

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

Newsletter Number 7

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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 Holy Spirit. In previous issues we started to introduce the works of some of the Puritans, covering the writings of Thomas Goodwin and Thomas Watson, and we continue this time looking at the writings of John Flavel. Many people find the types in Scripture, particularly the Tabernacle and its worship hard to understand, so we suggest some books in this issue which provide an insight into the gospel as revealed in the types. We also refer to a wide range of young people's books covering all aspects of church history in the hopes that it might help parents to find suitable reading material for their children.

The Types of the Old Testament

Many people find, in the latter part of Exodus and the book of Leviticus, some of the hardest passages of Scripture to understand. Yet they contain in type and shadows, the entire gospel. In the Old Testament God revealed the way of salvation in types and by the ministry of the prophets. When the significance of these types is explained, there is much gospel sweetness to be had from them. The library has a number of books which the reader might find interesting, helpful and profitable in this regard. There are several books looking at the types in the Tabernacle, the priesthood and the offerings of the Old Testament. Charles W. Slemming wrote a series of three short books, each dealing with one of these aspects: *Made According to Pattern* (the Tabernacle); *Thus Shalt Thou Serve* (the offerings); *These are the Garments* (the Priesthood). William Krause also produced an enlightening book based on lectures that he gave to his congregation: *Lectures on Tabernacle and Priesthood*. Whilst Andrew Jukes wrote on the offerings: *The Law of Offerings*.

Andrew Bonar (biographer of Robert Murray M'Cheyne) wrote a slightly longer and deeper read, which is a beautiful spiritual commentary on the



The Altar of Incense

book of Leviticus. Here the Lord's people will find much sweetness and instruction in the types of Leprosy, ceremonial uncleanness, the Day of Atonement and other aspects of the book of Leviticus.

Dealing more widely with the subject, the Scot William M'Ewan (1735-1762), produced an excellent work on the types of Christ in the Old Testament (*Grace and Truth*), an extract of which—the Brazen Serpent—appeared recently in *The Gospel Standard*. Mr S. F. Paul, founder of the Library and Editor of *The Gospel Standard*, also produced a very readable book: *Christ as Revealed in the Old Testament*. For a more complex treatment, the two volume, *Christology in the Old Testament* by E. W. Hengstenberg is one of the standard works and will more than repay those who have the time and desire to find Christ within the Old Testament. There is also Dr Robert Hawker's *Poor Man's Commentary*, for those who wish to see how the gospel was set before the Old Testament saints.

John Flavel

Continuing our series on the Puritans, we now look at John Flavel (1629-1691). For most of his ministry, Flavel pastored the church in Dartmouth. He was ejected in 1662 and became a nonconformist minister. Some men become best known for a single book, despite having written voluminously. Flavel could be described as one of these characters, with his *Divine Conduct: or The Mystery of Providence* still being one of the foremost books on the doctrine of Divine providence. However, Flavel also wrote useful books for those facing grief: *The Balm of the Covenant* and *A Token for Mourners*. His *Husbandry Spiritualised* draws many spiritual lessons by means of natural illustrations of the garden, or farm. *The Fountain of Life Opened* contains 42 sermons on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. *The Touchstone of Sincerity* is a searching read, discerning between true and false religion. His works have been recently reprinted in 6 volumes.



John Flavel

Doctrine: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Having dealt with the Person and work of Jesus Christ in the last newsletter, we now come to consider some key doctrines of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and from the Son, is the great applier of salvation to the souls of the Lord's people. It is the Spirit's work to convince a sinner of their sin, to lead them to and apply the blood of Jesus as their only means

of salvation, and to sanctify them and bring them to glory. While the Spirit was especially poured out upon the church at Pentecost, he also had a very real work in the Old Testament church. The Library has a number of books on the Holy Spirit. One of the key books on the subject is *Pneumatologia: Discourse Concerning the Holy Spirit* by the puritan, John Owen. Owen is thorough in his treatment and we would recommend him to you, although not all will find his style easy reading. Since Owen's day, the two great treatments of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit have both been produced by ministers in the Free Church of Scotland. George Smeaton's treatise on the Holy Spirit deals with the technical aspects of the doctrine, including a history of the doctrine, while James Buchanan deals with the doctrine from an experimental viewpoint and is an easier read. Smaller books on the subject have been produced by both Thomas Houghton (contemporary of Mr J. K. Popham and editor of *The Gospel Magazine*) and Octavius Winslow. One Strict Baptist minister, Edward Samuel (the converted Jew) has written on the doctrine of the Spirit: *The Triumph of the Holy Spirit*. Sadly, more recently, this precious doctrine has been warped by the teaching of the charismatic movement. The Library has copies of the helpful treatment by Mr John R. Broome on this subject: *Spirit of Truth – Some aspects of Charismatic Teaching* and also Walter J. Chantry's *Signs of the Apostles*.

Church History for Children

The Library has a good selection of books on aspects of church history written for children. While many are Victorian, they are still very readable, their treatment of history is generally sound and the fact that children still enjoy them is testified to the fact that many have been reprinted and sold widely again in recent years. Some examples include: *The Covenanters – Tales & Sketches*; *Life of John Calvin* by Thomas Lawson; *Oliver Cromwell the Hero of Puritan England*, by H. G. Groser; *The Monk who Shook the World* (Martin Luther) by C. Davey; *Torchbearers Amid the Alpine Snows* (the Waldenses), C. C. Dobson; *Makers of the English Bible* by C. Davey; *The Siege of Derry* (History of Northern Ireland) by Charlotte Elizabeth; *Loyal to the King: Story of the Kentish Protestant Martyrs* by Henry R. Knight; *Preacher of St Andrews* (John Knox) by P. Zeeuw; *The Tinker of Bedford and the Book that he Wrote* (John Bunyan and *The Pilgrim's Progress*) by Stanley Martin; *Torchbearers of France and the Netherlands* by Stanley Martin; *William the Silent and Holland's Fight for Freedom* by Stanley Martin; *The Reformation and Its Heroes* by Richard Newton.

Benjamin Beddome

Next year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of the well known Baptist hymnwriter, Benjamin Beddome (1717-1795). He was pastor for 55 years at Bourton on the Water. At one point, Beddome sought Anne Steele's hand in marriage, but was turned down. He wrote over 800 hymns, some of which are included in *Gadsby's Selection*. The Library does not have a copy of his hymnbook, which is very rare. It does however have a volume of his sermons with a short memoir, and a set of the eight volumes of his short village sermons, each sermon is

8 or so small pages in length, easy to read and simple to follow. They would be ideal for use in reading services. It was Beddome's practise to write a hymn to sing at the end of the services in his church, summing up his sermon. A number of these hymns are printed at the end of the sermon for which they were written. Beddome also wrote a short exposition of the Baptist Catechism. This brief work states in simple language all the main doctrines we believe and would make an excellent resource for anybody wanting a brief overview of doctrine, or a book to use with their children.

Some Notable New Books

During the past six months, the library has gained several new books, which are available for you to borrow. These include recently published volumes of sermons by John Kershaw (containing a few rare sermons never before published or collected together) and Rev. Hugh Cartwright, the late Free Presbyterian minister in Edinburgh. Two new chapel histories, that of Clifton Chapel (an updated version of the booklet produced a few years ago) and of Lamberhurst Chapel, which recently marked its 200th anniversary. Also a new book containing previously unpublished letters and collected sermons of Thomas Butler, the Strict Baptist pastor at Frittenden and Flimwell, who was a friend of Mr John Kemp of Biddenden.

The Library has also recently added to its stock some old books for the first time. These include a book entitled *Capernaum* by Alexander Moody Stuart (the well known author of a life of Dr John ("Rabbi") Duncan, a commentary on the Song of Solomon, and a work entitled *The Three Marys*). This book contains short pieces on the ministry of Jesus around Capernaum; parables told there and miracles performed. It is an interesting and spiritually profitable read. Also, a book by William Arnot, a friend of Moody Stuart on the *Lesser Parables of Jesus*. Finally, an easily readable overview of the life and prophecy of Jeremiah by Professor Donald MacLean, a Scottish friend and contemporary of Mr. J. K. Popham.

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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