

Joined with a Long and Happy Band

I. Why is this band of preachers so happy?

A. Consider a key Biblical text.

- “Wherefore I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;”
Ephesians 3:7-8

1. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because God has graciously given us the privilege to preach.

- “As he reflects on his commission to be Christ’s missionary to the Gentiles Paul is filled with amazement at the extraordinary privilege that has been given to him. Using a very striking expression in which he neither indulges in hypocrisy nor grovels in self-depreciation, he indicates how deeply conscious he is of his own unworthiness and of Christ’s overflowing grace to him:” – O’Brien, *The Letter to the Ephesians*, p. 240.

2. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because God graciously gives us the power to preach.

- “That Paul was made a minister of the gospel is an evidence of grace, but that he was given a gift of grace that enables him to perform the duties of ministry is further evidence of God’s unmerited favor toward his servant Paul.” – Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 450.

3. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because God has graciously given us a priceless message to preach.

- “The ‘unsearchable riches of Christ’ are the fullness of the Godhead, the plenitude of all divine glories and perfections which dwell on him; the fullness of grace to pardon, to sanctify and save; everything, in short, which renders him the satisfying portion of the soul.” – Hodge, *A Commentary on Ephesians*, p. 116.

B. Consider some historical reasons preachers have counted the preaching of the Gospel to be an incredible privilege.

1. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because it is a sacred and solemn task.

- “I have never once feared the devil, but I tremble every time I enter the pulpit.” – John Knox as quoted by Steven J. Lawson, *Famine in the Land*, p. 94.
- “O brethren did I not say that the place where a minister stands is the most solemn spot in all this world?” – Robert M’Cheyne as quoted in Andrew Bonar’s *Memoirs and Remains of the Rev. R.M. M’Cheyne*, p. 359.
- “The character of a minister of the Gospel is the highest character on earth. It is no less than that of the Ambassador of God commissioned to negotiate with sinful man concerning the great article of their salvation. We, therefore, as if God himself entreated sinners by us, beseech them to be reconciled to God.” – A letter from William Carey to his son Jabez, February 20, 1821 in *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*. ed. Terry G. Carter, p. 254.

2. Preaching the gospel is an incredible privilege because it is the highest calling a man can receive.

- “The highest service that men may attain to on earth is to preach the Word of God.” – John Wycliffe, as quoted in John Stott’s *Between Two Worlds*, p. 22.
- “To serve the Word is to fulfill the highest function of which man is capable. Let those called to its holy privilege, halt in awe, worship in wonder, and go forward with glad confidence.” G. Campbell Morgan, *The Ministry of the Word*, p. 58.
- In 1927 Dr. Lloyd-Jones gave up his medical profession and a salary of more than £3,500 per year to become the minister to a poor congregation in Wales where he would make £225 a year. When asked about this decision, he only said, “I gave up nothing, I received everything. I count it the highest honour that God can confer on any man to call him to be a herald of the gospel.”(John Brencher, *Martyn*

Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) and Twentieth-Century Evangelicalism. p. 13;
Iain Murray, *The First Forty Years 1899-1939*, p. 150.

- “There is not a greater task a man can perform in the whole world than this, that he is being used to release the all-searching Word of God upon a company of needy souls. It is the most amazing thing. It works!”
– William Still, *The Work of the Pastor*. p. 36.
- “You are engaged in a glorious service. God has put great renown upon you. He has entrusted you with two most precious jewels, his truths and the souls of his people. Never was this honour conferred upon any angel to convert souls! What princely dignity can parallel this? The pulpit is higher than the throne, for a truly constituted minister represents no less than God himself. ‘As though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God’ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Give me leave to say as the apostle, ‘I magnify my office’ (Romans 11:13). Whatever our persons are, the office is sacred. The ministry is the most honourable employment in the world.”
Thomas Watson in *Beatitudes: An Exposition of Matthew 5:1-12*. p. 6.

3. Preaching the gospel is an incredible privilege because it provides great blessings to us personally.

- “Every true preacher of the gospel will have to thank God that he has been permitted to preach. I do not know how my soul would have been kept alive if it had not been for the searching of Scripture, the prayer, the faith, and the joy which preaching has involved. Though it may be true that professional familiarity with sacred things is apt to breed a want of personal enjoyment in them, I do not find it so. To me it is a great blessing to have to prepare for preaching; often the best means of grace to my own soul are the groaning, the pleading, the meditation, and the communion needed for the selection of the right subject upon which to feed your souls. Preachers ought to grow in grace, for their very calling places them at a great advantage, since they are bound to search the Scriptures, and to be much in prayer. It is a choice mercy to be permitted to preach the gospel.” – Charles Spurgeon – in a sermon preached on December 27, 1874, MTP #1209, p. 886.

- “The effect of preaching on one’s health is quite remarkable. . . . However weak and jaded you may be when you enter your pulpit you may come out an entirely different man.” – Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, p. 298.
- “What a wonderful place God’s house is. Often you will find deliverance by merely coming into it. Many a time have I thanked God for His house. I thank God that He has ordained that His people should meet together in companies, and worship together. The house of God has delivered me from ‘the mumps and measles of the soul’ a thousand times and more—merely to enter its doors.” – Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Faith on Trial*, p. 39

4. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we get to proclaim the good news of salvation.

- “The Apostle Paul felt it to be a great privilege to be allowed to preach the gospel. He did not look on his calling as a drudgery, or a servitude, but he entered upon it with intense delight. All God’s truly-sent servants have experienced much delight in the declaration of the gospel of Jesus; and it is natural that they should, for their message is one of mercy and love Heralds of salvation, ye carry the most joyful of all messages to the sons of men!” – Charles Spurgeon, in a sermon preached on April 14, 1867, MTP #745, p. 250.
- “This day I preached . . . and tho our congregation did not exceed Sixteen yet the pleasure that I felt in having my tongue once more loosed I can hardly describe—was enabled to be faithful, and felt a sweet affection for immortal Souls” – *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*, ed. Terry G. Carter, p. 33.

5. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we get to devote our time to the study of the Word.

- “What an excellent privilege is it, to live in studying and preaching Christ! To be continually searching into his mysteries, or feeding on them! To be daily employed in the consideration of the blessed nature, works, and ways of God! Others are glad of the leisure of the Lord’s

day, and now and then of an hour besides when they can lay hold upon it. But we may keep a continual Sabbath. We may do almost nothing else, but study and talk of God and glory, and engage in acts of prayer and praise, and drink in his sacred, saving truths.” – Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*, p. 128.

- “I like to think of the minister as only one of the congregation set apart by the rest for a particular purpose. They say to him: Look, brother, we are very busy with our daily toils, and confused with cares, but we eagerly long for peace and light to illuminate our life, and we have heard there is a land where these are to be found, a land of repose and joy, full of thoughts that breathe and words that burn, but we cannot go thither ourselves. We are too embroiled in daily cares. Come, we will elect you, and set you free from toil, and you shall go thither for us, and week by week trade with that land and bring us its treasures and spoils.” – James Stalker, *The Preacher and His Models*, p. 282.

6. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we are loved by our people.

- “My people – I never knew before how much they loved me. I am amazed to see what an interest God has given me in the affections of his people, and even of sinners.” – *The Complete Works of Edward Payson*, Vol. 1, p. 303.
- “If love is the best thing in the world, then the faithful pastor gets more of the earth’s richest treasure than any other man.” – Charles Jefferson, *The Minister as Shepherd*, p. 131.
- “Rich indeed, and heart-gladdening is ‘the consolation in Christ, the comfort of love, the fellowship of the Spirit,’ which we enjoy in communion with a flock, to whom God has owned our labours. In this love—the most touching love that this world affords—we find a full compensation for the scorn of an ungodly world, and the secret spring of many an hour of support and enjoyment, by which we are carried forward in our painful course.” – Charles Bridges, *The Christian Minister*, p. 20.

- “My own experience has taught me that he who is called to the Christian ministry lays his fingers on the quivering heartstrings of men’s deepest emotions; and he who has tasted the poignant raptures of the ministry would not be anything but a minister for all the gold of the Indies.” – F.W. Boreham, *A Pathway of Roses*, p. 92.
- “The trials of a faithful minister are neither few nor small. His work is great; he is sure to meet with enemies and discouragements. He travails in birth for souls (Galatians 4:19); he is pained by the opposition of the wicked, the inconstancy of the wavering, and the inconsistency of many who make profession of the truth. He feels many anxieties for those who are enquiring the way to the Kingdom, lest they should be turned aside and hindered; and too often the hopes he had indulged, of some who discovered a concern for religion, are disappointed. His inward conflicts are many. He often walks in much weakness, fear, and trembling (I Corinthians 2:3). When he considers what he is, what he ought to be, and what he has to do, he is often distressed, afraid, and ashamed, and unable to speak. His path is spread with snares, his heart wounded with temptations. But his judicious hearers have some knowledge of what he endures for their sakes, and in their service; they love him, pity him, and pray for him, and their kind attention comforts him under all his tribulations.” – A sermon of John Newton, “The Gospel Message of Glad Tidings” (Romans 10:15) *The Works of the Rev. John Newton*, vol. 4, pp. 355-356.

7. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we are following in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior.

- “The grand work of the minister, in which he is to lay out his strength of body and mind, is preaching. Weak and foolish as it may appear, this is the grand instrument which God has put into our hands, by which sinners are saved, and saints fitted for glory. . . . It was to this our blessed Lord devoted the years of his own ministry. Oh! What an honour has he put upon this work, by preaching in the synagogues, in the temple, and by the blue waves of Galilee, under the canopy of heaven. Has he not consecrated this world as preaching ground?” – M’Cheyne quoted in Andrew Bonar’s *Memoirs and Remains of the Rev. R.M. M’Cheyne*, pp. 359-360.

- “Jesus Christ has graced this calling by his entering into it. Other men work in their trade; ministers work with God. ‘We are labourers together with God’ (1 Corinthians 3:9). O high honour! God and his ministers have one and the same work. They both negotiate about souls. Let the sons of the prophets wear this as their crown and diadem.” – Thomas Watson in *Beatitudes: An Exposition of Matthew 5:1-12*. p. 6.
- “God had only one son, and he made him a minister.” – Thomas Goodwin, as quoted by Charles Jefferson in *The Minister as Prophet*, p. 38.

8. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we are working for Christ.

- “How cheering is this recollection of our office, as the ordinance of Christ, and as the standing proof of his love to his Church! For will he not honour his own institution, and secure its appointed end, in the glory of his name and the prosperity of his Church? Will not he that sent us furnish us for our work?” – Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry*, p. 18.
- “I must conclude with the remark that it is a very delightful thing to feel that all the work we are doing is Jesus Christ’s work. All the sheep we have to shepherd are His sheep; the souls we have to bring to Him were bought with His blood; the spiritual house that is to be built is for His habitation. It is all His. I delight in working for my Lord and Master, because I feel a blessed community of interests in Him.” – C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry*, pp. 87-88.
- “Oh, if ministers only saw the inconceivable glory that is before them, and the preciousness of Christ, they would not be able to refrain from going about, leaping and clapping their hands for joy, and exclaiming, I’m a minister of Christ! I’m a minister of Christ!” - A letter from Edward Payson to a fellow minister, *The Complete Works of Edward Payson*, Vol. 1, p. 406.

9. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we never know what God is going to do when we preach.

- “I often say that the most romantic place on earth is the pulpit. I ascend the pulpit stairs Sunday after Sunday; I never know what is going to happen. I confess that sometimes for various reasons I come expecting nothing; but suddenly power is given. At other times I think I have a great deal because of my preparation; but, alas, I find there is no power in it.” – Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression*, pp. 299-300.
- “What one had never thought of, or even imagined, suddenly happens in the pulpit while one is actually preaching, and one is left with a sense of amazement, gratitude and unspeakable joy. There is nothing like it.” – Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, p. 299.

10. Preaching the Gospel is an incredible privilege because we are and will be rewarded for our labor.

- “To see His name made precious to the hearts of sinners; to see those who were blind admiring His excellence; to see those who were so far off from God brought so nigh; to see those who were wretched, rejoicing in His goodness; to hear those whose lips were filled with folly, falsehood, or blasphemy, proclaiming His praise. Such salutary effects of their ministry fill them likewise with praise and joy. And when their hearers express the power and spirit of the Gospel, in their tempers and conduct, they can say, Now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord (I Thessalonians 3:8).” – A sermon of John Newton, “The Gospel Message of Glad Tidings” (Romans 10:15) in *The Works of the Rev. John Newton*, vol. 4, p 352.
- “Certainly if angels in heaven rejoice at the conversion of a sinner (Luke 15: 7, 10), how shall that minister rejoice in heaven over every soul that he has been instrumental to convert! As it shall add a member to Christ’s body, so a jewel to a minister’s crown.” – Thomas Watson in *Beatitudes: An Exposition of Matthew 5:1-12*. p. 6.
- “The smallest work done for Jesus Christ last forever, whether it abides in men’s memories or no,” – Alexander Maclaren, *Colossians*, p. 37.

- “May you and I, my dear Jabez, always keep in view our character, our obligations, and our vast responsibility and let us spend and be spent for God. Our reward is on high and God will acknowledge at last those who faithfully labour for him here.” – A letter from William Carey to his son Jabez, February 20, 1821, *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*, ed. Terry G. Carter, p. 254.

II. In what ways are we joined with this long and happy band of preachers?

A. We are not joined to preachers of the past by “apostolic succession.”

B. We are joined to preachers of the past through our ministerial mentors both immediate and distant.

1. Biblical paradigms

a. Elijah to Elisha – II Kings 2:1-15

b. Paul to Timothy – I Timothy 1:18; II Timothy 1:13; 2:2

2. Historical paradigms

a. John Ryland Jr. was greatly influenced by John Newton.

- *Wise Council: John Newton’s Letters to John Ryland Jr.*

b. John Sutcliff was greatly influenced by Jonathan Edwards.

- “Sutcliff ‘drank deeply’ from the well of Edwards’ theology and subsequently played a vital role in passing on the riches of Edwards to Andrew Fuller,” – Michael Haykin, *One Heart and One Soul*, p. 13. (See also pp. 55, 154, 163.)

c. Charles Spurgeon was greatly influenced by John Bunyan and George Whitefield.

- Spurgeon read Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* over one hundred times. – Drummond, *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers*, p. 13.

- “There is no end to the interest that attaches to such a man as George Whitefield. Often as I have read his life, I am conscious of a distant quickening whenever I turn to it. He lived, other men seemed only to be half alive: but Whitefield was all life, fire . . . My own model, if I may have such a thing in due

subordination to my Lord, is George Whitefield; but with unequal footsteps must I follow in his glorious track.” — Charles H. Spurgeon as quoted in W.Y. Fullerton’s Biography, p. 75.

d. Alexander Whyte was greatly influenced by Thomas Goodwin.

- “During my succeeding years as a student, and as a young minister, I carried about of volume of Goodwin with me wherever I went. I read him in railway carriages and on steamboats. I read him at home and abroad . . . I have read no author so much or so often.” — *The Life of Alexander Whyte*, pp. 117-118.

e. Martyn Lloyd-Jones was greatly influenced by George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards.

- “It was Whitefield especially who caused him to see the distinction between what is preached and the act of preaching.” — Tony Sargent, *The Sacred Anointing*, p. 33.
- “It was . . . quite by accident, that I found the two volumes of the complete works of Jonathan Edwards which I then purchased for five shillings. I was like the man in our Lord’s parable who found a pearl of great price. Their influence upon me I cannot put into words.” — Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Puritans: Their Origins and Successors*, p. 352.

C. We are joined to preachers of the past by nature of the timeless spiritual work that we do.

- 1. We were called by the same God.**
- 2. We preach the same Word.**
- 3. We face the same problems.**
- 4. We proclaim the same Gospel.**

- “Do you remember how when Elijah, his great master, was taken away, Elisha, a much plainer and more ordinary man snatched up the garment that had fallen from him, stood by the Jordan, smote it crying ‘Where is the God of Elijah?’ And he found that He was still there. And you too

will learn that the old power of our fathers knew is still here if you care to use it; and that God is still as much alive and real as in the biggest moments of the past.” – Arthur Gossip, *In Christ’s Stead*, p. 61.

- “There is a second, subsidiary source of the preacher’s authority. This is the testimony of the Christian centuries behind him and of the universal church around him. Not as an isolated, lonely figure, intruding oddly upon the contemporary scene, does he stand in his pulpit to-day. What matter though his sphere of labour be thankless and obscure, and his own gifts and talents meagre and unimpressive? Behind him stand Spurgeon and Liddon and Newman and Chalmers and Baxter and Jeremy Taylor and Latimer and Luther and Francis and Augustine and Chrysostom and Paul. Those who belittle the vocation of the preacher prove the poverty of their own historic imagination: for behind every pulpit from which the word of God is faithfully proclaimed to-day there stretches the august pageant of the gathering ages. It is an immensely thrilling experience to know, when you tell men of Christ the Lord, that your poor words are backed and reinforced by the witness of two thousand years. — James Stewart, *Heralds of God* p. 215-216.

III. How can we better appreciate this long and happy band of preachers with which we are joined?

A. We can read about their lives and ministries.

- “Painters study the lives and works of other painters, and musicians do the same with musicians; but for some reason, preachers ignore their own heritage.” – Warren W. Wiersbe, *In Praise of Plodders!* p. 91.
- “To fail to learn from the pulpit of the past is to impoverish that of the present.” – Tony Sargent, *The Sacred Anointing*, p. 148.

1. We should read biographical sketches.

Beeke, Joel R. And Randall J. Pederson. *Meet the Puritans*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books. 2006. 896 pp.

Larsen, David L. *The Company of the Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications. 1998. 894 pp.

Wiersbe, Warren W. *50 People Every Christian Should Know*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 2009. 398 pp.

2. We should read full length biographies.

Aitken, Jonathan. *John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace*. Wheaton: Crossway Books. 2007, 400 pp

Anderson, Courtney. *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*. Valley Forge, PA.: Judson Press. 1989. 530 pp.

Bainton, Roland H. *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*. New York: Abingdon Press. 1950. 422 pp.

Barbour, G.F. *The Life of Alexander Whyte*. London: Hodder and Stoughton LTD. 1923. 675 pp.

Bonar, Andrew A. *Andrew A. Bonar: Diary and Life*. Ed. Marjory Bonar. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1984, 535 pp.

_____. *Memoir & Remains of Robert Murray M'Cheyne*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1995, 648 pp.

Boreham, F.W. *A Pathway of Roses*. Greenville: Ambassador International. 1994. 253 pp.

Brainerd, David. *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*. ed. Jonathan Edwards. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1992. 384 pp.

Bunyan, John. *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. (Autobiography) Westwood, N.J: Barbour and Co. Inc. 1988. 243 pp.

Carey, S. Pearce. *William Carey*. London: The Wakeman Trust. 1993. 413 pp.

Cook, Faith. *William Grimshaw of Haworth*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1997. 342 pp.

Cummings, Asa. *A Memoir of the Rev. Edward Payson*. New York: American Tract Society. 1830. 454 pp. (This biography is also found in vol. I of *The Complete Works of Edward Payson*.)

Dallimore, Arnold. *George Whitefield: The Life and Times of the Great Evangelist of the 18th century Revival*. (2 vols.) Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust. 1989, 1990. 598, 602 pp.

Dorsett, Lyle. *A Passion for God: The Spiritual Journey of A.W. Tozer*. Chicago: Moody Press. 2008. 189 pp.

Drummond, Lewis. *Spurgeon: Prince of Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications. 1992, 895 pp.

Elliot, Elizabeth. *Shadow of the Almighty: The Life & Testament of Jim Elliot*. San Francisco: Harper & Row. 1989. 256 pp.

Fullerton, W.Y. *No Ordinary Man: The Remarkable Life of F.B. Meyer*. Greenville: Ambassador International. 1993. 223 pp.

Haykin, Michael A. G. *One Heart and One Soul: John Sutcliffe of Olney, His Friends and His Times*. Darlington, England: Evangelical Press. 1994. 431 pp.

McCasland, David. *Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers. 1993. 336 pp.

Marsden, George M. *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2003. 615 pp.

Moody, William R. *The Life of Dwight L. Moody*. Murfreesboro, TN: Sword of the Lord Publishers. n.d. 590 pp.

Morgan, Jill. *A Man of the Word: The Life of G. Campbell Morgan*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co. 1951, 404 pp.

Moule, H.C.G. *Charles Simeon*. London: Inter-Varsity Fellowship. 1952. 192 pp.

Murray, Iain H. *Jonathan Edwards: A New Biography*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1992, 503 pp.

_____. *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: The First Forty Years 1899-1939*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1983. 394 pp.

_____. *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: The Fight of Faith 1939-1981*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1990. 831 pp.

Parker, T. H. L. *John Calvin: A Biography*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. 1975. 190 pp.

Plicher, George William. *Samuel Davies: Apostle of Dissent in Colonial Virginia*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 1971. 227 pp.

Rack, Henry D. *Reasonable Enthusiast: John Wesley and the Rise of Methodism*. London: Epworth Press. 2002. 662 pp.

Russell, Eric. *J.C. Ryle: That man of Granite with the Heat of a Child*. Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications. 2008. 302 pp.

Simpson, Phillip L. *A Life of Gospel Peace: A Biography of Jeremiah Burroughs*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books. 2011. 317 pp.

Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Early Years (Vol. 1), The Full Harvest (Vol. 2)*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1985, 1987. 562, 520 pp.

Taylor, Howard and Geraldine. *The Growth of a Soul: Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission*. Littleton, Co: OMF Books. 1996. 511 pp.

_____. *The Growth of a Work of God: Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission*. Littleton, Co.: OMF Books. 1996. 640 pp.

Tozer, A.W. *Wingspread: Albert B. Simpson—A Study in Spiritual Altitude*. Harrisburg: Christian Publications Inc. 1943. 143 pp.

Van Valen, L. J. *Constrained by His Love: A New Biography on Robert Murray McChesney*. Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications. 2002. 491 pp.

B. We should read their books and sermons.

Carey, William. *The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey*. Ed. Terry G. Carter. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys. 1999. 304 pp.

Chambers, Oswald. *The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers*. Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers. 2000.

Davies, Samuel. *Sermons of the Rev. Samuel Davies. (3 vols.)* Morgan, PA: Soli Deo Gloria Publications. 1995.

Edwards, Jonathan. *Charity and its Fruits*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 1978. 368 pp.

_____. *The Religious Affections*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 2001. 382 pp.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing. 1972. 325 pp.

_____. *Spiritual Depression*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1965. 300 pp.

_____. *The Sermon on the Mount*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1974. 337 pp.

_____. *Revival*. Wheaton: Crossway. 1987. 316 pp.

M'Cheyne, R.M. *From the Preacher's Heart*. Ross-Shire, Britain: Christian Focus Publications. 1993. 536 pp.

M'Cheyne, R.M. *Sermons on Hebrews*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 2004. 195 pp.

Maclaren, Alexander. *Expositions of Holy Scripture (17 vols.)*. Grand Rapids: 1974.

Meyer, F.B. *Old Testament Men of Faith*. Chattanooga: AMG Publishers. 1995. 680 pp.

Morgan, G. Campbell. *The Crises of the Christ*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Co. 1903. 477 pp.

_____. *The Ministry of the Word*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1970. 252 pp.

Newton, John. *Wise Counsel: John Newton's Letters to John Ryland Jr.* Ed. Grand Gordon. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 2011. 411 pp.

Payson, Edward. *The Complete Works of Edward Payson (3 vols.)*. Harrisonburg, VA: Sprinkle Publications. 1987.

Ryle, J. C. *Old Paths*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth. 1999. 521 pp.

_____. *Practical Religion*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth. 1998. 495 pp.

Simeon, Charles. *Expository Outlines on the Whole Bible (originally published Horae Homilecticae)* 21 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1988.

Spurgeon, C. H. *An All-Round Ministry*. Pasadena: Pilgrim Publications. 1983.

_____. *Lectures to My Students*. Pasadena: Pilgrim Publications. 1990.

Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco: Harper Collins. 1961. 120 pp.

_____. *The Pursuit of God*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications. 1948. 128 pp.

Wesley, John. *The Journal of John Wesley*. Chicago: Moody Press. n.d. 438 pp.

Whyte, Alexander. *Lord Teach Us to Pray*. New York: Double, Doran & Co. 1928. 292 pp.

C. We should record and recall their words of wisdom.

- “Your minister may be an anointed bishop, he may be a gowned and hooded doctor, he may be a king’s chaplain, he may be the minister of the largest and richest and the most learned parish in the city, but, unless he strikes terror and pain into your conscience every Sabbath, unless he makes you tremble every Sabbath under the eye and hand of God, he is no true minister to you. “ – Alexander Whyte
- “Do not forget the culture of the inner man—I mean of the heart. How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his sabre clean and sharp; every stain he rubs off with the greatest care. Remember you are God's sword, His instrument—I trust, a chosen vessel unto Him to bear His name. In great measure, according to the purity and perfection of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.” – R.M. M’Cheyne

- 'Tis not for man to trifle—
Life is brief, and sin is here.
Our age is but the falling of a leaf,
A dropping tear.
We have no time to sport away the hours;
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

Not many lives, but only one, have we,
One, only one;
How sacred should that one life ever be!
That narrow span!
Day after day filled up with blessed toil,
Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil. – *Horatius Bonar*

- “Come now, little man, turn aside for a while from your daily employment, escape for a moment from the tumult of your thoughts. Put aside your weighty cares, let your burdensome distractions wait, free yourself awhile for God and rest awhile in him. Enter the inner chamber of your soul, shut out everything except God and that which can help you in seeking him, and when you have shut the door, seek him. Now, my whole heart, say to God: ‘I seek your face, Lord, it is your face I seek.’” - Anselm
- “Any man in the ministry who is frittering his time away, on a hundred trifles, and neglecting the hardworking, sweating preparation for his pulpit, is renegade to his calling.” – G. Campbell Morgan
- “I can forgive the preacher almost anything if he gives me a sense of God, if he gives me something for my soul, if he gives me the sense that though he is inadequate himself, he is handling something which is very great and very glorious, if he gives me some dim glimpse of the majesty and the glory of God, the love of Christ my Savior, and the magnificence of the Gospel.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones