

### The Most Influential Books in My Life

As we enter into summertime, around Christchurch it is traditionally book reading emphasis season, especially for our youth. Paul said, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Timothy 4:12, 13). After the great old apostle gives the admonition to be a good example as a young person and tells us of the behavior that becomes holiness, he then proceeds to say, "...give attendance to reading..." It's a subtle, but definite message - the way to be encouraged in our discipleship is to read profitable materials. In other words, first and foremost, read the Bible and after that good books.

A few months ago I received an honor when I was informed that I was the designated "Pastor of The Month" by our local Grapevine Books. I don't say this only because we are neighbors, I seriously believe Grapevine is one of the finest bookstores in the country offering the best of the new books and a great variety of the old classic standards of the Victorian, Puritan and early church writings. Daryl of Grapevine asked me to make a list of the ten most influential books that I could recommend. I did my best to keep it down to ten, but I could not stop short of thirty-one books that have influenced me and changed my life. I added one more since giving him the list. Often times I am asked by minister friends around the world what books helped shape, mold and guide me. Along with the traditional list of classics available at the information booth, I am adding this special list of books that personally mean so much to your pastor. Remember young people, we shall be having a "Reader's Reward" for those who read three great books this summer.

What a blessing to read. It takes you places you've never been. You have the privilege to initiate through reading a bonding of the mind with great thinkers of the past. A good book can stir up your faith, give you ideas for life-change, and enhance your overall mental attitude. The following are some of the most influential books that I recommend:

The Suffering Saviour Meditations on the Last Days of Christ

By: F. W. Krummacher                      Moody-Press, Chicago, 1947

The Shadow of The Broad Brim The Life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon Heir of the Puritans

By: Richard Ellsworth Day              The Judson Press, 1934 \*recently reprinted by Crown Christian Publications, Powell, TN

All of Grace

By: C. H. Spurgeon                      Moody & Pilfeim

\*try to read it in Spurgeon's Victorian/Puritan English, there has been an update to modern English.

The Holy Spirit Who He Is, and What He Does

By: R. A. Torrey                      Fleming H. Revell

Why Revival Tarries

By: Leonard Ravenhill                      Bethany Fellowship

The Pursuit of God

By: A. W. Tozer                      Christian Publications, Inc. Harrisburg, PA

The Knowledge of The Holy

By: A.W. Tozer                      Christian Publications, Inc. Harrisburg, PA

In His Steps  
By: Charles M. Sheldon                      Grosset & Dunlap

George Muller of Bristol  
By: Arthur T. Pierson                      Revell

David Brainerd, Beloved Yankee  
By: David Wynbeek                      Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

The Real Billy Sunday  
By: Elijah P. Brown                      Larry Harrison, Christian Book Gallery

The Works of Thomas Brooks, (6 volumes) for a great sample: Heaven on Earth  
By: Thomas Brooks                      The Banner of Truth

The Pilgrim's Progress  
By: John Bunyon

Charles G. Finney An Autobiography    Flemming H. Revell

Stonewall Jackson  
By: James I. Robertson                      Macmillan Publishing

Screwtape Letters  
By: C. S. Lewis                      Macmillan Publishing

The Cross  
By: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones                      Crossway

Revival  
By: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones                      Crossway

Studies In The Sermon on The Mount  
By: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones                      Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

The Applause of Heaven  
By: Max Lucado                      Word

The Beatitudes  
By: Thomas Watson                      The Banner of Truth

The Ten Commandments  
By: Thomas Watson                      The Banner of Truth

The Mystery of Providence  
By: John Flavel                      The Banner of Truth

R. E. Lee  
By: Douglas Southall Freeman                      Charles Scribner's & Sons

Autobiography of Peter Cartwright

By: Charles L. Wallis (Edited)                      Abingdon Press

E. M. Bounds On Prayer

By: E. M. Bounds                                      Whitaker House (among many others)  
(All of his books, now in one volume - if possible get original edition, not un--dated English)

The Shepherd of The Hills

By: Harold Bell Wright                              Bethany, most recent publisher

George Whitefield, The Life and Times of the great Evangelist of the 18th Century Revival

By: Arnold A. Dallimore                              The Banner of Truth (and at one time) Crossway

Prayer, Asking and Receiving

By: John R. Rice                                      Sword of The Lord Publishers, 1942

Mornings On Horseback (the world of the Young Theodore Roosevelt)

By: David McCullough                              Simon & Schuster

Rhapsody in Black, The Live Story of John Jasper

By: Richard Ellsworth Day                              Judson Press

- Pastor Pope -

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