

Down-time reading list suggestions:

In case you haven't noticed, you probably have had a trifle more time on your hands than normal. Between Covid-19 and Summer almost being upon us, here are some powerful suggestions as how to pass away more than a few idle hours. This list is both eclectic and diverse; one thing all of these reads share in common is they are not easy going, but all are though provoking. Some might even prove to be relevant to the world in which we are presently living. Hence, I did not pick them to be just entertaining – though many of them are hard to put down – rather, they just might enlighten your world. Yes, I have at one point or another slugged my way through these monsters and am probably the better for it. At least I can impress folks at parties. Come to think of it, I don't go to any parties anymore, but I have probably quoted from 75% of them in sermons; some you might remember. A couple of these books were the text for Easter messages. Anyway, enjoy!

1. William Faulkner – “Absalom, Absalom!”
2. A. E.W. Mason – “Four Feathers”
3. F. Scott Fitzgerald – “The Beautiful and the Damned”
4. George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) – “Middlemarch”
5. Harriett Beecher Stowe – “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
6. Mark Twain – “Huckleberry Finn”
7. Malcomb Gladwell – “Talking to Strangers”
8. Charles Dickens – “Great Expectations”
9. Richard Dana – “Two Years Before the Mast”
10. C. S. Lewis - “Mere Christianity”
11. Leo Tolstoy – “Anna Karenina”
12. Job, Shawchuck, Bramlett – “30 Meditations on the Writings of C. S. Lewis
13. Ernest Hemingway – “The Sun Also Rises”
14. Toni Morrison – “Song of Solomon”
15. John Steinbeck – “East of Eden”
16. Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen) – “Out of Africa”
17. J. D. Salinger – “Catcher in the Rye”

OK, I have left off some obvious books by a couple of these authors: “The Sound and the Fury,” by Faulkner is his greatest book, but impossible to read. Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” but everyone has read it. If you do want to reread it, keep in mind my life during its formative years resembled very much the character of Nick Carraway. Likewise, in spirit I liken myself to Denys Finch Hatton in “out of Africa,” and Holden Caulfield in “Catcher in the Rye.” You all know me well enough by now to be able to find the similarities; if not, give me a call. Since I know you all pretty well, feel free to call me and ask which books I might recommend for you personally. It will give us a good excuse to chat. Anyway, good luck and happy reading.

Pastor, Will