

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

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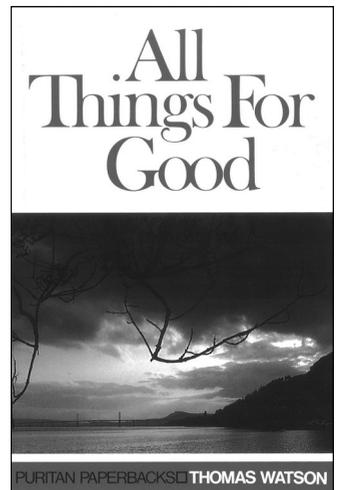
Introduction

This issue of the Newsletter is largely given over to the Puritan Paperback series. The Library has recently added several new titles in this series to its shelves. They are a useful introduction to the writings of the Puritans for those who are new to them. We also have a piece on Friedrich Krummacker, a German devotional writer. Finally we are pleased to report about the Library's new scanning facilities and our plans for digitalising some of the Library's collections.

Puritan Paperbacks

One of the great achievements of the Banner of Truth since its formation in 1957 has been the republication of the writings of the Puritans. At one end is the publication of multi-volume sets of the complete writings of the chief Puritans, such as John Owen, Thomas Brooks, John Bunyan, John Flavel, Stephen Charnock and Richard Sibbes. While these are a treasure house of good reading, they remain daunting to the average reader, often in small print, and unwieldy volumes. The Banner realised this early on, and have consistently prioritised the publication of individual puritan books in an attractive series of small, easy to read, paperbacks. The Library has a number of these in their original printings from the 1960s and 1970s. More recently it has added several more of these volumes which would make a good starting place for anybody looking for something profitable to read and wanting a taster of the Puritans. Below we describe a few of the available volumes to whet your appetite and give some ideas for future reading.

Thomas Watson is generally regarded as one of the easiest Puritans to read. *All Things for Good* is a most valuable little exposition of Romans 8 v 28. We will never forget reading it for the first time and have returned to it many times since. It is a comfort to be reminded that not only good, but also bad things work for the benefit of the believer; this includes the sins of others, and our own sins too, when sanctified to our souls in repentance, driving us to the Advocate for sinners in confession, and causing us to seek a closer walk with, and greater dependence upon the Friend of Sinners. We also remember being struck by Watson's short work *The Great Gain of Godliness*, a meditation on Malachi 3 v 16-18: "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another." "They shall be mine" must be the greatest gain for any poor sinner—



to be God's by election, by purchase, and by adoption. Other titles by Watson include a short treatise on the Lord's Supper and another on Repentance. While we do not have preparatory services prior to the Lord's Supper, it might be useful to be reminded what the Lord's Supper is about, its great benefit for the Lord's people, and that it must be kept rightly. Mr Popham was very strong on that point, and several of his sermons on texts such as: "Let every man examine himself" deserve to be read and considered amongst us once more.

A Lifting up for the Downcast by William Bridge and *Facing Grief* by John Flavel may be helpful to those in difficult circumstances.

Richard Sibbes deals with pertinent issues nationally, denominationally and personally in *Josiah's Reformation*. In the solemn state today we need to be reminded of the necessity of true repentance and the blessedness of it. The Lord has said: "Return unto me." Also, perhaps appropriate to us as nonconformists, and on a similar line is *Sermons of the Great Ejection*; this collects together some Puritan farewell sermons to their congregations before they were forced to leave the Church of England, which failed to seek the true Reformation they desired to see.

Sibbes takes up the most sublime of subjects in *The Love of Christ*. That love is so precious, so vital, and the exercised child of God will always seek to know more of it. *Heavenly Conference* is a short book on the conversation of Jesus and Mary in the Garden after the resurrection and is apposite at this time of year. It is particularly good on: "My father and your father" "My God and your God,"—this is the heart of the union of Christ with his people through the incarnation.

The Sinfulness of Sin by Ralph Venning makes painful, but necessary reading. It is not a doleful theme when joined with a reminder of the precious Saviour of Sinners. Venning's book: *Learning in Christ's School* describes marks of grace in the Lord's people and emphasises the need to seek growth in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Two books by Scottish authors: Robert Trail's *Justification Vindicated* was an important treatise against faulty views of this vital doctrine and remains a key book on the subject. Hugh Binning, who died aged just 26, wrote an esteemed book, *Christian Love*, an exposition of John 13 v 35, showing that love to Christ and the brethren is a chief mark of grace in the Lord's people.

Finally, William Perkins' little book *The Art of Prophesying* is profitable on the call to, and work of, the gospel ministry. Ministers would be benefitted and encouraged by reading it. Those exercised with a call to the ministry would find it helpful and it could be useful for those that sit in the pew desiring a better understanding of their minister and the ministry.

Sadly some of the more recent additions to the Puritan Paperback series have departed from exclusive use of the King James Version, meaning they cannot be



Richard Sibbes

stocked in the Library. This is particularly true of the otherwise excellent edited and abbreviated paperbacks of John Owen's writings. Today, much produced by the Banner is of a mixed nature and cannot be wholeheartedly recommended. Where they stick to their original role of reproducing good books from the past, they remain an important publisher. Incidentally, the first issue of *The Banner of Truth* magazine was produced by the same—Strict Baptist—printer as *The Gospel Standard*. How sadly the ways have separated since; we trust the Gospel Standard Library has not moved and will continue to hold its distinctive position.

Notable New Books

During the last six months the Library has gained some additional books, a few noteworthy items are highlighted below.

Three new volume of sermons.

Firstly John Calvin's *Sermons on Genesis 11-20* Calvin's sermons are surprisingly easy to read. These are recent translations from the French and are in sympathetic, modern English. This is volume two of his sermons on Genesis—the Library already had the first volume. The Library has several other volumes of Calvin's sermons, including on Ephesians, Galatians and 2 Samuel.

Secondly, volume six of the new series of Mr Popham's *Sermons*. This contains 30 previously unpublished sermons on texts from 1 Corinthians through to Hebrews.

Thirdly, *Through Much Tribulation—Life and Sermons of J. W. Walder*. Mr Walder was for many years pastor of Galeed Chapel, Brighton, till his death in 2016. These sermons are orderly, well balanced and would make excellent reading material for read services.

Two old books by the Baptist historian, W. T. Whitley, have been donated to the Library: *The Baptists of London* and *The Baptists of North West England*. These provide interesting pen sketches of a large number of Baptist chapels, including several Gospel Standard chapels.

Bread of Heaven is a modern biography of William Williams (Pantycelyn), the author of "Guide me O thou great Jehovah" (and several other hymns in Gadsby's *Selection of Hymns*) and it makes interesting and profitable reading.

Perhaps more for reference, the six volume set of *John Knox's Works* have also been acquired. Being mainly in Scots dialect, reading requires a little more effort, although this is easily mastered, particularly if read aloud. Knox's *History of the Reformation in Scotland* and his *Letters* (written to other Reformers) are of interest

Two final books to mention are the newly published *Continued Mercies* by James Burgess, a godly Strict Baptist from the turn of the twentieth century and the recently republished *Wilderness Journey* (with *Thoughts on the Parables*) by Richard Pratt, a Strict Baptist minister in the 1800s from Crowborough. These are representatives of Strict Baptist writing at its best; warm, simple, and experimental descriptions of the Lord's dealings with them, together with useful reflections on the Word of God and the truths we hold so dear.

The Library always welcomes donations of books, new and old to add to its collections for the benefit of future generations or sell on its surplus book list to raise money for the upkeep of the Library.

F. W. Krummacher

Friedrich Wilhelm Krummacher (1796-1868) was a reformed minister in Germany. He was a contender for the old paths in a time when rationalism and higher criticism were sweeping through the German churches and universities. He has become widely known for his devotional writings, principally spiritual biographies of Bible characters. At times he can be fanciful, and go beyond Scripture, but his books have been appreciated by many readers. The Library has: *David: King of Israel* (an extract from which recently appeared in *The Gospel Standard*), *Elijah the Tishbite* and *Elisha*. Also three books on the Person and work of the Lord Jesus: *The Martyr Lamb*, *The Suffering Saviour* and *The Risen Redeemer*. There are several volumes of his sermons, perhaps most notably *Solomon and he Shulamite* on the Song of Solomon. The Library also have books by his father F. A. Krummacher—*Cornelius the Centurion*; and his son G. D. Krummacher—*Israel's Wanderings in the Wilderness*.



F. W. Krummacher

New Library Scanner

In November last year the Library took delivery of a new scanner, kindly funded by the Gospel Standard Trust. This will help with the day to day running of the Library, but will also allow us to digitalise many of our rare and valuable manuscripts, pamphlets and typescript sermons. We have started scanning the sermons in the Library, and currently have scanned around one hundred. We plan to make these freely available on the Gospel Standard website. We hope they may be a particularly useful resource for those having to read sermons in worship. Further updates will follow.

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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