

Recommended Reading List

☐ BELIEF

➤ Mere Christianity – C. S. Lewis

“A man who was merely a man and said the sorts of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.”

➤ The Everlasting Man – G. K. Chesterton

“We are always told without any explanation or authority that primitive man waved a club and knocked the woman down before he carried her off. ... people have been interested in everything about the cave-man except what he did in the cave. What was found in the cave was not the club, the horrible gory club notched with the number of women it had knocked on the head. They were drawings or paintings of animals; and they were drawn or painted not only by a man but by an artist.”

➤ The Reason for God – Timothy Keller

“If you pick and choose (from the Bible) what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you? You won’t! You’ll have a Stepford God! A God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction. Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in a real friendship or marriage!) will you know that you have gotten hold of a real God and not a figment of your imagination. So an authoritative Bible is not the enemy of a personal relationship with God. It is the precondition for it.”

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➤ The Problem of Pain – C. S. Lewis

“The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and merriment He has scattered broadcast. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God”

☐ CHRISTIAN LIVING

➤ Real Christianity – William Wilberforce

“In the end, authentic faith, not human goodness, will produce the greatest well-being of a society. Change of behavior does not precede our reconciliation to God and become the cause of God’s favor. It follows our coming into relationship with God and is its effect!”

➤ Ethics – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The knowledge of good and evil seems to be the aim of all ethical reflection. The first task of Christian ethics is to invalidate this knowledge.”

➤ Reasonable Ethics – Robert Benne

“..the church is not primarily a political actor, a social transformer, or an aggressive interest group. If it acts primarily as one of these, it is identified and treated as one more contentious worldly group. Furthermore, it loses its own integrity or reason for being. The church must attend to its own core vision (the event of Jesus as the Christ).”

Recommended Reading

➤ American Babylon – Richard John Neuhaus

“America is our homeland, and , as the prophet Jeremiah says, in its welfare is our welfare. America is also – and history testifies that this is too easily forgotten—a foreign country. Like every political configuration of the earthly city, America, too, is Babylon. It is, for better and worse, the place of our pilgrimage through time toward home. Until the human pilgrimage reaches that destination, which I expect is no time soon, we cannot help but, through our tears, sing the songs of Zion in a foreign land.”

➤ Making the Best of It – John G. Stackhouse, JR.

“There is no available option of either complete withdrawal or complete domination. So we make the best of it. ...Christians make good citizens, good employees, and good neighbors. ..until the powers demand from us what we will not give as disciples of Christ: cessation of our evangelism, complicity in wrongdoing, silence in the face of injustice, and basic allegiance. When that conflict comes, ... (as) the powers seem to know... we are dangerous people –Strong in these convictions, we yet strive to avoid hubris. ”

➤ The Prodigal God – Timothy Keller

“We sentimentalize this parable if we focus on how the father freely receives his penitent younger son. The targets of this story are not “wayward sinners” but religious people who do everything the Bible requires.”