

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

Newsletter Number 6

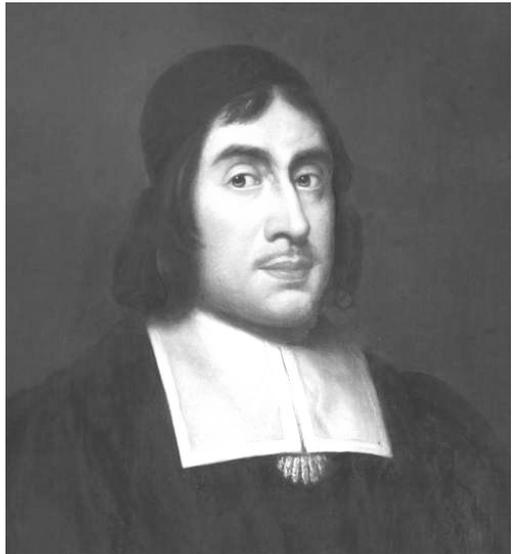
Winter 2016

Introduction

In this newsletter we continue our series on specific doctrines by looking at some books which deal with the doctrine of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We started to introduce the works of some of the Puritans, covering the writings of Thomas Goodwin in the last issue, and we continue in this issue looking at the writings of Thomas Watson. We originally designed to tie the subjects dealt with in the Newsletter to pieces appearing in the various religious periodicals at the time. To that end here we consider the writings of two authors of frequently appear in the magazines, Octavius Winslow and Ambrose Serle.

Thomas Watson

Thomas Watson (1620-1686) was minister of St Stephen's, Walbrook, until he was ejected for nonconformity in 1662. Watson has been regarded by many as the "easiest to read" Puritan. A number of his books have been widely read and blessed to the church. When the Banner of Truth Trust was founded, one of their earliest titles was part of the trilogy by Watson on the Shorter Catechism produced by the Westminster Assembly. The three books are titled: *A Body of Divinity*, *The Lord's Prayer*, and *The Ten Commandments*. Easily read, the volumes provide a full course of instruction in the matters of our most holy faith, and all we have known who have read them have felt to have been profited. Watson wrote a number of other books too, notably *The Beatitudes*, *Heaven Taken by Storm*, and *A Godly Man's Picture*. *Religion Our True Interest* is a sweet exposition of Malachi 3 v 16-17. *The Mischief of Sin* makes solemn and searching reading. Perhaps amongst the most powerful of Watson's writings is his book: *All Things for Good*, in which he shows how all things, even temptation and sin, work for the good of the Lord's people. The Library has all these titles and several volumes of collected sermons, titled *Harmless as Doves* and *A Plea for the Godly*.



Thomas Watson

Ambrose Serle

Another name to frequently appear in our magazines is that of Ambrose Serle. Serle was a contemporary of Toplady, Newton, Romaine and other characters around the start of the nineteenth century. Unusually, Searle was not a minister of religion, but a minister to the state, serving in the civil service. In this employment he was sent as an envoy to the United States. He is buried at Broadwater in Sussex. To us, Serle is better known as an author and hymn writer. One of his best known books was *The Christian's Remembrancer*, which contains short meditations on the most important points of our most holy faith, in the three fold aspects of doctrinal, experimental and practical religion. This book is worth its weight in gold. Other works are meditations on the names and titles of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church. He also wrote an unusual book of spiritual meditations based on illustrations taken from the gardening year, entitled *Christian Husbandry*.

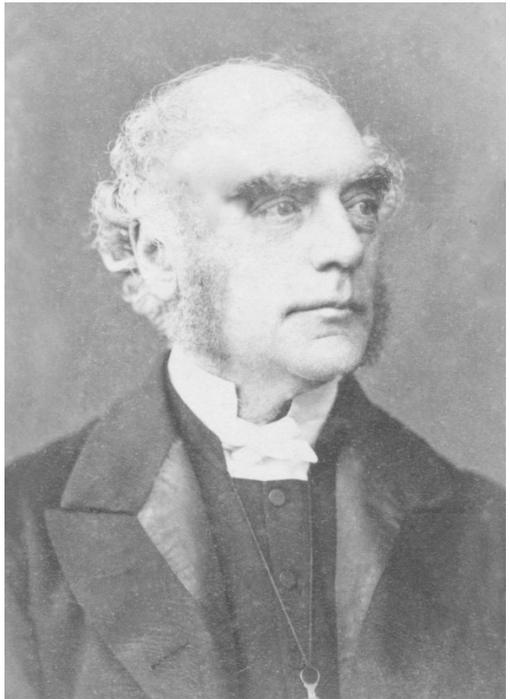
Doctrine: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

Moving on from the Doctrine of the Church and its ordinances, we focus in this newsletter on books concerning the Person of Christ. This is a most blessed subject and one that all the Lord's people would be profited in spending more time in its consideration. Several of the Puritans wrote sizable treatise on the Person and Work of Christ. These will reward those who are willing to give time and effort to them. They include John Owen's *Christologia* and *The Glory of Christ*, Thomas Goodwin's *Christ Set Forth*, and Stephen Charnock's *Christ Crucified*. Several have written on the subject of Christ's eternal sonship, particularly noteworthy are the writings of John Gill and J. C. Philpot. James Ussher's precious little work entitled *Immanuel*, deals with the mystery of the incarnation. J. C. Philpot's *Meditations on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus* are also worth special attention. Two shorter books worth reading are *The Divine Glory of Christ* by Charles Brown, and *Beholding His Glory* by J. K. Popham. John Brown produced three volumes on the sayings of Jesus whilst here on the earth, and Trench, an Anglican divine, wrote well on the Miracles and Parables of Jesus. Several have written on Christ as set forth in the types of the Old Testament, and these include books by the founder of the library S. F. Paul, and a more in depth review of the subject by Hengstenberg. The Person and work of Jesus Christ is of course the centre of the gospel, and as such almost every book in the library has Christ at the centre. Some however especially excel at this, we think of James Durham's sermons on Isaiah 53, which one reader used to borrow every year to take on holiday, and Thomas Jacomb's precious thoughts on Christ in his volume on the opening verses of Romans Chapter 8 (recently abridged and published by the G S Trust).

Octavius Winslow

From time to time, our magazines carry articles taken from the writings of Octavius Winslow (1808-1878). Winslow was for most of his life a Baptist minister, but

became a clergyman in the Church of England during the last ten years of his life. His writings are Christ centred, warmly experimental, and easy to read. Winslow wrote on several points of doctrine, and the Library has his works on *The Atonement Viewed Experimentally and Practically*, *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, *The Glory of the Redeemer* and *Emmanuel: The Titles of Christ*. Being easy to understand, these would provide a good starting point for anybody wanting to read on these fundamental and blessed doctrines. Alongside these he produced several experimental commentaries on notable chapters of the Bible, especially on Psalm 130 and Romans 8. Today, he is perhaps best known for his book *Personal Declension and Revival of Religion in the Soul*. This is a searching read and makes one realise just how quickly we become lukewarm in religion, but Winslow goes on to seek out the sources of revival and to encourage the soul found in a low place. One other book deserves a special mention and that is the memoir of Winslow's mother, Mary. Born in Bermuda, living in both America and England, widowed when young, Mary had an eventful life. Above all else however, she was a tried child of God, and the title sums up the book: *A Life in Jesus*. If the reader is drawn to no other book in this newsletter, we hope it might be this one.



Octavius Winslow

Some Notable New Books

During the past year, the library has added a number of books to its collection, which are available for you to borrow.

These include a little book by the Strict Baptist minister Alfred Dye, entitled *The Mind of the Spirit*. This book was originally given to the library in the form of an unpublished manuscript in Dye's own handwriting. The librarians have carefully typed this out and corrected it, and a printed copy is now available to borrow. It contains meditations on a number of texts which are hard to understand and are often misinterpreted and misapplied.

Another book the library has purchased is a volume of sermons and *Thoughts on the Parable of the Sower* by Joseph Hatton, the onetime editor of *The Gospel Standard*

and pastor at Redhill and Smallfield. Some of the sermon notes were transcribed from the previously unpublished manuscripts of Mr Hatton's ministry which are held by the library. The sermons are short, and ideally suited to the occasions when a short address may be required for reading at a prayer meeting.

The Galeed Chapel Pulpit was a series of monthly sermons preached at Galeed Chapel Brighton during the 1800s. Until recently its existence was unknown. Several of our churches had similar series of published sermons, all are now rare: *West Norwood Pulpit*, *Brixton Tabernacle Pulpit*, *Tunbridge Wells Pulpit*, *Zoar Pulpit*. The Library has incomplete sets of many of these. If any reader has any of these sermons (individual pamphlets, or bound volumes) that they might be willing to donate to the Library to preserve for further generations, we would be pleased to hear from you.

The library has also gained a run of the early volumes of *The Free Presbyterian Magazine*. Bound magazines make good reading for those that are busy, being able to dip in and out, reading short articles here and there, and may be a good place to start for those who find it difficult to make time to read larger books.

Religious Census Returns, 1851

Although the Library's primary holdings are spiritual material, Mr Paul, the Library's originator was a keen historian of our churches, and the library also holds significant material which concerns the material history (as well as the spiritual history) of our denomination. This includes the Library's growing collection of volumes containing the returns of the 1851 religious census. This census asked every place of worship to record details of their attendance, history and ministry on one Lord's Day in 1851. They provide a valuable insight into the state of our churches at the time. The library currently holds volumes for: Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Rutland, Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Shropshire and Hertfordshire.

How to Use the Library

Borrowing Books: To borrow any of the books mentioned in this newsletter, you do not have to visit the Library, or become a subscriber. Simply phone or email the librarian (contact details below) with the book title you wish to borrow and your address. The book will be posted to you free of charge. Return postage is paid and you have three months to read the book. Similarly, you can borrow any book from the catalogue (except those marked as being in the reserved collection); the catalogue is available on the website.

Surplus Books: The Library regularly receives books surplus to requirements and these are sold to raise money for the maintenance and expansion of the Library's collection and general upkeep. A catalogue is regularly produced.

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