

Church History Resources

Introduction

It has to be said, at the outset, that this is not an academic exhaustive list. There are many more books and media that could be added by a professional historian. My purpose here is to give some guidance to those who know little and want to know more. It will probably be based on a tour of my own library.

It is my conviction that, in addition to a poor understanding of Scripture and doctrine, modern believers have an equally poor understanding of their forebears in grace. In fact, the knowledge of church history is probably at an all time low in the churches.

The seriousness of this is that there is a lack of knowledge about the context of much that goes on around them. For instance, there are currently vivid expressions of virtually every heresy found in church history being manifested in the churches. If you have no knowledge of the fight against these errors and what the issues are, you are much more likely to fall for those same errors in new clothes. Understanding the development of doctrine through the centuries is a real help to seeing how false doctrines creep upon the church and what practical effects they have.

Therefore, a list of different types of historical books available (I will avoid websites at this time) is a real boon to serious believers.

Church history (universal church) dictionaries and encyclopaedias

The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church

General Editor: JD Douglas; Zondervan, hardback.

This is a standard work. Although it is a large work of 1074 pages, my main complaint is the serious omission of many important Reformed leaders, while there are a large number of non-evangelical people listed. Nevertheless, it is an important work that will be often referenced.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

Edited by FL Cross; Oxford University Press, hardback.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

Edited by EA Livingstone; Oxford University Press, paperback.

Similar to the work above but even less evangelical. Often found in second-hand bookshops. The concise paperback is useful to have around for quick reference but the binding is appalling.

Historical Handbook of Major Biblical Interpreters

Editor Donald K McKim, IVP, hardback.

Fuller articles on key Bible interpreters of all schools throughout history. Though a large work (643 pages) its thicker paper makes it as wide as The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church, which means that there are very many people omitted that we would like to have seen included. However, the articles are very useful.

The Dictionary of Historical Theology

General editor Trevor A Hart; Eerdmans / Paternoster, hardback.

This book has 314 entries that cover the major people, theological movements and documents regarding doctrinal development throughout history. So, for instance, it has articles on Process Theology as well as Peter Lombard. A useful work, but not outstanding.

Church history (particular periods) dictionaries and encyclopaedias

Encyclopaedia of Early Christianity

Editor: Everett Ferguson; St James Press.

A large format huge work (983 pages) covering thorough articles on all that you need to know about the early church. A standard work for professionals; hard to find nowadays. Excellent.

Twentieth Century Dictionary of Christian Biography

General editor: JD Douglas; Baker, hardback.

A list of the chief characters important in recent church history. Quite short articles.

Church history (particular denominations) dictionaries and encyclopaedias

Dictionary of the Presbyterian & Reformed Tradition in America

General editor: DG Hart; Presbyterian & Reformed, paperback.

A useful concise dictionary of denominations, leaders, preachers, events and documents regarding American Reformed churches.

Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements

General editors: Stanley M Burgess, Gary B McGee; Zondervan Regency, hardback.

An extremely useful work covering a very broad and complex series of movements within the Charismatic framework.

Dictionary of Cults, Sects and the Occult

George A Mather & Larry A Nichols, Zondervan, hardback.

A very useful compendium of all sorts of horrors; from the worst kind of witchcraft to Jehovah's Witnesses.

Background handbooks

Backgrounds of Early Christianity

Everett Ferguson; Eerdmans, large paperback.

Includes chapters on political history, society and culture, religions, philosophies, and Christianity in the ancient world. Everything you need to know about the background of the early church.

Handbook of Contemporary Theology

David L Smith; Bridgepoint, hardback.

Part one has chapters on mainstream theological systems (such as Fundamentalism and Neo-liberalism) and in part two it looks at more esoteric systems (Feminist theology, Liberation theology).

Handbook of Evangelical Theologians

Editor: Walter A Elwell; Baker, hardback.

Fuller articles on chosen evangelical theologians, but one wonders why some were included.

Chronological and Background Charts of Church History

Robert C Walton; Academie books (Zondervan).

A comb-bound book of many charts covering all sorts of subjects. A unique and graphic way to explain events, controversies, people, and developments in history. Extremely simple and useful.

Charts of Reformation and Enlightenment Church History

John D Hannah; Zondervan, large format paperback.

A series of charts giving a graphic summary of the periods under view. Useful to people newly approaching the subject.

Lion Handbook of the History of Christianity

General editor: Tim Rowley, Lion, hardback.

Perhaps found in second-hand bookstores; fully illustrated. This is a useful beginner's guide but no good for the serious student.

Christianity in America

A Lion handbook.

Various authors contributing to a good introduction with many illustrations.

Great Leaders of the Christian Church

John D Woodbridge; Moody Press, hardback.

A helpful handbook, with illustrations, of key men.

Introductions and epitomes

An Introduction to the History of the Christian Church

Wilfred W Biggs, Edward Arnold Pub., hardback.

A useful little work found second-hand.

Epochs of Church History

Longmans Green

A series of books looking at specific period and found second-hand very cheaply. They form a useful introduction to the subject.

The Ancient & Modern Library of Theological Literature

Griffith & Farran & Co.

Very scholarly analysis of periods of church history utilising primary sources. Several volumes; often found second-hand.

Landmarks of Church History (to the Reformation)

Henry Cowan; A & C Black, hardback.

Useful little introduction; found second-hand.

Illustrated notes on English Church History

C Arthur Lane; SPCK, hardback.

Several volumes available; I have two. Useful introduction.

The Unquenchable Light

KS Latourette; Eyre & Spottiswoode, hardback.

Lectures by a great historian covering church history in a series of advances and recessions. A unique introduction.

An epitome is a book that simply list dates in one column and brief explanations of events in the other. Today we would call this a 'timeline'. There have been various concise epitomes of church history, but I can't find my copies.

Important works on general church history

History of the Christian Church

Philip Schaff; Eerdmans, nine volumes.

A standard work that has served many generations. If you have this then you don't really need anything else. This work is available digitally on the E-Sword website for free.

Miller's Church History

Andrew Miller; Pickering and Inglis, hardback.

A useful, thorough, one-volume work.

The history of Christianity, two volumes

Kenneth Scott Latourette; HarperCollins, paperback.

A standard work; very thorough.

The history of the Christian church

Williston Walker; T & T Clarke, hardback.

Often found in second-hand bookstores. This is an old textbook on the subject. Not evangelical, but a very useful resource from an objective point of view.

2000 years of Christ's power, three volumes

N R Needham; Grace publications, paperback.

A modern, succinct, telling of the story of church history by an evangelical college history professor.

An Ecclesiastical History, From The Birth of Christ to the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century: in which The Rise, Progress And Variation of Church Power Are Considered In Their Connection With the State Of Learning And Philosophy, and The Political History of Europe During that Period.

Johann Lorenz von Mosheim; William Tyler, two volume set or one large hardback. The title page lists the author as 'John Lawrence Mosheim, D.D., Chancellor of the University of Göttingen.'

Another standard work up to the time of the author (who died in 1755). An excellent presentation by a German Lutheran scholar; considered by some as the best church history.

Manual of Church History

Albert Henry Newman; paperback

I haven't got this work but it is very useful and I have looked into it. A digitised paperback copy is now available, at a cost. It covers Protestant church history from 1517 to modern times, with a look also at the Catholic history from the Counter Reformation.

Documents of the Early Church

Editor: Henry Bettenson; Oxford University Press, paperback.

A selection of primary sources from all periods of church history by a scholar.

Important works on specific periods of church history

Early church

The Dawn of Christianity

FF Bruce; hardback.

Deals with the Church from its infancy to the fall of Jerusalem. The old edition is only found second-hand.

Light in the West

FF Bruce; hardback.

Takes the story up to the accession of Constantine in 313. Volume two of above.

The Growing Day

FF Bruce; hardback.

Christianity in Rome and its spread to the British Isles after the barbarian invasion. Volume three of above.

The Spreading Flame: The Rise and Progress of Christianity from Its First Beginnings to the Conversion of the English.

FF Bruce; Eerdmans, paperback.

This is a combination of the above three works in a modern single edition. Bruce's works are always interesting and his coverage of this period is both academically respected and enjoyable.

The Pauline Circle**Men and Movements in the Primitive Church**

FF Bruce; Paternoster, paperback.

Two very helpful books by the brilliant Bruce on factors in the very early church.

A Short History of the Early Church

Harry R Boer; Ethics & Public Policy Centre Inc., paperback.

Examines the early church up to 600. An excellent account that is less well known in Britain.

The Early Days of Christianity

F.W. Farrar (Archdeacon of Westminster, chaplain to Queen Victoria); various publishers.

This was once a standard Victorian work written by a popular Anglican.

The Primitive Saints and the See of Rome

F W Fuller; Longmans Green and Co., hardback.

An old standard Anglican work on the subject; a scholarly summary of the first four centuries.

Early Church History of the Roman Empire as the Setting of Primitive Christianity

Stephen Benko and John J O'Rourke, Oliphants, hardback.

A modern summary.

The Church of the First Three Centuries

JJ Blunt; John Murray, hardback.

A useful summary.

The church fathers

Studies in Tertullian and Augustine

B B Warfield; Baker, volume four in his works, hardback.

Warfield is a giant amongst Reformed theologians and all his works have value (though he had his weaknesses). Augustine was the chief precursor of the Reformers.

The Fathers of the Latin Church

Hans von Campenhausen, Adam & Charles Black, hardback.

Scholarly work but not evangelical.

The Early Christian Fathers**The Later Christian Fathers**

Editor: Henry Bettenson; Oxford University Press, paperbacks.

A selection of primary sources to illustrate the works of the fathers. A useful primer.

Decent, general evaluations of the fathers from an evangelical perspective are hard to find. However, there are several Roman Catholic summaries, some of which are quite useful.

British Celtic Church

Early Celtic Christianity

Brendan Lehane; Constable, paperback.

A useful summary in one volume; more sober and scholarly than some speculative works. Probably the best place to start.

Christianity in Roman Britain to AD 500

Charles Thomas; Batsford Press, paperback.

A helpful examination of this period that has few witnesses in print.

An Introduction to the Living Legend of St. Patrick

Alannah Hopkin; St Martin's Press, hardback

Helpful summary of an important British missionary.

A history of Christian England

E O James; Hutchinson's Univ. Lib. Hardback.

A simple introduction.

The Dark Ages

Ecclesiastical History of the English People

Bede; various publishers, hardback & paperback.

The only real standard work for this period, written in 731.

The Reformation

History of the Reformation in the 16th century

JH Merle D'Aubigne; Whittaker and Co, hardback.

The Reformed student's standard work on the subject; found in various publishers.

The Reformation in England

JH Merle D'Aubigne; Banner of Truth, two volumes, paperback.

Another standard work from D'Aubigne.

Masters of the English Reformation

Sir Marcus Loane; Banner of Truth, paperback.

An outline of the lives of Thomas Bilney, William Tyndale, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer.

The Reformers and the Theology of the Reformation

William Cunningham, T & T Clark, hardback.

A standard Reformed work; 616 pages of thorough evaluation by an esteemed scholar.

The History of Protestantism

James Aitken Wylie; three volumes, large hardback.

A strong evangelical work with helpful woodcut prints (in the old editions). This popular, very readable, work is also available on certain websites to view freely.

The Great Reformation: From Wyclif to Knox - Two Centuries That Changed the Course of History

R. Tudor Jones; Evangelical Press, Paperback.

A popular modern summary.

The Protestant Reformation

Editor: Hans J Hillerbrand; Harper Collins.

This is a collection of lengthy extracts from primary sources, which is always invaluable to the serious student; I don't have this volume. This respected author also edited *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of the Reformation* (4 vols.).

The World of the Reformation

Hans J Hillerbrand; Dent, hardback.

An elegant, readable summary by a scholar.

The Reformation – In its own words

Hans J Hillerbrand; SCM Press, hardback.

A one-volume appreciation based on primary sources.

The English Reformation

A G Dickens; Pennsylvania State University Press, paperback.

A good modern summary.

The Reformation in Scotland

John Knox; Banner of Truth, paperback.

A useful summary in one volume.

Reformation Christianity and the World 1500-2000

Philippe Fernandez-Armesto and Derek Wilson, Bantam Press, paperback.

Evaluates the Reformation and its influence.

Renaissance & Reformation

W R Estep; Eerdmans, paperback.

Showing the influences upon the Reformers from the innovations of the Renaissance.

The Reformation in Spain

Thomas M'Crie; Hartland Pub. paperback.

An important work on a neglected subject.

Heroes of the Reformation

Hagstotz & Hagstotz; Hartland Pub. paperback.

A helpful summary of key people, including some lesser-known characters.

Anabaptists and others**The Reformers & Their Stepchildren**

Leonard Verduin; Baker, paperback.

Highly regarded work, though sometimes controversial.

The Anabaptist Story

William Estep; Eerdmans, paperback.

Very useful modern summary.

The Anabaptists

R J Smithson, James Clark & Co., hardback

Popular style summary found second-hand.

The Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of Piedmont and of the Albigenses

Peter Allix, CHRAA, hardback.

The standard work on the Piedmont Waldensians and others. Expensive and hard to find, but vital for study of this subject.

Puritans**A quest for Godliness**

J I Packer; Crossway Books, hardback; published in England as 'Among God's Giants', paperback.

A stirring work to stimulate interest in the Puritans, evaluating different aspects of their theology and practice.

The Puritans

D M Lloyd-Jones; Banner of Truth, hardback.

An introduction to the Puritans by a well-known Welsh preacher.

Lives of the Puritans

Benjamin Brook, Soli Deo Gloria edition, three volumes, hardback.

One of the more thorough collections of Puritan biographies.

The Genius of Puritanism

Peter Lewis, Carey Publications, paperback

A recent popular summary.

Joel Beeke has recently authored and edited a number of very useful books on Puritans, their doctrine, practices, piety and value. These can all be recommended.

Revivals

Revivals

W B Sprague; Banner of Truth, hardback.

The standard work examining historical revivals.

The Welsh Revival of 1904

Eifion Evans; Bryntirion Press, paperback.

The best work on this subject by an expert on Welsh revivals.

Revival Comes to Wales: The Story of the 1859 Revival in Wales

Eifion Evans; Evangelical Press of Wales, paperback.

Less well-known than the 1904 revival but this is an important account.

The Awakening in Wales: A First-Hand Account of the Welsh Revival of 1904

Jessie Penn-Lewis; Overcomer Books, paperback.

A helpful, slim volume that succinctly summarises the revival by a journalist who assisted Evan Roberts. However, not the first port of call on this matter.

Revivals

D M Lloyd-Jones; Crossway Books, paperback.

A work that discusses the nature of various revivals and their need today.

On Revival

Jonathan Edwards; Banner of Truth, paperback.

The classic work on good and bad revivals, whether they are of the Spirit or of the flesh.

Evangelical Revival in the 18th century

Michael Haykin;

A helpful booklet summarising the matter.

Revival & Revivalism

Iain Murray; Banner of Truth, hardback.

Seeks to show the difference between a God-breathed revival and fleshly crusades.

The Great Awakening: A History of the Revival of Religion in the Time of Edwards and Whitefield

Joseph Tracy; Banner of Truth, hardback.

The standard work on the Great Awakening.

The Revival of 1859

William Hamilton; the Reformed Book Outlet.

A scathing criticism of the Irish 1859 revival by an observer. This is a necessary antidote to gullible fans of anything that claims to be a revival.

Handbook of Revivals

H C Fish; Gano Books, hardback.

A summary of the factors emanating from good revivals.

Pentecost Today: The Biblical basis for understanding revivals

Iain H Murray; Banner of Truth, hardback

Asserting the Biblical values of a true revival.

Modern movements

In Pursuit of Purity: American Fundamentalism since 1850

David O Beale; Unusual Publications, paperback.

Summary of early Fundamentalism; the Christian reaction to Modernism in the USA.

Pentecostalism: Origins and Developments Worldwide

Walter J. Hollenweger; Baker Academic, paperback.

Written by a key Pentecostal spokesman.

The Pentecostals

Walter J. Hollenweger; SCM, large format paperback.

Another standard appreciative history.

The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements in the Twentieth Century

Vinson Synan; Eerdmans, paperback.

Another important Pentecostal spokesman.

The Toronto Blessing and the Slaying in the Spirit – the telling wonder

Nader Mikhael; self-published, third edition, paperback.

An important critique of the early history of Pentecostalism explaining facts that are omitted in the normal Pentecostal histories.

Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730s to the 1980s

David W. Bebbington; Routledge, paperback.

The standard author in this subject.

The Dominance of Evangelicalism: The Age of Spurgeon and Moody

David W. Bebbington; IVP, hardback.

Another standard work.

Evangelicalism in England

E J Poole-Connor; FIEC, hardback.

Foreword by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Once considered the best introduction.

The Evangelicals

Various contributors; commentary by JD Allan; Baker/Paternoster; large format paperback.

Written to give a description of the movement and its origins.

Evangelicalism Divided

Iain H Murray; Banner of Truth, hardback

Surveys the history between 1950 and 2000 outlining the problem of New Evangelicalism.

Important works on specific denominations in church history

The Pilgrim Church

EH Broadbent; Gospel Folio Press, hardback.

Various publishers. The best book on the history of the persecuted evangelical sects outside Romanism, such as the Waldensians, Anabaptists, the Paulicans, the Bogomils, Albigenses etc.

A Short history of the Baptists

Henry C Vedder; Judson Press, hardback.

A useful one-volume summary of Baptist history.

By His Grace and For His Glory

Thomas J Nettles; Baker, paperback.

A popular modern summary of Baptist history.

The Baptist Union

Ernest A Payne, Carey Kingsgate Press, hardback.

A standard Baptist work.

A Popular History of the Free Churches

C Sylvester Horne; James Clark & Co, hardback

The standard work on this subject.

A History of the Plymouth Brethren

William Blair Neatby

I haven't got this book but it is the standard work on the Brethren.

The Origins of the Brethren

Harold H Rowden; Pickering & Inglis, hardback.

A thorough introduction for those who have not got Neatby.

Important works on the history of doctrine

A History of Christian Doctrine

WGT Shedd; T & T Clark, two volumes, hardback.

One of the standard works written by an outstanding Reformed theologian (though not without his quirks). Many subsequent histories of doctrine lean heavily upon this monumental work. Like Berkhof, he takes the doctrinal approach rather than the time-period approach (see Louis Berkhof below).

Historical Theology

William Cunningham; Banner of Truth Trust, two volumes, hardback.

Probably the best survey of doctrine from a conservative Reformed viewpoint. The author was Principal of New College Edinburgh from 1847 – 1861.

Early Christian Doctrines

JND Kelly; Adam & Charles Black, hardback.

A standard work, which is of great value, even though the author is not really evangelical.

An Introduction to the Early History of Christian Doctrine (to the time of the Council of Chalcedon)

JF Bethune-Baker; Methuen, hardback.

A early standard text from a professor of Divinity at Cambridge. This was the standard work on the subject until the more recent updated work by Kelly, which replaced it.

The History of Christian Doctrines

Louis Berkhof; Baker, paperback.

A history of dogma by a respected Reformed author. It uses the examination of particular doctrines and their history, approach, rather than the examination of a period and the partial development of doctrine in that period. The first gives a better coverage of total doctrinal development; the latter gives a better understanding of a period.

This is a very useful item for the student who needs a concise summary, rather than a detailed discussion.

Historical Theology

Gregg R Allison; Zondervan, hardback.

A large recent work that is a companion volume to Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* since that work was so weak on history.

Works on the development of Calvinism

This is necessary for serious students who wish to understand the truth about the scholastic development of Calvinism after Calvin, and to gainsay those who promote a discrepancy between Calvin and the later Calvinists.

Richard A Muller

Muller is of prime importance in this debate.

Muller taught at Fuller Theological Seminary from 1980–1992 (one of the better teachers at this questionable seminary). He is currently the P. J. Zondervan Professor of Historical Theology at the Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We give special prominence to Muller here because he is important in disputing and nullifying the 'Calvin against the Calvinists' theory of the development of Reformed thought (as proposed by people such as RT Kendall). This recent radical proposal was both un-historical and simplistic. They proposed that Calvin was Christocentric and understood salvation in universalistic terms, while the later Calvinists were more scholastic and rigid interpreters of the Reformation and were radically predestinarian (deterministic).

Muller argued that the later Reformed thinkers did not develop a strictly predestinarian system but understood theology in terms of a series of biblically based loci. Their thought differs occasionally from Calvin's, but these differences are explained by the influences of

other Reformed theologians, such as Martin Bucer, Heinrich Bullinger, Peter Martyr Vermigli, and others, due to alterations in debate and historical context.

Christ and the Decree (Christology and Predestination in Reformed Theology from Calvin to Perkins)

Richard A Muller; The Labyrinth Press, hardback.

An important work detailing the development of doctrine after Calvin; a subject that has been hijacked and twisted by false teachers in recent decades. Muller is the authoritative voice on the subject.

God, Creation, and Providence in the Thought of Jacob Arminius

Richard A Muller; Baker, paperback.

An evaluation of the sources and directions of Arminius' thought. A much neglected topic.

Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics; Volume 1

Richard A Muller; Baker, paperback.

This is a prolegomena on theology within the confines of an evaluation of the progress of Reformed scholastic dogmatics.

Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics; Volume 2

Richard A Muller; Baker, paperback.

An evaluation of the progress of Reformed discussion of Scripture and the basic foundation of theology.

Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics; Volumes 3 and 4

Richard A Muller; Baker, paperback.

I have not yet got these volumes, which complete the set.

Others

Assurance of Faith – Calvin, English Puritanism and the Dutch Second Reformation

Joel R Beeke; Peter Lang, paperback.

The development of the doctrine of Assurance from Calvin to the Westminster Assembly and then its continuation afterwards.

Protestant Scholasticism – Essays in Reassessment

Editors: Carl R Trueman and R S Clark; Paternosta Press, paperback.

Reverses the idea that following Luther, Protestantism dwindled into cold rationality and scholastic speculation; written in a series of essays by specialists (inc. Muller).

Calvin and the Calvinists

Paul Helm; Banner of Truth, paperback.

A more succinct presentation of the key arguments to support the unity of Calvin and subsequent Calvinists.

Specific people

We cannot list many books in this section; there are hundreds of useful biographies. I will merely give a few sample books covering theologians, church leaders, philanthropists and missionaries.

Martin Luther

There are very many of these.

Life of Calvin

Theodore Beza; paperback.

A superb concise summary of Calvin's life written by his successor in Geneva, which was originally the preface to a book. An excellent introduction to Calvin. There are many other biographies.

Calvin and Calvinism

BB Warfield; volume five in his works by Baker (and others), hardback.

An important Reformed summary of a giant in theology with a focus on some aspects of this theology.

Five Pioneer Missionaries

Edited by Iain H Murray; Banner of Truth, paperback.

Prize-winning essays from various authors on important missionaries. A good introduction to missionary biographies. [Covers David Brainerd, William C. Burns, John Eliot, Henry Martyn and John G. Paton.]

Five English Reformers

JC Ryle; Banner of Truth, paperback.

A useful summary by a worthy reformed Anglican, inspired by John Foxe. [Covers John Hooper, Rowland Taylor, Hugh Latimer, John Bradford, and Nicholas Ridley]

Five Christian Leaders of the 18th century

JC Ryle; Banner of Truth, paperback.

An abridgement of a larger work that looked at 11 men [George Whitefield, John Wesley, William Grimshaw, William Romaine, Daniel Rowland, John Berridge, Henry Venn, Samuel Walker of Truro, James Hervey, Augustus Toplady and John Fletcher of Madeley.] by a terrific writer.

Puritan Profiles: 54 Puritan Personalities Drawn Together by the Westminster Assembly

William Barker; Mentor, hardback.

A modern summary of key Puritans.

Samuel Rutherford and his friends

Faith Cook; Banner of Truth, paperback.

A modern summary.

John Bunyan

J Brown, Isbister, hardback.

There are also versions of this in paperback by different publishers. Everyone should read Bunyan's story.

George Whitefield: The Life and Times of the Great Evangelist of the Eighteenth Century Revival

Arnold Dallimore; two volumes, hardback.

Probably the most well known biography of Whitefield, though there are others.

George Whitefield and the Great Awakening

John Pollock; Lion, paperback

A much smaller work for those who do not wish to wade through Dallimore.

Jonathan Edwards

Iain H Murray; Banner of Truth, hardback.

A standard work on this important figure in American theology.

William Carey

S Pearce Carey; Hodder & Stoughton, hardback.

The full work on this important pioneer missionary. There are various other biographies.

Memoirs and Remains of R M M'Cheyne

Andrew Bonar, Banner of Truth, hardback.

Required reading! M'Cheyne was a truly godly, inspirational preacher. A condensed version of his life is also produced by Banner as a paperback, which is equally good.

CH Spurgeon

Autobiography; Banner of Truth, two volumes.

The best work on Spurgeon; there are many others.

The Footsteps of God

John Legg; EP, paperback.

Concise summaries of a number of great historical saints.

The Autobiography of Hudson Taylor: Missionary to China (Illustrated)

J. Hudson Taylor; two volumes hardback.

Required reading! Heart-warming account of the life of the founder of the China Inland Mission and one of the greatest missionaries. There are many shorter accounts, but this is the best.

C. T. Studd, Cricketer and Pioneer

Norman P Grubb; hardback; CLC paperback also available.

Required reading! A stirring account of this godly missionary who gave up everything to serve Christ.

The Cambridge Seven

John Pollock; Christian Focus, paperback.

Inspiring account of the students that went to the mission field, which included WC Burns and CT Studd.

The Autobiography of George Muller

George Muller; various publishers, hardback.

Required reading! Compelling story of supporting an orphanage by living by faith. It shows what a godly, praying man can do with nothing but God.

Anthony Norris Groves: Saint and Pioneer: A Combined Study of a Man of God and of the Principles and Practices and Practices of the Brethren.

G. H. Lang; various publishers, hardback and paperback.

The study of an important godly man by an equally important godly man of the Brethren persuasion.

Martyrology

'Foxy's Book of Martyrs' [The Acts and Monuments]

John Foxe; various publishers in full (hardback) or abridged (paperback) format.

The standard summary of the story of the martyrs, which was once required reading for converts.

Martyr's Mirror

Thieleman J. van Braght; first published in 1660 in Dutch, hardback.

Documents the stories and testimonies of many Christian martyrs, especially Anabaptists.

A Cloud of Witnesses

John H Thomson; Sprinkle Publications edition, hardback

The 'killing times' in Scotland.

Scots Worthies

John Howie;

Companion volume to Cloud of Witnesses.

Men of the Covenant

Alexander Smellie; Banner of Truth, hardback.

Another book from the 'killing times' in Scottish history.

Fair Sunshine

Jock Purves; Banner of Truth, paperback.

Studies of Scottish Covenanters in the 'killing times'.

The Book of Christian Martyrs

Various authors, Crossroad, hardback.

A short summary of key martyrs throughout church history from an ecumenical perspective.

Conclusion

In the interests of space, and my health in going up and down stairs looking up books, this is only a small sample both of what is available and what I have in my library (it has taken days to merely compile this short list). However, I trust that I have pointed you in good directions for further study.

Recommendations

I accept that the average Bible student will not purchase even a fraction of this list. Nevertheless, all Christians should make some attempt to have a reasonable knowledge of church history, and this can be done cheaply. Thus I recommend the following as a basic requirement.

- **Dictionary.** A reasonable dictionary of the church, such as that by Douglas. This will probably become your first port of call to find more information on a certain individual, movement, event or document. Failing that, the Concise Oxford can be found cheaply.

- **Introduction.** A good introduction to the whole of church history; various forms of this are available. You could find a cheap, second-hand summary, such as Biggs' *An Introduction to the History of the Christian Church*, or a handbook such as the *Lion Handbook of Church History*. It is important to first see the wood for the trees and have a general understanding of the various periods of church history. Walton's charts make an excellent starting point.
- **Complete church history.** A good evaluation of all church history is necessary. Since Schaff is available free on E-Sword, then this is certainly recommended. However, a good book is always better and more readily available; all the ones mentioned have their uses.
- **Key periods.** Have a few good summaries of key periods. I suggest that the periods ought to be: the early church (up to 6th century); the medieval period and Renaissance (up to 1517), the Reformation (16th century), the Post Reformation revivals, denominations and sects (17th century), and the 18th – 19th century missionary expansion, at least. F F Bruce will be sufficient for the early church and several works should be gained on the Reformation, as it is so important (these can often be found cheaply).
- **Key Movements.** There are movements that span various time-frames and some working knowledge of these is helpful, for both the good and the bad. For example: the Gnostics, the mystics, the Quakers, the Waldensians, the Anabaptists, the Pietists, the Quietists, the Brethren, the Holiness Movement, Pentecostalism etc.
- **Doctrine.** A doctrinal history is quite important; Berkhof would be sufficient for most people. Good systematic theologies will also give the historical background to doctrines (or should do), so you could get by with that, e.g. Berkhof's, *Systematic Theology*.
- **Martyrology.** A good Martyrology is helpful; Foxe is the most commonly used.
- **Biographies.** As they are so important, a biography of Martin Luther and John Calvin are necessary. There are many more to choose from and they are often inexpensive. To these could be added important people in various ministries, such as: Augustine, Perpetua, William Carey, CH Spurgeon, George Muller, George Whitefield, Athanasius, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, D M Lloyd-Jones, Mary Slessor, William Tyndale, Richard Baxter, John Newton, John Bunyan, John Wycliffe, John Paton, Jan Hus, Ulrich Zwingli, Murray M'Cheyne etc. the list is endless.

If you search you can develop a reasonable working church history library at little cost. In addition, these days there are huge amounts of resources available on the Internet, including many of these books and CD Roms containing whole libraries.

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