

## **Bring the Books Mark Sweetnam**

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments (2 Tim. 4:13).

These 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).

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21).

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Heb. 5:14).

### **The Fathers**

Important to note how quickly error infiltrates Christianity – apostles all expected (or saw) it before they died (cf. Acts 20:29, 2 Tim. 3:1–9, 4:2–4, 2 Pet. 2:1–3).

Therefore we need to be very careful about relying on the Fathers

Ante-Nicene Fathers (up to 325 AD)/[post-Nicene Fathers

- Apostolic Fathers
- Rise of Gnosticism (2<sup>nd</sup> century), Marcionism, Montanism
- Apologists
- Anti-Gnostic Fathers
- Alexandrian Fathers

Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*

**Medieval Period** – Though the idea of ‘the dark ages’ is now hotly contested, very little in the way of Christian literature has survived

**Reformation** and print – an outstanding example of Providence – print, which replaced manuscript circulation, allowed the teachings of the reformers to spread rapidly across Europe (see Andrew Pettegree, *Brand Luther*).

Lots of books produced across Europe – and in England

Tyndale – Bible translation and *The Obedience of a Christian man*  
John Foxe, *The Acts and Monuments* – <https://www.dhi.ac.uk/foxe/>

Anne Locke, ‘A Meditation of a Penitent Sinner’ (paraphrase of Ps. 51)  
Philip and Mary Sidney,  
George Herbert, *The Temple*

Samuel Rutherford, *Letters*  
(‘In Emmanuel’s land – Anne Ross Cousins,

'when we are dead and gone let the world know that Spurgeon held Rutherford's Letters to be the nearest thing to inspiration which can be found in all the writings of mere men' CHS

John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*

Puritans – Richard Baxter, Richard Sibbes ('the sweet dropper')

C.H. Spurgeon (1834–1892), *Lectures to my Students, Sermons, Treasury of David*

### **'Early brethren'**

JND Synopsis of the Bible

William Kelly

C.H. Mackintosh – *Notes on the Pentateuch*

J.G. Bellett

- *The Moral Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ*
- *Gospels, Minor Prophets*

Henty William Soltau (1805-1875)

*The Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and the Offerings*

*The Holy Vessels and Furniture of the Tabernacle of Israel*

### **Anglican scholars:**

Henry Alford (1810-1871)

B.F. Westcott (1825-1901) esp John and Hebrews

J.B. Lightfoot (1828-1889)

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900) *Expository Thoughts* on the gospels

Handley Moule (1841-1920) 2 Timothy

***The Fundamentals A Testimony To The Truth*** published between 1910 and 1915

Including G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)

A.T. Pierson (1837-1911)

B.B. Warfield (1851-1921) Princeton Seminary – *The Divine Origin of the Bible, The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*

C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*

### **Twentieth-Century 'Brethren'**

John Ritchie (1853–1930) – *Egypt to Canaan, The Tabernacle, The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus*

W.E. Vine (1873–1949) – *Expository Dictionary, Collected Writings*

H.A. Ironside (1876-1951)

F.A. Tatford

William MacDonald (1917–2007)

Albert McShane, Tom Bentley, Jim Flanigan, Phil Harding, John Stubbs, David Gooding...

## Building a Basic Library

Useful resources – most of these sites include a wide range of material and so should be used with circumspection:

- STEM Publishing: <https://www.stempublishing.com>
- [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
- <https://www.brethrenarchive.org/>
- *The Christian Classics Ethereal Library* (<https://www.ccel.org/>)
- *StudyLight* ([www.studylight.com](http://www.studylight.com))

### Overviews

- D.E. Hiebert, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (3 vols in 1)
- John Phillips, *Exploring the Scriptures*
- David Gooding, John Lennox, *Key Bible Concepts*
- William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*

### Language/Dictionaries

- *Blueletter Bible* ([www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org))
- *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*

### Bible Study Guides

- John Phillips, *Bible Explorer's Guide*
- Jack Hay, *A Simple Guide to Bible Study*

### Commentaries and Commentators

- John Phillips, *Exploring...*
- H.A. Ironside
- *What the Bible Teaches*

- Robert G. Gromacki
- John Riddle
- John Stott
- D.E. Hiebert
- William Kelly

- David Gooding

### Typology

- John Ritchie, *The Tabernacle*
- J. Flanigan, *Christ in the Levitical Offerings*
- J.H. Kurtz, *Offerings, Sacrifices and Worship in the Old Testament*
- T.Ernest Wilson, *Blood Sacrifices of the Old Testament*

### Character Studies

- F.B. Meyer, *Elijah, John the Baptist, Abraham, Moses, Joshua*, etc
- Ritchie Character Studies series

### **Prophecy**

- J.D. Pentecost, *To the Day of Eternity*
- Mark Sweetnam, *The Dispensations*
- Mark Sweetnam, *To the Day of Eternity*
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### **Church Truth**

- Norman Crawford, *Gathering to His Name*
- William Hoste, *Bishops, Priests and Deacons*
- Mark Sweetnam, *There am I*

### **Poetry**

- Frances Bevan, *Hymns of Ter Steegen, Suso, and Others*, (<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/bevan/tersteegen.html>)
- William Blane, *Lays of Life and Hope*
- I.Y. Ewan, *The Caravanserai*
- J.M.S Tait, *Bells and Pomegranates*

### **Biography**

- Andrew Bonar, *The Biography of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*
- Dan Crawford, *Thinking Black*
- Richard Day, *The Shadow of the Broad Brim*
- Elisabeth Elliot, *Through Gates of Splendor*
- Frederick Howard Taylor, *Hudson Taylor in Early Years: The Growth of a Soul.*
- Frederick Howard Taylor, *Hudson Taylor and The China Inland Mission: The Growth of a Work of God.*
- William Williams, *It Can Be Done!*
- Assorted biographies by John Pollock