

Treasures New and Old

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*Every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven. . .
brings out of his treasure things new and old (Matthew 13:52).*

INTRODUCTION:

Religious truth is imprisoned in a small number of manuscript books which confine instead of spread the public treasure. Let us break the seal which seals up holy things and give wings to Truth in order that she may win every soul that comes into the world by her word no longer written at great expense by hands easily palsied, but multiplied like the wind by an untiring machine.

—Johannes Gutenberg, c.1455

A. Transformation's Dependence Upon The Mind (Romans 12:2).

B. The Pattern Believer's Request For Books (II Tim. 4:13).

I. THE _____ MUST HAVE THE PREMINENCE.

II. THE WRITINGS OF THE CHURCH'S _____ SHOULD
BE NEXT IN PRIORITY.

A. _____.

C. H. Spurgeon wrote in his *Commenting and Commentaries*, "It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others."

B. The best teachers of Church History are available through their writings.

A. W. Tozer, "Illuminated masters are known to modern Christians only by name. Publishers dutifully reprint their books and in due time these appear on the shelves of our studies. By the whole trouble lies right there: they remain on the shelves. The current religious mood makes the reading of them virtually impossible even for educated Christians" (*The Knowledge of the Holy*, viii).

III. THE LIVES OF THE CHURCH'S _____ SHOULD
BE READ.

"Whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Heb. 13:7)

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise" (Prov. 13:20)

- A. Read widely.
- B. Read according to _____.

 - 2 vols. of Hudson Taylor's life by Mrs. Howard Taylor
 - Borden of Yale*, by Mrs. Howard Taylor
 - Mountain Rain*, life of James Fraser, by Eileen Crossman
 - John G. Paton*
 - Isobel Kuhn's writings
 - Mary Slessor of Calabar*, W. P. Livingstone
 - Mrs .C. H. Spurgeon*, Charles Ray
 - Andrew Bonar Diary and Life*
 - Man of the Word*, Jill Morgan
 - Five English Reformers*, J. C. Ryle

IV. THE _____ LITERATURE

- L. E. Maxwell, *Crowded to Christ; Born Crucified*
- A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*
- E. M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer*
- Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression*
- G. Campbell Morgan, *Discipleship, The Life of the Christian*
- The Christian in Complete Armor*, William Gurnall

V. SOME GUIDELINES FOR READING.

- A. _____.

“As for play books, and romances, and idle-tales. . . they are powerful baits of the devil, to keep more necessary things out of their minds, and better books out of their hands, and to poison the mind so much the more dangerously, as they are read with more delight and pleasure: and to fill the minds of sensual people with such idle fumes, and intoxicating fancies, as may divert them from serious thoughts of their salvation: and (which is no small loss) to rob them of abundance of that precious time, which was given them for more important business; and which they will wish and wish again at last, that they had spent more wisely” (Richard Baxter, *A Christian Directory*, 57)

- B. Be very careful about reading known error.

II Tim. 2:16-18 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

- C. _____ what to read. _____ when you read.

- D.

E. _____.

“I have found as a tutor in English Literature that if the average student wants to find out something about Platonism, the very last thing he thinks of doing is to take a translation of Plato off the library shelf and read the Symposium. He would rather read some dreary modern book ten times as long, all about "isms" and influences and only once in twelve pages telling him what Plato actually said. The error is rather an amiable one, for it springs from humility. The student is half afraid to meet one of the great philosophers face to face. He feels himself inadequate and thinks he will not understand him. But if he only knew, the great man, just because of his greatness, is much more intelligible than his modern commentator. The simplest student will be able to understand, if not all, yet a very great deal of what Plato said; but hardly anyone can understand some modern books on Platonism. It has always therefore been one of my main endeavours as a teacher to persuade the young that firsthand knowledge is not only more worth acquiring than secondhand knowledge, but is usually much easier and more delightful to acquire (C. S. Lewis).

F.

G. Do not dismiss a writer because you encounter something with which you disagree (the only errorless book is the Bible!).

H. Be careful not to allow yourself to lose _____ about a man.

(If you cannot read an author without discrimination, do not read him)

I. Do not be enslaved to _____.

J. Note what you read in the margin of your Bible for future use.

K. Share what you read with someone else.

L. _____.

Thomas a Kempis, "If he shall not lose his reward, who gives a cup of cold water to his thirsty neighbour, what will not be the reward of those who by putting good books into the hands of those neighbours open to them the fountains of eternal life? (Quoted by Sinclair Ferguson, *Read Any Good Books?*, p. 18)

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