

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Prepared by Character Building Ministries



Far too many Christians do not read or else waste their time reading books that do not encourage spiritual growth. However, the fact that you are looking at this brochure indicates that you want to rise above the level of the ordinary.

1. We want to encourage you to read. One of the best ways to grow as a Christian is to be challenged and encouraged in your faith and practice by other godly Christians through the classic books that they have written. Mature Christians are inevitably readers.

2. We want to encourage you to be selective about what you read. Your time is far too valuable to be wasted on books that don't challenge your spiritual growth biblically. Select classics that address the basic themes of Scripture—the sinfulness of man, the holiness of God, the grace of Christ, and the glorious attraction of the gospel. There will obviously be other books worth reading from time to time, but books outside the realm of these themes will generally not aid your spiritual growth.

These books recommended in this brochure can be ordered from your local Christian bookstore or through these fine distributors:

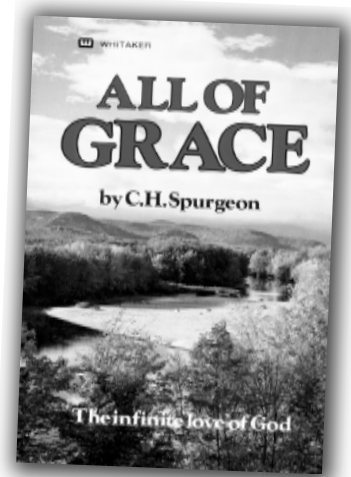
Cumberland Valley Book Service (800) 656-0231
www.cvbbbs.com

Christian Book Distributors (800) 247-4784
www.Christianbook.com

All of Grace

by Charles H. Spurgeon
Whitaker House (New Kensington, PA), 1981

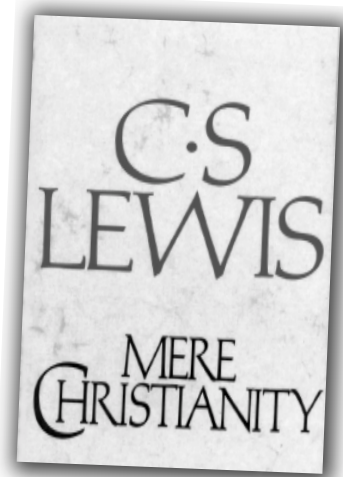
C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) was a popular preacher in London. His collected sermons fill 63 volumes which is the largest set of books by a single author in the history of Christianity. He had preached over 600 times before he was 20 years old, and by 1865 each sermon he preached in the Metropolitan Tabernacle sold 25,000 copies and was translated into 20 languages. *All of Grace* was the first book published by Moody Press and is still their all-time bestseller. In this book Spurgeon outlines the plan of salvation in such clear, simple language that everyone can understand and be drawn to the Master. Any attempt to reach God based upon our own works brings self-righteousness and coldness of heart. It is the free grace and mercy of God that can alone draw the sinner to Christ and can make the heart glow with warmth and thankfulness for God's love. This is one of the best books by one of the greatest Christian preachers on one of the loveliest Christian themes.



Mere Christianity

by C.S. Lewis

Macmillan Publishing Co. (New York, NY), 1943



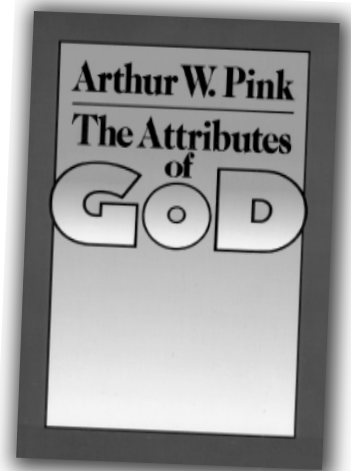
Younger campers will love *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, and older campers will be enchanted by his *Space Trilogy*, but you will benefit greatly in your understanding of Christianity by reading *Mere Christianity*. The renowned Christian apologist shows how the power of Christianity manifests itself in the simple but profound beliefs that a mere Christian holds dear. Christianity is contrasted with atheism, pantheism, Hinduism, and all the other philosophies of the world, and is shown to be superior in every respect. Lewis will always be remembered for laying out so clearly the “shocking alternative.” A man who made the claims that Jesus made could only be one of three things: a lunatic on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg, the very devil of hell, or the Son of God. Here is an intellectual defense of the faith that will move you to worship and to evangelism.

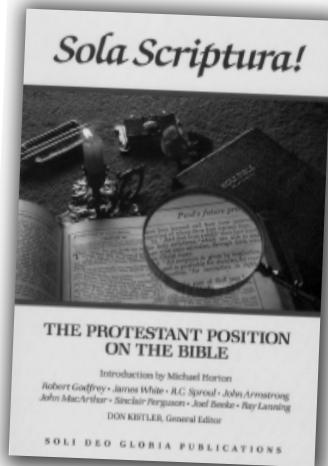
The Attributes of God

by A.W. Pink

Baker Book House
(Grand Rapids, MI), 1975

A.W. Pink (1886-1952) began to read the writings of older authors shortly after his conversion—men like Jonathan Edwards, John Calvin, and Augustine. Thus, there is a depth in his books that is often lacking in contemporary works. This book explains seventeen of God's attributes such as His holiness, sovereignty, power, goodness, grace, wrath, immutability, and supremacy. A.W. Pink writes, “A spiritual and saving knowledge of God is the greatest need of every human creature ... An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshiped.” Whatever you think and know about God, this book will enlarge your understanding and deepen your love to the God you serve.





Sola Scriptura

by Robert Godfrey, James White,
R.C. Sproul, John Armstrong,
John MacArthur, Sinclair Ferguson,
Joel Beeke, & Ray Lanning.

Soli Deo Gloria (Morgan, PA), 1995

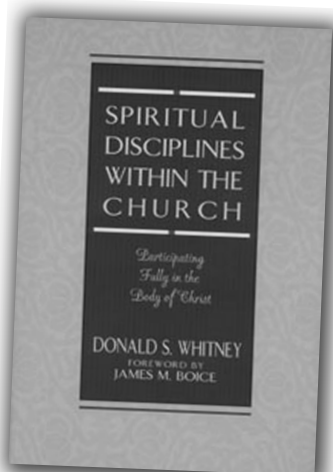
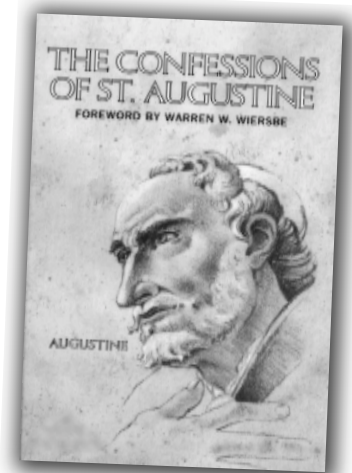
Have you ever wondered what it means to call the Bible the “authoritative Word of God?” Do you know how the Bible came to be as it is? This compilation by many of today’s great evangelical leaders clearly explains the Protestant position on the Scriptures. Nine chapters from nine different theologians give answers to many of the important concerns of the day relating to God’s Word. Among the highlights are when R.C. Sproul writes on how the Scriptures were established; John MacArthur shows the sufficiency of the written Word for matters of faith; and Sinclair Ferguson defends the Bible from opposing traditions. This is

an invaluable resource for young Christians who are interested in knowing that what they believe is indeed the Word of God and how to share that conviction with others.

Confessions

by Augustine
Baker Book House
(Grand Rapids, MI), 1977

It is important for Christians today to take time and learn about the lives of great men and women who have already fought the fight and won the victory. Their testimonies can be both inspiring and helpful as we may encounter the same struggles and trials. One great example is the autobiography of St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD), simply known as his *Confessions*. Interwoven among the historical information is a wealth of rich thoughts defining Augustine’s theology in which he gives a clear understanding of the depravity of man and the grace of God. You can learn about the faith of his mother Monica whose prayers were constantly lifted to God for the salvation of her wayward son. You can learn about the dramatic event which brought Augustine to his knees in a garden asking for God’s forgiveness. Throughout this book are excellent examples of prayers, benedictions, and words of praise. This is a classic text which has influenced the lives of many great leaders. Read it and watch its effect on your life too.



Spiritual Disciplines within the Church

by Don Whitney

Moody Press (Chicago, IL), 1996

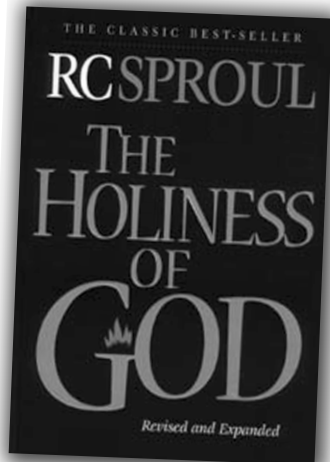
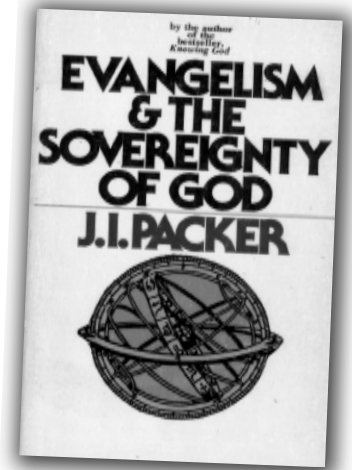
This book declares the glory of the local church and invites you to enjoy the church. If you love Jesus Christ, then you should also love and participate fully in the Body of Christ. Whitney explains why you cannot get by on your own. Practical chapters will help you understand why you should go to church, why you should listen to preaching in the church, why you should worship with the church, why you should serve in the church, why you should give to the church, and why you should fellowship with the church.

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God

by J.I. Packer

InterVarsity Press
(Downers Grove, IL), 1961

If God is in control of everything, does that mean the Christian can sit back and not bother to evangelize? Or does active evangelism imply that God is not really sovereign at all? These, and many other questions related to evangelism, are dealt with in an honest and biblical manner by J.I. Packer, professor at Regent University in Vancouver. He demonstrates that every Christian who thanks God for salvation acknowledges God's sovereignty; and every Christian who prays for the conversion of others is acknowledging God's sovereignty in salvation. But Packer also goes on to demonstrate that a right understanding of God's sovereignty is not a barrier to evangelism but is instead a great incentive. "We are to preach, because without knowledge of the gospel no man can be saved. We are to pray, because only the sovereign Holy Spirit in us and in men's hearts can make our preaching effective to men's salvation, and God will not send His Spirit where there is no prayer."



The Holiness of God

by R.C. Sproul

Tyndale (Wheaton, IL), 1985

It is vital for you to think properly about God. This classic work not only expounds the theme of R.C. Sproul's ministry, it also unfolds before you one of the most important ideas that you can ever grapple with—the beatific vision of the holiness of God. When you are aware of the presence of God, you become most aware of yourself as a creature. Sinful people are not comfortable in the presence of Absolute holiness, but Sproul will also take your focus to Christ and the cross, the ultimate expression of holy justice. This book will give you a theocentric world view.

The Pursuit of God

by A.W. Tozer

Christian Publications
(Camp Hill, PA), 1993

Usually the test of time determines what becomes a classic, but A.W. Tozer's *Pursuit of God* has been declared a classic only after several decades of being in print. Tozer (1897-1963) is known for his tender and practical pastoral writings, and this book is no exception. Here is a collection of devotional thoughts to aid God's hungry children as they seek to draw closer to Him. Filled with memorable quotes which touch deep in the heart of the reader, Tozer's thoughts can transform the way you think and serve God. "Complacency," he writes, "is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth." Learn from one who never lived in complacency, but always in the face of God striving constantly for holiness. He shares from his experience and from his rich knowledge of Scripture to teach the thirsty to find the Living Waters and to teach the hungry to find the Eternal Food which can satisfy the soul. Let this book renew your spirit and reawaken your heart to your pursuit of God.

