

Christian Biographies That Could Change Your Life

This past week, I mentioned in last Sunday night's sermon the impact of reading the biographies of great Christians has made in my life. Furthermore, I encouraged our people to encounter greatness by reading about the lives of people God used. The Bible says in Proverbs 13:20: "He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Jeremiah 5:5a says, "I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God...." God shows us that wise and great people will affect our lives for good. No wonder the Bible says in I Peter 3:5a, "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God...." Here the Word of God encourages us to make note of and study the manner or pattern of holy women. The Bible says in Titus 2:4a that the aged women "...may teach the young women...." And studying the lives of great people will allow those already in Heaven to keep teaching us. I have chosen a list of a few books of Christian biographies that could be life-changers.

Paul said, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Timothy 4:12, 13). The great old apostle gives the admonition, "...give attendance to reading...." Paul gives a definite message - the way to be encouraged in our discipleship is to read profitable materials. In other words, first and foremost, read the Bible and after that, read good books.

President Truman said, "Readers of good books, particularly books of biography and history, are preparing themselves for leadership. Not all readers become leaders. But all leaders must be readers. Many readers become historians and teachers. They are retiring, timid when publicity is involved, and are among the greatest assets to this republic." (From a hand-written manuscript found in Truman's desk after he died, Post-Presidential Papers.)

What a blessing to read! It takes you places you've never been. You have the privilege, through reading, to initiate a bonding of the mind with great believers of the past. Good books can stir up your faith, give you ideas for life-change, and enhance your overall mental attitude. Here are some biographies (in alphabetical order) that could change your life:

Wynbeek, David. *David Brainerd, Beloved Yankee*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1961.

Dunbar, Newell. *Phillips Brooks: The Man, the Preacher, and the Author*. Originally Boston: John Hastings; reprint by Bibliolife, 2016.

George, Timothy. *Faithful Witness: The Life & Mission of William Carey*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 1991.

Elliot, Elisabeth. *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 2005.

Wallis, Charles L., editor. *Autobiography of Peter Cartwright*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1986.

Crosby. *Fanny J. Crosby, An Autobiography*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Murray, Iain. *Jonathan Edwards*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1987.

Finney. *Charles G. Finney An Autobiography*. Grand Rapids, MI: Flemming H. Revell, 1975; also St. John, IN: Christian Book Gallery.

Carre, E. G. *Praying Hyde, Apostle of Prayer: The Life Story of John Hyde*. Newberry, FL: Bridge Logos Foundation, 2001.

Day, Richard Ellsworth. *Rhapsody in Black: The Life Story of John Jasper*. King of Prussia, PA: The Judson Press, 1953.

Johnson, R. K. *Builder of Bridges: A Biography of Dr. Bob Jones Sr.*, Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1982.

Jones, Mrs. Sam P. *Life and Sayings Sam P. Jones*. St. John, IN: Christian Book Gallery, 1907.

Anderson, Courtney. *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*. King of Prussia, PA: The Judson Press, 1987.

Hunt, Rosalie Hall. *The Extraordinary Story of Ann Hasseltine Judson, A Life Beyond Boundaries*. King of Prussia, PA: The Judson Press, 2018.

Holman, Bob. *F. B. Meyer*. Ross-Shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, Ltd., 2007.

Moody, William. *The Life of Dwight L. Moody: The Official Authorized Edition*. NY, Chicago: Fleming H, Revell; also Murfreesboro, TN: Sword of The Lord.

Pierson, Arthur T. *George Muller of Bristol*. NY, Chicago: Fleming H, Revell, 1971.

Choy, Leona. *Andrew Murray: The Authorized Biography*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade Publications, 2004.

Kinnear, Angus. *Against the Tide: The Story of Watchman Nee*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade Publications, 2017.

Rose, Darlene Deibler. *Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of World War II*. San Francisco: Harper, 1990.

Day, Richard Ellsworth. *The Shadow of the Broad Brim: The Life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Heir of the Puritans*. King of Prussia, PA: The Judson Press, 1934; recently reprinted Powell, TN: Crown Christian Publications, 2002.

Rhodes, Ray Jr. *Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2018.

Taylor, Mrs. Howard (Geraldine). *The Triumph of John and Betty Stam*. Littleton, CO: OMF International, 2013.

Norman Grubb. *C. T. Studd, Cricketer & Pioneer*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade Publications, 1985.

Brown, Elijah P. *The Real Billy Sunday*. St. John, IN: Christian Book Gallery.

Taylor, Dr. and Mrs. Howard. *J. Hudson Taylor: God's Man in China*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971.

Taylor, Dr. and Mrs. Howard. *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2009.

Dallimore, Arnold. *Susanna Wesley, The Mother of John and Charles Wesley*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1993.

Dallimore, Arnold. *George Whitefield: The Life and Times of the great Evangelist of the 18th Century Revival*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth, 1979; also Westchester, IL: Cornerstone Books, 1980.

Metaxas, Eric. *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

-Pastor Pope-