain, practical, and extensive Explication of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism; A Compendious View of Natural and Revealed Religion (Systematic Theology); A Dictionary of the Holy Bible*

John Brown of Wamphray (Scottish), *The Life of Justification Opened*

John Brown of Whitburn (Scottish), *Gospel Truth Accurately Stated and Illustrated*

Martin Bucer (German), *De Regno Christi (On the Kingdom of Christ)*

James Buchanan (Scottish), *The Doctrine of Justification; The Office and Work of the Holy Spirit*

Charles Buck (English), *A Theological Dictionary*

Heinrich Bullinger (Swiss), *Decades*

Anthony Burgess (English), *Vindiciae Legis: or, A Vindication of the Moral Law and the Covenants*

John William Burgon (English), *The Revision Revised; The Traditional Text; The Last Twelve Verses of Mark; Causes of Corruption of the Traditional Text of the Holy Gospels*

Jeremiah Burroughs (English), *The Evil of Evils, or The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin*

John Calvin (French-Swiss), *Institutes of the Christian Religion**

Thomas Chalmers (Scottish), *Institutes of Theology*

Stephen Charnock (English), *The Existence and Attributes of God; Divine Providence; The Knowledge of God*

Elisha Coles (English), *A Practical Discourse of God's Sovereignty*

John Colquhoun (Scottish), *A Treatise on the Law and the Gospel; A Treatise on the Covenant of Grace; A Treatise on the Covenant of Works; Sermons, Chiefly on Doctrinal Subjects; A View of Evangelical Repentance*

John Cosin (English), *A Scholastical History of the Canon of Holy Scripture*

William Cunningham (Scottish), *Historical Theology; The Reformers and the Theology of the Reformation*

R.L. Dabney (American), *Systematic Theology*

Jean Daillé (French), *A Treatise Concerning the Right Use of the Church Fathers*

Samuel Davies (American), *Complete Sermons of the Rev. Samuel Davies*

John Dick (Scottish), *Lectures on Theology*

David Dickson (Scottish), *Truth's Victory Over Error*

Thomas Doolittle (English), *A Plain Method of Catechizing*

James Durham (Scottish), *A Practical Exposition of the Ten Commandments*

Jonathan Edwards (American), *Freedom of the Will*

Edward Fisher (English), *The Marrow of Modern Divinity** (with notes by **Thomas Boston** (Scottish))

James Fisher (Scottish), **Ralph Erskine** (Scottish), **Ebenezer Erskine** (Scottish), *Fisher's Catechism**

John Flavel (English), *An Exposition of the Assembly's Catechism*

François Samuel Robert Louis Gaussen (Swiss), *Theopneusty, or, The Plenary Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures*

John Gill (English), *A Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity*

John Girardeau (American), *Calvinism and Evangelical Arminianism; The Federal Theology: Its Import and Its Regulative Influence*

Robert Gordon (Scottish), *Christ as Made Known to the Church: An Exposition of Divine Grace as Unfolded in the Old Testament Scriptures (Christ in the Old Testament)*

Ashbel Green (American), *Lectures on the Shorter Catechism*

Hugo Grotius (Dutch), *On the Truth of the Christian Religion*

William Gurnall (English), *The Christian in Complete Armour*

Karl Rudolf Hagenbach (German), *Compendium of the History of Doctrines*

Patrick Hamilton (Scottish), *Patrick's Places, Loci Communes Theologici: The Common Places of Divinity As set forth by Mr. Patrick Hamilton*

Abraham Hellenbroek (Dutch), *A Specimen of Divine Truths*

Ernst Wilhelm Theodor Herrmann Hengstenberg (German), *Christology of the Old Testament*

Heinrich Heppe (German), ed., *Reformed Dogmatics*

George Hill (Scottish), *Lectures in Divinity*

Edward F. Hills (American), *The King James Version Defended*

Charles Hodge (American), *Systematic Theology*

Thomas Hartwell Horne (English), *Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the*

Holy Scriptures

- Sherman Isbell** (American), *The Divine Law of Political Israel Expired: General Equity*
- G.H. Kersten** (Dutch), *Reformed Dogmatics*
- Abraham Kuyper** (Dutch), *Particular Grace: A Defense of God's Sovereignty in Salvation;*
Encyclopedia of Sacred Theology
- Edward Leigh** (English), *A Systeme or Body of Divinity*
- Theodore P. Letis** (American), *The Ecclesiastical Text*
- André Lortie** (French), *A Treatise of the Holy Communion*
- William Lowth** (English), *Directions for the Profitable Reading of the Holy Scriptures*
- Martin Luther** (German), *The Bondage of the Will; The Babylonian Captivity; 95 Theses*
- Thomas Lye** (English), *The assemblies shorter catechism drawn out into distinct propositions,*
and proved by plain, and pertinent texts of Scripture at large: With short rules of
direction for masters of families, how to use this book to the best advantage
- William Lyford** (English), *The Instructed Christian*
- J.G. Machen** (American), *The Origin of Paul's Religion; Christianity and Liberalism*
- Hugh Martin** (Scottish), *The Atonement; The Shadow of Calvary*
- Petrus Van Mastricht** (Dutch), *A Treatise on Regeneration*
- H. Henry Meeter** (American), *The Fundamental Principle of Calvinism; Calvinism: an*
Interpretation of Its Basic Ideas (The Basic Ideas of Calvinism)
- Alexander Mitchell** (Scottish), *Catechisms of the Second Reformation*
- Pierre du Moulin** (French), *Anatomy of Arminianism*
- Richard A. Muller** (American), *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*
- John Murray** (Scottish-American), *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*
- Wolfgang Musculus** (German), *Loci Communes Sacrae Theologiae (Common Places of the*
Christian Religion)
- Christopher Ness** (English), *An Antidote Against Arminianism*
- John Newton** (English), *Messiah: Fifty Expository Discourses, on the Series of Scriptural*
Passages, Which form the Subject of the Celebrated Oratorio of Handel, Preached in the
Years 1784 and 1785, In the Parish Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-Street
- Caspar Oleviaius** (German), *An Exposition of the Apostles' Creed*
- John Owen** (English), *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ; Biblical Theology; A Display*

of Arminianism; Pneumatologia – A Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit

Samuel Palmer (English), *The Protestant Dissenters' Catechism*

Alexander Smith Paterson (Scottish), *A Concise System of Theology: on the Basis of the Shorter Catechism*

John Pearson (English), *An Exposition of the Creed*

William Pemble (English), *The Justification of a Sinner: A Treatise on Justification*

William Perkins (English), *The Foundation of Christian Religion, Gathered into Six Principles; A Golden Chain: The Description of Theology Containing the Order of the Causes of Salvation and Damnation According to God's Word*

Benedict Pictet (Swiss), *Christian Theology*

William S. Plumer (American), *The Law of God as contained in the Ten Commandments, explained and enforced; Jehovah-Jireh: A Treatise on Providence*

Amandus Polanus (German), *The Substance of Christian Religion*

Matthew Poole (English), *A Dialogue between a Popish Priest and an English Protestant (A Dialogue Between a Catholic Priest and a Protestant); The Nullity of the Romish Faith; The Blasphemer Slain with the Sword of the Spirit*

John Quick (English), *Synodican in Gallia Reformata*

Thomas Ridgley (English), *A Body of Divinity on the Assembly's Larger Catechism*

Francis Roberts (English), *Clavis Bibliorum: The Key of the Bible, unlocking the richest treasury of the Holy Scriptures*

Richard Owen Roberts (American), ed., *Puritan Sermons, 1659-1689*

Samuel Rutherford (Scottish), *The Covenant of Life Opened; Or, A Treatise of the Covenant of Grace*

Philip Schaff (Swiss-German), *Creeds of Christendom*

Thomas Scott (English), *The Articles of the Synod of Dort*

Obadiah Sedgwick (English), *Providence Handled Practically*

Robert Shaw (Scottish), *An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith**

David Silversides (British-Irish), *The Free Offer: Biblical and Reformed*

George Smeaton (Scottish), *The Doctrine of the Atonement as Taught by the Apostles; The Doctrine of the Atonement as Taught by Christ Himself; Doctrine of the Holy Spirit*

David N. Steele (American), **Curtis C. Thomas** (American), and **S. Lance Quinn** (American),

The Five Points of Calvinism Defined, Defended, and Documented

George Stevenson (Scottish), *The Offices of Christ* (see also an abridgment by **William S. Plumer** (American))

William Symington (Scottish), *On the Atonement and Intercession of Jesus Christ*

Three Forms of Unity (Canons of Dort, Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism)

Robert Traill (Scottish), *A Vindication of the Protestant Doctrine of Justification from the Unjust Charge of Antinomianism*

Francis Turretin (Swiss-Italian), *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*

Zacharius Ursinus (German), *Commentary of Zacharius Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism*

James Ussher (Irish), *A Body of Divinity*

Johannes Vanderkemp (Dutch), *The Christian Entirely the Property of Christ, in Life and Death, Exhibited in Fifty-Three Sermons on the Heidelberg Catechism*

Ralph Venning (English), *The Sinfulness of Sin*

Thomas Vincent (English), *The Shorter Catechism Explained and Proved From Scripture*

Geerhardus Vos (Dutch-American), *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testament; The Doctrine of the Covenant in Reformed Theology*

J.G. Vos (American), *Commentary on the Westminster Larger Catechism*

B.B. Warfield (American), *The Person and Work of Christ*

Thomas Watson (English), *A Body of Divinity*

Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger & Shorter Catechisms (1646-1647)*

William Whitaker (English), *Disputations on Holy Scripture*

Alexander Whyte (Scottish), *Exposition of the Shorter Catechism*

Samuel Willard (American), *A Compleat Body of Divinity*

Andrew Willet (English), *Synopsis Papismi, or, a General view of the Papacy*

John Willison (Scottish), *An Example of Plain Catechising upon the Assembly's Shorter Catechism*

Herman Witsius (Dutch), *Sacred Dissertations on The Apostles' Creed; The Economy of the Covenants Between God and Man*

Johannes Wollebius (Swiss), *Compendium Theologiae Christianae*

John Wycliffe (English), *An Apology for Lollard Doctrines*

Jerome Zanchi (Italian), *Absolute Predestination*

Ulrich Zwingli (Swiss), *Commentary on True and False Religion*

“Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.”

– The Westminster Assembly

“If it be inquired, then, by what things chiefly the Christian religion has a standing existence amongst us, and maintains its truth, it will be found that the following two not only occupy the principal place, but comprehend under them all the other parts, and consequently the whole substance of Christianity: that is, a knowledge, *first*, of the mode in which God is duly worshipped; and, *secondly*, of the source from which salvation is to be obtained.”

– John Calvin

“Those do well that pray morning and evening in their families, those do better that pray and read the scriptures, but those best that pray and read and sing the psalms.”

– Philip Henry

Devotional, Meditation, Worship, Christian Living, Spiritual Warfare, Assurance, Casuistry

Archibald Alexander (American), *Thoughts on Religious Experience; Letters to the Aged; Counsels of the Aged to the Young*

James W. Alexander (American), *Thoughts on Family Worship*

Joseph Alleine (English), *An Alarm to the Unconverted (A Sure Guide to Heaven)**

Richard Alleine (English), *Vindiciae Pietatis; Instructions About Heart-work; The World Conquered by the Faithful Christian*

Richard Allestree (English), *The Whole Duty of Man; The Art of Contentment; The Gentlemens Calling; The Ladies Calling; The Causes of the Decay of Christian Piety*

Vincent Alsop (English), *Practical Godliness*

Isaac Ambrose (English), *Looking Unto Jesus; Media: The Middle Things; The Christian Warrior*

William Ames (English), *A Fresh Suit Against Human Ceremonies in God's Worship; Conscience and the Power, With Cases Thereof*

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Peter Toon (English), *God's Statesman: Life and Work of John Owen*

George Henry Turnbull (English), *Hartlib, Dury and Comenius: Gleanings from Hartlib's Papers*

James Ussher (Irish), *The Annals of the World*

Abraham Van de Velde (Dutch), *The Wonders of the Most High (A 125-Year History of the United Netherlands 1550-1675)*

J.G. Vos (American), *The Scottish Covenanters*

Norman L. Walker (Scottish), *Chapters From the History of the Free Church of Scotland*

B.B. Warfield (American), *The Westminster Assembly and Its Work*

John Weemes (Scottish), *The Christian Synagogue*

Alexander Whyte (Scottish), *Bible Characters*

J.B. Williams (English), **Matthew Henry** (English), *The Lives of Philip and Matthew Henry**

Walter Wilson (English), *The History and Antiquities of Dissenting Churches and Meeting Houses in London, Westminster, and Southwark: including the Lives of their Ministers; Memoirs of the Life and Times of Daniel Defoe*

Robert C. Winthrop (American), *The Life and Letters of John Winthrop* (including the spiritual journals "Experiencia" and "Christian Experience")

Robert Wodrow (Scottish), *Analecta: or Materials for a History of Remarkable Providences, mostly relating to Scotch Ministers and Christians; The History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland from the Restoration to the Revolution*

James Wylie (Scottish), *History of Protestantism; The Papacy: Its History, Dogmas, Genius and Prospects; History of the Waldenses; Disruption Worthies: A Memorial of 1843; The Story of the Covenant and the Services of the Covenanters to the Reformation in Christendom and the Liberties of Great Britain*

“We must learn that sometimes we may teach others.”

– John Weemes

“No one teaches well unless he has first learned well; no one learns well unless he learns in order to teach. And both learning and teaching are vain and unprofitable unless accompanied by practice.”

– Herman Witsius

Ecclesiology and Ministry

James W. Alexander (American), *Thoughts on Preaching*

D. Douglas Bannerman (Scottish), *The Scripture Doctrine of the Church*

James Bannerman (Scottish), *The Church of Christ*

Richard Baxter (English), *The Reformed Pastor*

Mary Beaty (American) and **Benjamin Farley** (American), trans. & eds., *Calvin's Ecclesiastical Advice*

R. Bruce Bickel (American), *Light and Heat: The Puritan View of the Pulpit*

William G. Blaikie (Scottish), *For the Work of the Ministry: A Manual of Homiletical and Pastoral Theology; The Preachers of Scotland From the Sixth to the Nineteenth Century*

Thomas Boston (Scottish), *The Art of Man-Fishing*

Robert L. Breckinridge (American), *Presbyterian Government: Not a Hierarchy, but a Commonwealth*

Charles Bridges (English), *The Christian Ministry*

John Brown of Edinburgh (Scottish), ed., *The Christian Pastor's Manual*

John Brown of Haddington (Scottish), "Address to Students of Divinity" in *A Compendious View of Natural and Revealed Religion; Letters on the Constitution, Government, and Discipline of the Christian Church*

Gilbert Burnet (English), *A Discourse of the Pastoral Care*

John Calvin (French-Swiss), *The Necessity of Reforming the Church; Concerning Scandals*

Jean Claude (French), *An Essay on the Composition of a Sermon*

William Cunningham (Scottish), *Theological Lectures*

R.L. Dabney (American), *Sacred Rhetoric*

David Dickson (Scottish), *The Elder and His Work*

The Church Order of Dort (1619)

James Durham (Scottish), *Concerning Scandal*

King Edward VI (English), *A Small Treatise Against the Primacy of the Pope*

Patrick Fairbairn (Scottish), *Pastoral Theology*

Thomas Foxcroft (American), *The Gospel Ministry*

Genevan Book of Order (1556)

George Gillespie (Scottish), *Aaron's Rod Blossoming; An Assertion of the Government of the Church of Scotland, in the Points of Ruling Elders, and of the Authority of Presbyteries and Synods*

John Girardeau (American), "The Discretionary Power of the Church"

Gregory (Roman), *The Book of Pastoral Rules*

James Guthrie (Scottish), *A Treatise of Ruling Elders and Deacons*

Archibald Hall (Scottish), *An Humble Attempt to Exhibit a Scriptural View of the Constitution, Order, Discipline, and Fellowship of the Gospel-Church*

David W. Hall (American) & **Joseph H. Hall** (American), eds., *Paradigms in Polity: Classic Readings in Reformed and Presbyterian Church Government*

Alexander Henderson (Scottish), *The Government and Order of the Church of Scotland*

Robert W. Henderson (American), *The Teaching Office in the Reformed Tradition: A History of the Doctoral Ministry*

Charles Hodge (American), *Suggestions of Theological Students, on some of those traits of Character, which the spirit of the age renders peculiarly important in the Ministers of the Gospel*

George Howe (American), *A Discourse on Theological Education; Delivered on the Bicentenary of the Westminster Assembly of Divines, July, 1843. To Which is Added Advice to a Student Preparing for the Ministry*

Jan Hus (Czech), *The Church*

John Angell James (English), *Christian Fellowship, The Church Members' Guide; An Earnest Ministry: The Want of the Times*

Peter Y. de Jong (American), *Taking Heed to the Flock: A Study of the Principles and Practice of Family Visitation*

G.H. Kersten (Dutch), *In the Footsteps of Our Fathers*

David King (Scottish), *An Exposition and Defense of the Presbyterian Form of Church Government; The Office of the Eldership*

R.B. Kuiper (Dutch-American), *The Glorious Body of Christ*

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh), *Preaching & Preachers*

London Provincial Assembly, *Jus Divinum Regiminis Ecclesiastici or The Divine Right of Church Government; Jus Divinum Ministerii Evangelici or The Divine Right of the Gospel Ministry; Jus Divinum Ministerii Anglicani or The Divine Right of the Ministry of England; An Exhortation to Catechizing*

Cotton Mather (American), *Manuductio Ad Ministerium: Directions For a Candidate of the Ministry*

Alexander Mcleod (Scottish-American), *The Ecclesiastical Catechism*

Thomas M’Crie the Elder (Scottish), *The Unity of the Church*

Samuel Miller (American), *Thoughts on Public Prayer; An Essay on the Warrant, Nature and Duties of the Office of the Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church; Presbyterianism the Truly Primitive and Apostolical Constitution of the Church of Christ; Letters Concerning the Constitution & Order of the Christian Ministry*

Martin Monsma () and **Idzerd van Dellen** (Dutch-American), *The Church Order Commentary*

Thomas Murphy (Irish-American), *Pastoral Theology; The Pastor in the Various Duties of His Office*

Hughes Oliphant Old (American), *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church*

William Perkins (English), *The Art of Prophesying*

William S. Plumer (American) & **William Taylor** (American), *The Ministry of the Words and Hints and Helps on Pastoral Theology*

James Moir Porteous (Scottish), *The Government of the Kingdom of Christ*

Kevin Reed (American), *Biblical Church Government*

Samuel Rutherford (Scottish), *The Due Right of Presbyteries; The Divine Right of Church Government and Excommunication*

First and Second Scottish Books of Discipline (1560, 1578)

John Smith (Scottish), *Lectures on the Nature and End of the Sacred Office, and on the Dignity, Duty, Qualifications, and Character of the Sacred Order*

Thomas Smyth (American), *An Ecclesiastical Catechism of the Presbyterian Church; For the Use of Families, Bible-Classes, and Private Members*

Ichabod Spencer (American), *A Pastor’s Sketches; or, Conversations With Anxious Inquirers Respecting the Way of Salvation*

Charles Spurgeon (English), *Lectures to My Students*
William Still (Scottish), *The Work of the Pastor*
Walter Steuart (Scottish), *Collections and Observations Concerning the Worship, Discipline
and Government of the Church of Scotland*
Walter Travers (English) & **Thomas Cartwright** (English), *Directory of Church Government*
Campeius Vitringa the Elder (Dutch), *The Synagogue and the Church*
Samuel Volbeda (Dutch-American), *The Pastoral Genius of Preaching*
Westminster Assembly, *The Grand Debate; Form of Presbyterian Church Government;
Directory of Church Government*
Thomas Witherow (Irish), *The Apostolic Church: Which Is It?; The Form of the Christian
Temple*
Herman Witsius (Dutch), *On the Character of a True Theologian**
Ulrich Zwingli (Swiss), *The Shepherd*

“When nations are to perish in their sins, / 'Tis in the church the leprosy begins”

– William Cowper

Civil Magistracy and the Establishment Principle

Johannes Althusius (German), *Politica*

William Balfour (Scottish), *The Establishment Principle Defended* (preface by **James Begg the Younger** (Scottish))

Frédéric Bastiat (French), *The Law*

Richard Baxter (English), *A Holy Commonwealth*

Theodore Beza (French-Swiss), *Concerning the Rights of Rulers Over Their Subjects and the Duty Of Subjects Towards Their Rulers*

C.J. Brown (Scottish), *Christ's Kingship Over the Nations Maintained and Defended in the Establishment Principle**

William Blackstone (English), *Commentaries on the Laws of England*

Junius Brutus (French), *A Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants**

Thomas Chalmers (Scottish), *Lectures on the Establishment and Extension of National Churches*

Thomas Cobbett (American), *The Civil Magistrate's Power*

William Cunningham (Scottish), *Discussion on Church Principles: Popish, Erastian and Presbyterian*

Dutch Declaration of Independence (1581)

U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776)

James Dick (Scottish), *Civil Rulers Serving the Lord; or the Scriptural Doctrine of National Religion*

John Eliot (English-American), *The Christian Commonwealth: or, The Civil Policy of the Rising Kingdom of Jesus Christ*

Samuel R. Gardiner (English), ed., *The Constitutional Documents of the Puritan Revolution, 1625-1660*

Patrick Gillespie (Scottish), *Rulers Sins the Causes of National Judgments*

Christopher Goodman (English), *How superior Powers ought to be obeyed of their*

subjects, and wherein they may lawfully be by God's word disobeyed and resisted

John Goodwin (English), *Right and Might Well Met*

Hugo Grotius (Dutch), *On the Law of War and Peace*

William Gurnall (English), *The Civil Magistrate's Portrait Drawn from the Word*

Alexander Hamilton (American), **Patrick Henry** (American), et al., *The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (American), *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*

John Knox (Scottish), *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*

Magna Carta (1215)

Massachusetts Body of Liberties (1641)

Mayflower Compact (1620)

Jonathan Mayhew (American), *A Discourse Concerning the Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the High Powers*

Alexander Mcleod (Scottish-American), *Messiah, Governor of the Nations of the Earth*

Thomas M'Crie the Elder (Scottish), *Statement of the Difference* (preface by **George Smeaton** (Scottish))

John Milton (English), *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*

National Covenant of Scotland (1638)

Gary North (American), *Political Polytheism*

John Ponet (English), *A Short Treatise of Politick Power*

Guillaume Groen van Prinsterer (Dutch), *Lectures on Unbelief and Revolution*

William Rawle (American), *A View of the Constitution of the United States of America*

Samuel Rutherford (Scottish), *Lex Rex**

Ellis Sandoz (American), ed., *Political Sermons of the American Founding Era, 1730 to 1805*

Robert Shaw (Scottish), *An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith* [on Chap. 23] (and introductory essay by **William Hetherington** (Scottish))

George Smeaton (Scottish), *The Scottish Theory of Ecclesiastical Establishments; National Christianity and Scriptural Union*

Solemn League and Covenant (1643)

Alexander H. Stephens (American), *A Constitutional View of the Late War Between the States: Its Causes, Character, Conduct and Results*

Andrew Symington (Scottish), *The Headship of Christ Over the Nations*

William Symington (Scottish), *Messiah the Prince**

John Thornburn (Scottish), *Vindiciae Magistratus: or, the Divine Institution and Right of the Civil Magistrate Vindicated*

James H. Thornwell (American), *Relation of the State to Christ*

Alexis de Tocqueville (French), *Democracy in America*

James R. Willson (American), *Prince Messiah's Claims to Dominion Over All Governments and the Disregard of his Authority by the United States in the Federal Constitution**

E.C. Wines (American), *Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews* (also titled both *The Hebrew Republic* and *The Roots of the American Republic*)

Samuel B. Wylie (Irish-American), *The Two Sons of Oil*

“Oh, to see the sight next to Christ's coming in the clouds, the most joyful! our elder brethren, the Jews, and Christ fall upon one another's necks, and kiss each other! They have been long asunder, they will be kind to one another when they meet: O day! O longed for, and lovely day, dawn! O sweet Jesus, let me see that sight that will be as life from the dead, thee and thy ancient people in mutual embraces!”

– Samuel Rutherford

“Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!”

– George Frederic Handel

Eschatology

Isaac Ambrose (English), *Ultima*

William Bates (English), *The Four Last Things*

Loraine Boettner (American), *The Millennium*

Robert Bolton (English), *The Four Last Things*

David Brown (Scottish), *Christ's Second Coming: Will It Be Premillennial?; The Restoration of the Jews; The Apocalypse: Its Structure and Primary Predictions*

Samuel Cassels (American), *Christ and Antichrist*

Jonathan Edwards (American), *The History of Redemption*

Patrick Fairbairn (Scottish), *The Interpretation of Prophecy (Prophecy viewed in respect to its distinctive nature, its special function)*

Robert Fleming, Senior (Scottish), "The First Principles of Apocalyptic Interpretation," a postscript to *The Rise and Fall of the Papacy*

Henry Grattan Guinness (Irish), *History Unveiling Prophecy, Or, Time as an Interpreter; Romanism and the Reformation: From the Standpoint of Prophecy*

J. Marcellus Kik (Dutch-American), *An Eschatology of Victory*

Thomas Manton (English), *Sermons on 2 Thessalonians 2*

Alexander Mcleod (Scottish-American), *Lectures upon the Principal Prophecies of the Revelation*

Samuel Miller (American), *The Earth Filled With the Glory of the Lord*

Iain H. Murray (English), *The Puritan Hope*

James Stacy (American), *Hand-Book of Prophecy: Containing a brief outline of the prophecies of Daniel and John, together with a critical essay on the second advent*

Francis Turretin (Swiss-Italian), *Whether It Can Be Proven That the Pope of Rome is Antichrist*

William Whitaker (English), *The Roman Pontiff is that Antichrist*

“Some have well and truly observed that the interest of religion and good literature hath risen and fallen together.”

– Increase Mather

“...the more skill and knowledge he hath in the liberal sciences, so much the sooner shall he learn his occupation and the more ready...shall he be about the same.”

– Robert Cleaver

“I was merely thinking God's thoughts after him.”

– Johannes Kepler

“The end then of learning is to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love him, to imitate him, to be like him.”

– John Milton

Culture & Aesthetics

Mortimer Adler (American), *How to Read a Book*

William Ames (English), *Technometry*

Herman Bavinck (Dutch-American), *Common Grace; Calvin on Common Grace*

Donald J. Bruggink (American), *Christ and Architecture: Building Presbyterian /
Reformed Churches*

Bruce C. Daniels (Canadian-American), *Puritans at Play*

T.S. Eliot (English), *Christianity and Culture*

Herman Kuiper (Dutch-American), *Calvin on Common Grace*

Abraham Kuyper (Dutch), *Lectures on Calvinism*

C.S. Lewis (Irish-English), *English Literature in the Sixteenth Century, Excluding Drama*

Stefan Lorant (Hungarian-American), *The New World: The First Pictures of
America*

John Milton (English), *Of Education; A Fuller Course in the Art of Logic Conformed to
the Method of Peter Ramus*

Richard J. Mouw (American), *He Shines In All That's Fair: Culture and Common
Grace*

John Murray (Scottish-American), *Common Grace*

Kenneth A. Myers (American), *All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians
and Popular Culture*

Helmut Richard Niebuhr (American), *Christ and Culture*

Jaroslav Pelikan (American), *Bach Among the Theologians*

Neil Postman (American), *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of
Show Business*

Hans Rookmaaker (Dutch), *The Complete Works of Hans Rookmaaker*

Francis Schaeffer (American), *Art and the Bible**; *How Then Shall We Live? The Rise
and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*

Percy Alfred Scholes (English), *The Puritans and Music in England and New England:*

A Contribution to the Cultural History of Two Nations

Klaas Schilder (Dutch), *Christ and Culture*

Jane Stuart Smith (American) & **Betty Carlson** (American), *The Gift of Music: Great Composers and Their Influence*

Calvin R. Stapert (American), *Handel's Messiah: Comfort for God's People*

Philip Stubbes (English), *The Anatomie of Abuses*

Elbert Nevius Sebring Thompson (American), *The Controversy Between the Puritans and the Stage*

Henry Van Til (Dutch-American), *The Calvinistic Concept of Culture*

R. Larry Todd (American), *Mendelssohn: A Life in Music*

Izaak Walton (English), *Lives of John Donne, Henry Wotton, Rich'd Hooker, George Herbert, &c*

Leon Wencelius (French-American), "The Word of God and Culture," in *The Word of God and the Reformed Faith: Addresses Delivered at the Second American Calvinistic Conference held at Calvin College and Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 3, 4 and 5, 1942*

Jim West (American), *Drinking With Calvin and Luther**

Max Weber (German), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Mariët Westermann (Dutch-American), *The Art of the Dutch Republic, 1585-1718*

“I cannot live without books.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“It is well to read everything of something, and something of everything.”

– Lord Henry P. Brougham

“The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted.”

– Charles Spurgeon

“To the *Man of Liesure*, as well as to the Minister, it is an Advice of Wisdom, *Give thyself unto Reading*. Good BOOKS of all sorts, may Employ your *Leisure*, and Enrich you with Treasures more valuable, than those, which the way and Work of your Callings would have purchased. Let the baneful *Thoughts of Idleness* be chased out of our Minds. But then also, Let Some Thoughts on that Subject, *What Good may I do?* come into them.”

– Cotton Mather

“Take heed what books thou readest: for as water relisheth of the soil it runs through, so does the soul of the authors that a man reads.”

– John Trapp

“What and where my *Relish* for BOOKS, which I may be hungry for? LORD, Because I shall *see* THEE, or *serve* THEE, the more for the Reading of them.”

– Cotton Mather

Classic Christian Literature

- Dante Alighieri** (Italian), *The Divine Comedy*
- Ambrose** (Roman), *Hexameron*
- Théodore-Agrippa d'Aubigné** (French), *Les Tragiques*
- Guillaume du Bartas** (French), *The Divine Weeks of the World's Birth*
- Basil** (Cappadocian), *Hexameron*
- Boethius** (Roman), *The Consolations of Philosophy*
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (German), *Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Prison Poems*
- Anne Bradstreet** (English-American), *The Complete Works of Anne Bradstreet*
- John Bunyan** (English), *The Pilgrim's Progress**; *The Holy War*
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge**, *The Collected Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*
- William Cowper** (English), *The Complete Poetical Works of William Cowper*
- Daniel Defoe** (English), *Robinson Crusoe**
- John Donne** (English), *The Complete Works of John Donne*
- Desiderius Erasmus** (Dutch), *In Praise of Folly*
- Ralph Erskine** (Scottish), *Gospel Sonnets*
- Martha Finley** (American), the *Elsie Dinsmore* series
- Benjamin Harris** (English-American), ed., *The New England Primer*
- George Herbert** (English), *The Temple*; *Jacula Prudentum*
- James Byron Huggins** (American), *Rora*
- William H.G. Kingston** (English), *Exiled for the Faith: A Tale of the Huguenot Persecution* (*Villegagnon: A Tale of the Huguenot Persecution*)
- William Langland** (English), *Piers Plowman*
- C.S. Lewis** (Irish-English), *The Chronicles of Narnia**; *The Screwtape Letters*
- Martin Luther** (German), *Table Talk*
- Queen Margaret of Navarre** (French), *The Mirror of the Sinful Soul*
- David McAllister** (American), ed., *Poets and Poetry of the Covenant*
- John Milton** (English), *Paradise Lost**; *Samson Agonistes*

James Montgomery (English), *The Christian Poet; or, selections in verse on sacred subjects*

Blaise Pascal (French), *Pensées**

Samuel Pepys (English), *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*

Elizabeth Prentiss (American), *Stepping Heavenward*

John Ray (English), *The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of Creation*

Christina Rossetti (Italian-English), *The Complete Poems of Christina Rossetti*

Sir Walter Scott (Scottish), *The Tale of Old Mortality* (read with **Thomas M’Crie the Elder** (Scottish), *A Vindication Of The Scottish Covenanters: Consisting Of A Review Of The First Series Of The Tales Of My Landlord*)

John Selden (English), *Table Talk*

Charles Spurgeon (English), *The Salt-Cellars; John Ploughman’s Talk: or, Plain Advice for Plain People; Smooth Stones Taken From Ancient Brooks: Being a Collection of Sentences, Illustrations, and Quaint Sayings, From the Works of That Renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks*

Edward Taylor (English-American), *The Poems of Edward Taylor*

William Tyndale (English), *The Obedience of a Christian Man*

Phillis Wheatley (African-American), *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*

Alexander Whyte (Scottish), *Bunyan Characters*

Michael Wigglesworth (English-American), *The Day of Doom*

John Winthrop (English-American), *A Model of Christian Charity*

William Wordsworth (English), *The Complete Poetical Works of William Wordsworth*

Johann David Wyss (Swiss), *The Swiss Family Robinson**

Edward Young (English), *The Complaint: or, Night-Thoughts on Life, Death, & Immortality*

“Therefore truth, wheresoever we find it, is ours. We may read [a] heathen author. Truth comes from God, wheresoever we find it, and it is ours, it is the church's. ... Therefore with a good conscience we may make use of any human author. I thought good to touch this, because some make a scruple of it.”

– Richard Sibbes

“In reading profane authors, the admirable light of truth displayed in them should remind us that the human mind, however much fallen and perverted from its original integrity, is still adorned and invested with admirable gifts from its Creator. If we reflect that the Spirit of God is the only fountain of truth, we will be careful...not to reject or condemn truth wherever it appears.”

– John Calvin

“Calvinism, on the contrary, has taught us that all liberal arts are gifts which God imparts promiscuously to believers and to unbelievers, yea, that, as history shows, these gifts have flourished even in a larger measure outside the holy circle.”

– Abraham Kuyper

Classic & Historical Literature

Joseph Addison (English), *Cato, A Tragedy*

Aeschylus (Greek), *Seven against Thebes*

Aesop (Greek), *Aesop's Fables*

Hans Christian Anderson (Danish), *Fairy Tales*

Ludovico Ariosto (Italian), *Orlando Furioso*

Aristotle (Greek), *The Politics; Poetics; Nicomachean Ethics*

Matthew Arnold (English), *Dover Beach**

Marcus Aurelius (Roman), *Meditations*

Jane Austen (English), *Pride and Prejudice*

R. M. Ballantyne (Scottish), *The Coral Island*

James M. Barrie (Scottish), *Peter Pan*

L. Frank Baum (American), *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

John Bierman (English), *Righteous Gentile: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg, Missing Hero of
the Holocaust*

William Blake (English), *The Complete Poetry & Prose of William Blake*

James Boswell (Scottish), *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*

Charlotte Brontë (English), *Jane Eyre*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (English), *Sonnets from the Portuguese*

Thomas Bulfinch (American), ed., *The Age of Fable, or, Beauties of Mythology*

Robert Burns (Scottish), *The Complete Works of Robert Burns*

Edgar Rice Burroughs (American), *Tarzan of the Apes*

George Gordon Byron (English), *Complete Poetical Works*

Lester J. Cappon (American), ed., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters: The Complete Correspondence
Between Thomas Jefferson and Abigail and John Adams*

Miguel de Cervantes (Spanish), *Don Quixote*

Geoffrey Chaucer (English), *The Canterbury Tales*

Marcus Tullius Cicero (Roman), *The Complete Works of Marcus Tullius Cicero*

Agatha Christie (English), *Witness for the Prosecution*

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) (American), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; The Prince and the Pauper; A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

John Amos Comenius (Czech), *Orbis Pictus*

Charles Darwin (English), *On the Origin of Species*

Charles Dickens (English), *A Christmas Carol*

Emily Dickinson (American), *Complete Poems*

Mary Mapes Dodge (American), *Hans Brinker; or, the Silver Skates: A Story of Life in Holland*

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) (English), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Russian), *Crime and Punishment; The Brothers Karamazov*

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (English), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

Alexandre Dumas, père (French), *The Count of Monte Cristo; The Three Musketeers; The Vicomte of Bragelonne: Ten Years Later; La Reine Margot*

T.S. Eliot (English-American), *Murder in the Cathedral*

Edward FitzGerald (English), ed. and trans., *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*

C.S. Forester (English), *The African Queen; the Hornblower novels*

Anne Frank (German-Dutch), *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*

Benjamin Franklin (American), *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

Robert Frost (American), *The Poetry of Robert Frost: The Collected Poems, Complete and Unabridged*

Edward Gibbon (English), *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

Khalil Gibran (Lebanese-American), *The Prophet*

Sir W.S. Gilbert (English), *The Pirates of Penzance; The Mikado; H.M.S. Pinafore*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (German), *Faust*

William Goldman (American), *The Princess Bride*

Jacob (German) and **Wilhelm Grimm** (German), *Grimm's Fairy Tales*

Marguerite Henry (American), *Misty of Chincoteague*

G.A. Henty (English), *Complete Works*

James Herriot (English), *All Creatures Great and Small**

Herodotus (Greek), *The History*

Thor Heyerdahl (Norwegian), *Kon-Tiki*

Adolf Hitler (German), *Mein Kampf*

Homer (Greek), *The Iliad; The Odyssey*

Horace (Roman), *The Art of Poetry*

Victor Hugo (French), *Les Misérables; The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

Washington Irving (American), *Rip Van Winkle; The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

Samuel Johnson (English), *Lives of the Most Eminent English Poets*

John Keats (English), *The Complete Poems of John Keats*

Rudyard Kipling (English), *The Jungle Book*

Charles Lamb (English), *The Complete Works in Prose and Verse of Charles Lamb*

Harper Lee (American), *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Madeleine L'Engle (American), *A Wrinkle in Time*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (American), *A Psalm of Life; The Courtship of Miles Standish; Paul Revere's Ride; The Song of Hiawatha*

Carlo Lorenzini (Carlo Collodi) (Italian), *The Adventures of Pinocchio*

Malcolm C. Lyons () and Ursula Lyons (), eds., *The Arabian Nights*

James Alexander Mackay (Scottish), *William Wallace: Braveheart*

Sir Thomas Mallory (English), *Le Morte d'Arthur*

Karl Marx (German) and **Friedrich Engels** (German), *The Communist Manifesto*

Giacomo Meyerbeer (German), *Les Huguenots*

A.A. Milne (English), *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Charles L.C. Minor (American), *The Real Lincoln*

Margaret Mitchell (American), *Gone With the Wind*

Lucy Maud Montgomery (Canadian), *Anne of Green Gables*

Baroness Emma Orczy (Hungarian-English), *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

George Orwell (English), *Animal Farm*

Charles Perrault (French), *The Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault*

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch) (Italian), *Il Canzoniere*

Plato (Greek), *The Republic*

Pliny the Elder (Roman), *The Natural History*

Edgar Allan Poe (American), *Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*

Marco Polo (Italian) and **Rustichello da Pisa** (Italian), *Il Milione (The Travels of Marco Polo)*
Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (Molière) (French), *The Misanthrope; The Miser*
John Remsburg (American), *Six Historic Americans: Were They Christians?*
Rainer Maria Rilke (Czech-Austrian), *Complete Works*
Edmond Eugène Alexis Rostand (French), *Cyrano de Bergerac*
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (French), *The Little Prince*
Friedrich Schiller (German), *William Tell*
Seneca the Younger (Roman), *Moral Epistles*
William Shakespeare (English), *The Complete Plays of William Shakespeare*
George Bernard Shaw (Irish), *Pygmalion*
Mary Shelley (English), *Frankenstein*
Sir Philip Sidney (English), *A Defense of Poesie*
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (Russian), *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
Sophocles (Greek), *Antigone*
Edmund Spenser (English), *The Faerie Queene*
Johanna Spyri (Swiss), *Heidi*
Robert Louis Stevenson (Scottish), *The Complete Works of Robert Louis Stevenson*
Jonathan Swift (Irish), *Gulliver's Travels*
Alfred Tennyson (English), *Collected Works*
J.R.R. Tolkien (English), *The Hobbit; The Lord of the Rings**
Leo Tolstoy (Russian), *War and Peace; Anna Karenina; The Death of Ivan Ilyich*
Pamela Lyndon Travers (Australian-British), *Mary Poppins*
Leon Uris (American), *Exodus**
Jules Verne (French), *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea; A Journey to the Center of the Earth; Around the World in 80 Days*
Virgil (Roman), *The Aeneid*
Elie Wiesel (Romanian-American), *Night*
E.B. White (American), *Charlotte's Web*
Laura Ingalls Wilder (American), *Little House on the Prairie* series
Thornton Wilder (American), *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*
Sir P.G. Wodehouse (English), *The Best of Wodehouse: An Anthology*

Herman Wouk (American), *The Caine Mutiny; The Winds of War; War and Remembrance*

Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder (English), *The Complete Poems*

Appendix I

List of resources consulted in the building of this recommended reading list:

1. Mortimer Adler, [*How to Read a Book*](#);
2. The [American Colonist's Library](#);
3. The [suggested Christian library at A Puritan's Mind](#);
4. Richard Baxter's recommended library found in *A Christian Directory*, pp. 731-736, and his [Advice on Reading](#), extracted from the same, pp. 56-57;
5. [The Big Read](#) by the BBC;
6. Joel R. Beeke, *A Reader's Guide to Reformed Literature: An Annotated Bibliography of Reformed Theology*;
7. Joel R. Beeke & Randall J. Pederson, *Meet the Puritans: With a Guide to Modern Reprints*;
8. Edward Bickersteth, [*The Christian Student: Designed to Assist Christians in General in Acquiring Religious Knowledge, With a List of Books Suitable for a Minister's Library*](#);
9. Harold Bloom, *The Western Canon*;
10. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Heinrich Bullinger;
11. Satch Chikhliia's [Book Academy](#)
12. [The Spurgeon Collection](#);
13. [Christian Classics Ethereal Library](#);
14. Clark's *Foreign Theological Library*;
15. The Constitution Society's [Liberty Library of Constitutional Classics](#);
16. Louise Cowan and Os Guinness, *Invitation to the Classics: A Guide to Books You've Always Wanted to Read*; James Darling, *Cyclopaedia Bibliographica: A Library Manual of Theological and General Literature, and Guide to Books for Authors, Preachers, Students and Literary Men. Analytical, Bibliographical, and Biographical*;
17. David Denby, *Great Books*;

18. Isaac D'Israeli, [*Curiosities of Literature*](#);
19. [50 Greatest Christian Classics](#), published by Sovereign Grace Publishers;
a description of Lazarus Seamn's personal library as found in Thomas Frognall
20. Dibdin, [*Bibliomania; or Book-Madness; A Bibliographical Romance*](#);
21. J. Ligon Duncan III, "The Theological Student's Books: Suggestions for Building a Core Library," an appendix to Herman Witsius, *On the Character of a True Theologian*;
22. Easton Press' ["100 Greatest Books Ever Written"](#);
23. Jonathan Edwards, "Catalogue of Books," as well as his Hampshire Association of Ministers' Library, his recommended reading list prepared for Sir William Pepperrell, an inventory of his [personal library](#), and the inventory of his father's (Timothy Edwards) library;
24. The Encyclopedia Britannica's [*Great Books of the Western World*](#);
25. The Everyman Library's [list of 100 Essential Books](#);
26. Annie Fields, [*A Shelf of Old Books*](#);
27. Free Church of Scotland, *Proposal for the Foundation and Formation of Libraries in the Manses of the Free Church of Scotland; With a Catalogue of Books, Revised and Recommended by William Cunningham and James Buchanan*;
28. The [study syllabus for ministerial students](#) of Presbytery of the United States in the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing);
29. Franklin Library's ["100 Greatest Books Ever Written"](#);
30. William James Grier, *The Best Books: A Guide to Christian Literature*; Henry Hallam, *An Introduction to the Literature of Europe in the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Centuries*; James Hamilton, *Our Christian Classics: Readings from the Best Divines, With Notices Biographical and Critical*;
31. The [Harvard Classics](#);
32. William Carew Hazlitt, [*The Book Collector: A General Survey of the Pursuit and of those who have engaged in it at Home and Abroad from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, With an Account of Public and Private Libraries and Anecdotes of Their Founders or Owners and Remarks on Bookbinding and on Special Copies of Books*](#);

33. Hekman Library's [Post-Reformation Digital Library](#);
34. John Fletcher Hurst, [Literature of Theology: A Classified Bibliography of Theological and General Religious Literature](#);
35. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Thomas Jefferson;
36. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Stonewall Jackson;
37. Kelly M. Kapic & Randall C. Gleason, *The Devoted Life: An Invitation to the Puritan Classics*;
38. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Charles Lamb; John Macleod, *Some Favourite Books*;
39. Hugh Martin, *Great Christian Books*;
40. Robert P. Martin, *A Guide to the Puritans*; "A Catalogue of Books For a Young Student's Library"
41. Various recommended titles in Cotton Mather, *Manuductio Ad Ministerium: Directions For a Candidate of the Ministry*,
42. An inventory of the [Mather family library](#);
43. David L. McKenna, *How to Read a Christian Book*;
44. [Modern Library's Top 100 lists](#); [A Monergism Books Reader's Guide for the Christian Life](#);
45. John Morgan, *Godly Learning: Puritan Attitudes towards Reason, Learning and Education, 1560-1640*;
46. [Thomas Murphy's recommended pastoral library](#) found in [Pastoral Theology; The Pastor in the Various Duties of His Office](#), pp. 144-147;
47. Sir William Robertson Nicoll, [My Father, An Aberdeenshire Minister, 1812-1891](#);
48. [The Online Library of Liberty](#);
49. The Norton Anthologies of American, English, Western and World Literature;
William Orme, [Bibliotheca Biblica: A Select List of Books on Sacred Literature; With Notices, Biographical, Critical, and Bibliographical](#);
50. ["A Man's Library: How Wise Fathers Use Books to Disciple Future Generations,"](#)
extracted from Douglas W. Phillips, *The Little Boy Down the Road: Short Stories and Essays on the Beauty of Family Life*;
51. Tony Reinke's series on [The Puritan Study](#) (I look forward to the forthcoming

- publication of Tony Reinke's *Lit! A Christian Guide to Reading Books*);
the chapter on “Education” in Leland Ryken, *Worldly Saints: The Puritans As They Really Were*;
52. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Thomas Shepard, his son and his grandson;
 53. Thomas Smyth’s personal library as described in his [Autobiographical Notes, Letters and Reflections](#);
 54. Charles H. Spurgeon, [Commenting and Commentaries](#), and the inventory of his [personal library](#);
 55. The [St. John's College Reading List](#);
 56. Derek Thomas & John W. Tweeddale, *The Essential Commentaries for a Preacher's Library*;
 57. Gene Edward Veith, *Reading Between the Lines: A Christian Guide to Literature*;
 58. Andrew Finlay Walls, *A Guide to Christian Reading: A Classified List of Selected Books*;
 59. John Wesley's [A Christian Library](#);
 60. The program guide for the Masters of Arts in Religion at Whitefield Theological Seminary
 61. An inventory of the [personal library](#) of Michael Wigglesworth;
 62. Thomas Goddard Wright, [Literary Culture in Early New England, 1620-1730](#);
 63. Yale University’s [Directed Studies program](#);
 64. An earlier blog post of mine on '[favorite books](#)', as well as Puritan reading lists prepared by a friend, and myself, along with other sources.

Appendix II

The above recommended reading lists are limited to works that are in English (whether so written or translated), but there is a world of quality literature in other languages which this list could not begin to address in its scope. Here is a broader recommended list of other works not yet translated into English:

Johann Heinrich Heidegger (Swiss), *Corpus theologiae christianae*

Various works in Latin and German by **Ulrich Zwingli** (Swiss)

Emilé Doumergue (French), *Jean Calvin* (French) and *L'art et le sentiment dans l'oeuvre de Calvin* (French)

Leon Wencelius (French-American), *L'esthétique de Calvin* (French) and *Calvin et Rembrandt* (French);

Jean Crespin (French), *Histoire des Martyrs* (French);

Antoine Court (French), *Histoire des troubles des Cévennes ou de la guerre des Camisards*;

Samuel Bochart (French), *Geographia Sacra seu Phaleg et Canaan* (Latin) and *Hierozoicon sive bipartitum opus de animalibus sacrae scripturae* (Latin);

The exegetical writings (Latin) of **André Rivet** (French), as well his *Instruction du Prince Chrétien* (French);

John Calvin (French-Swiss), *Defensio orthodoxae fidei de sacra Trinitate contra prodigiosos errores Michaelis Serveti*;

Guido de Brès (Walloon), *La Racine, source et fondement des anabaptistes* (French) and *Le Baston de la foy chrestienne* (French);

Samuel Des Marets (Maresius) (French-Dutch), *Systema Theologiae* and *Collegium Theologicum sive Systema Breve Universae Theologiae*; **Gisbertus Voetius** (Dutch), *Politica Ecclesiastica* (Latin), *Selectarum disputationum theologiarum* (Latin); *Ta Asketika sive Exercitia Pietatis* (Latin), *Exercitia et Bibliotheca studiosi theologae* (Latin), *Proeve van de Cracht der Godsalichheydt* (Dutch), and *Meditatie van de Ware Practijcke der Godsalichheydt of der goede Wercken* (Dutch);

Johannes Cloppenburg (Dutch), *Theologica Opera Omnia*;

Johannes à Marck (Dutch), *Christianæ Theologiæ Medulla Didaetico-Elenetica* (Latin);

Bernhardinus de Moor (Dutch), *Commentarius perpetuus in Johannis Marckii Compendium theologiæ Christianæ didactico-elencticum I-VII* (Latin)

The commentary (Dutch) of **Godefridus Udemans** (Dutch) on the Song of Songs, as well as *Practijcke, dat is werckelijcke Oeffeninge vande Christelicke hoofdeuchden, geloove, hope en liefde* (Dutch)

Abraham Kuyper (Dutch), *De Gemeene Gratie* (Dutch)

The poetry (Dutch) of **Isaac da Costa** (Dutch), as well as his *Israel en de Volken* (Dutch)

The poetic works of **Jan Jakob Lodewijk ten Kate** (Dutch), and his *Christelijke Overdenkingen* (Dutch);

Johannes Hoornbeek (Dutch), *Summa Controversiarum Religionis* (Latin), *Heyliginghe van Godts name en dagh* (Dutch) and *Theologica practica* (Latin);

Jacobus Koelman (Dutch), *Res Judicata* (Dutch) and *Punten van Nodige Reformatie* (Dutch); **Simon Oomius** (Dutch), *Institutiones theologiæ practica*;

Willem Teellinck (Dutch), *Sleutel der Devotie openende de Deure des Hemels voor ons* (Dutch) and *De Rusttijdt, ofte Tractaet van d'onderhoudinge des Christelijcke Rustdachs, diemen gemeynlijck den Sondach Noemt* (Dutch);

Wilhelmus à Brakel (Dutch)'s commentary on Revelation (Dutch) in *The Christian's Reasonable Service*;

Campegius Vitringa the Elder (Dutch)'s commentaries on Isaiah and Revelation (Latin); and a good portion of the *Corpus Reformatorum*;

As well as other invaluable works either already translated in part or which are planned to be or are actually in the process of being translated and published such as **John Brown of Wamphray** (Scottish), *De causa Dei contra antisabbatarios (De causa Dei adversus Anti-Sabbatario)* (Latin);

David Calderwood (Scottish), *Altare Damascenum* (Latin);

John Sharp (Scottish-French), *Cursus Theologicus* (Latin);

Samuel Rutherford (Scottish), *Examen Arminianismi* (Latin);

Oliver Bowles (English), *De Pastore Evangelico Tractatus* (Latin);

Petrus Van Mastricht (Dutch) *Theoretica-Practica Theologia* (Latin);

Johannes Polyander (Walloon), **André Rivet** (French), **Antonius Walaeus** (Walloon),
and **Antonius Thysius** (Walloon), *Synopsis Purioris Theologiae* (Latin);

Abraham Kuyper (Dutch), *Pro Rege of het Koningschap van Christus*;

Select works (Latin) at the Peter Martyr Library by **Peter Martyr** (Italian);

Francis Turretin (Swiss-Italian), *Disputationes* (Latin);

Pierre Viret (Swiss), *Instruction Chrestienne* (French);

Peter Lombard (Italian-French), *The Four Books of Sentences*;

Theodore Beza (French-Swiss), *De Haereticis A Civili Magistratu Puniendis Libellus*
(Latin);

The correspondence (Latin) of **Joseph Justus Scaliger** (French);

Amandus Polanus (German) *Syntagma theologiae Christianae* (Latin);

Johannes Andreas Quenstedt (German), *Theologia didactico-polemica sive systema
theologicum*;

The commentary of **David Pareus** (German) on Romans (Latin);

Matthew Poole (English) *Synopsis Criticorum* (Latin);

The ongoing translation work of **James T. Dennison, Jr.** (American), ed., *Reformed
Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries*.