

The Front Row Christian Reading List

Written Works:

The Bible: there is no substitute for understanding our own cultural history – Biblical literacy matters.

Alighieri, Dante. The Divine Comedy and Inferno

Alinsky, Saul. Rules for Radicals

Augustine *The Confessions* and *The City of God* 354-430AD

Bailey, Kenneth. Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes 2008

Berry, Wendell. Life is a Miracle: an essay against Modern Superstition 2001 – plus his novels

Bethell, Tom. Darwin's House of Cards 2017

Bloom, Allan. The Closing of the American Mind: how higher education has failed democracy and impoverished the souls of today's students 2012 First chapter

Bloom, Anthony. Meditations on a theme: a spiritual journey, and School for Prayer 1970

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. The Cost of Discipleship: Letters and Papers from Prison, and Life Together . See also the biography by Eric Metaxas and Tim Keller, Bonhoeffer

Bruce, FF. The Spreading Flame: the Rise and Progress of Christianity from its first Beginnings to the Conversion of the English 1982 and his bible commentaries

Budziszewski, J. The Revenge of Conscience and What We Can't Not Know

Bunyan, John. Pilgrim's Progress

Chesterton, GK. Orthodoxy 1908 especially and The Everlasting Man 1943

Von Clausewitz, Carl. On War

Colson's books marvelous stories, terrible style

Cronin, AJ. The Keys of the Kingdom A family favorite

Dallimore Arnold. George Whitefield: The Life and Times of the Great Evangelist of 18th Cent Revival

De Cervantes, Miguel. Don Quixote

De Toqueville, Alexis Democracy in America – See Mansfield, H. Tocqueville, A Very Short Introduction

Dickens, Charles all works

Donovan, Vincent J. Christianity Rediscovered: An Epistle from the Masai 1982

Dostoyevsky The Brothers Karamazov especially

Eliot, George. Adam Bede and Middlemarch especially

Elliott, Elizabeth. Through Gates of Splendor – for the challenge

Ellul, Jacques. The Subversion of Christianity and The Humiliation of the Word

Englemann (Seigfried & Therese) Give Your Child a Superior Mind

First Things firstthings.com – faith, culture & public policy – must read!

Ferguson, Niall. Civilization: the West and the Rest 2011 and The Ascent of Money 2009

Greene, Graham. His novels, especially as they deal with faith

Gregory, Brad. The Unintended Reformation 2012

Grubb, Norman. Rees Howell's Intercessor – Almost beyond belief – prayer power in WWII

Hannam, James. Genesis of Science: How the Christian MA Launched the Scientific Revolution

Hardy, Thomas. His novels especially Jude the Obscure

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Scarlet Letter

Hemingway, Ernest. all works

Hoggart, Richard. The Uses of Literacy: aspects of working class life 1957

Homer. The Iliad and the Odyssey

Hugo, Victor. Les Miserables 1862

Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World

Johnson, Paul. The Birth of Modern, and A History of Christianity and Intellectuals

Kass, Leon. The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis – Jewish intellectual – fascinating

Keller, Tim. Reason for God: Belief in the Age of Skepticism 2009

Koestler, Arthur. The Ghost in the Machine and Darkness at Noon (translated by Daphne Hardy)

Kreeft, Peter. All his books for the unique approach to apologetics, especially The Best Things in Life, Making Sense out of Suffering, A Refutation of Moral Relativism and Three Philosophies of Life

Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird

Lennox, J. Gunning for God 2011 and God's Undertaker 2007 Against the Flow 2015 – Northern Irish mathematician specializing in group theory, philosopher of science, Christian apologist, and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford – read him! See him debate C. Hitchens!

Lewis, CS. All his work is worth reading: the Narnia stories, the science fiction, Till We Have Faces and the apologetics especially The Abolition of Man

Lifton, J. The Nazi Doctor – horrendous and undeniable part of our history

Lindberg, David C. The Beginning of Western Science

Lloyd-Jones, Martin. Especially Faith on Trial, Joy Unspeakable, Spiritual Depression and The Sermon on the Mount. 'The greatest man I've ever known' JI Packer – see Iain Murray, Life of MLJ 1899-1981

Macdonald, George. His novels for the stories and their purpose

Machiavelli, Niccolo. The Prince

Mackay The Clockwork Image and Mind and Matter

Manzoni, Alessandro. The Betrothed: a tale of XVII century Milan (translated by Archibald Colquhoun)

MacIntyre, Alasdair. After Virtue: a study in moral theory 1984

Medawar especially The Art of the Possible

Melville, Herman. Moby Dick

Meyer, S. Signature in the Cell – brilliant

Midgley, Mary. Science as Salvation 1992 – lucidly and beautifully written

Milton, John. Paradise Lost

Muggeridge, Malcolm. Anything after his conversion for its marvelous analysis of our times

Newbigin, Lesslie. Foolishness to the Greeks, Pluralism and the Gospel, and Proper Confidence

Novak, Michael. On Two Wings – a correction to the revisionist American history taught in school

O'Brien, Michael. Father Elijah's Apocalypse, Island of the World, A Father's Tale – novels that reduce one to prayerful tears

Orwell, George Animal Farm and Nineteen-Eighty Four

Packer, JI. Knowing God 1973

Pascal, Blaise. (1623-1662) The Pensees (translated and introduced by JM Cohen)

Percy, Walker. Lost in the Cosmos and all his novels

Polanyi, Karl. (1886-1964) Personal Knowledge

Ramsey, Paul. The Patient as Person; explorations in medical ethics 1970

Robinson, Marilynne. The Death of Adam, Gilead, and Home

Roseveare, Helen. For the challenge, especially Living Sacrifice

Russell Crosscurrents: A Christian Analysis of Science

Satinover, J. Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth – essential understanding

Simeon, Charles. See Hopkins, Hugh Evan Charles Simeon of Cambridge 1709 – a neglected hero

Simmons, Geoffrey. Millions of Missing Links 2006

Sire, James. The Universe Next Door – easy to read introduction to world views

Skousen, Cleon. The Making of America

Solzhenitsyn Especially The Gulag and Cancer Ward

Spitzer, Robert. Healing the Culture 2000

St John of the Cross The Dark Night of the Soul (translated, abridged, and edited by Kurt Reinhardt)

St Thomas a Kempis The Imitation of Christ (translated and introduced by Leo Sherley-Price)

Steinbeck, John. all works

Stott, JRW Basic Christianity and The Sermon on the Mount and Same-Sex Partnerships? “The Bible Speaks for Today” is an excellent series of commentaries edited by John Stott

Stove, David. Darwinian Fairy Tales. A devastating critique of Darwin by an atheist philosopher who writes with tremendous wit

Strathern, Paul. Mendeleyev’s Dream 2000 – a miracle indeed

Sun Tzu. The Art of War

Taylor, AJP. On British history (Oxford University Press)

Tolkien, JRR. The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit

Tolstoy, Leo. all works

Twain, Mark. all works

Vitz, Paul. Psychology as Religion: the cult of self-worshipping 1977

Weil, Simone. Her books on problems with faith

Willard, Dallas. The Divine Conspiracy 1998

Williams, Charles. His novels, especially Descent into Hell 1949

Wootton, David. Bad Medicine: Doctors doing Harm since Hippocrates 2006

Wright, NT. Surprised by Hope 2009

Poetry - Herbert, Donne, Keats, Owen, Francis Thompson, Shakespeare, Eliot, Hopkins, Yeats and Wavell

Alternative uptake:

Kenneth Clark – Civilization (parts 1-13 on youtube)

Jordan B. Peterson podcasts (For the purposes of critique/critical thinking and dissection, with an emphasis on truth)

Joe Rogan Experience (His guests often have appeal for their contributions and for the understanding we need of the way others think)

Fee.org

AmericanThinker.com

Prageru.com

Blueletterbible.org

Concepts to Fully Grasp:

Facts – Scientific vs Moral

Moral Feelings vs Moral Thoughts

The Proper Definition and Place of Science

The Sixth Deadly Sin (Acedia or Sloth) (the flawed concept surrounding tolerance)

The Proper Understanding of Ethics vs Morals

The Proper Understanding of a non-Creationist View

The Proper Understanding of the error surrounding the Faith + Works Model

The Proper Understanding of Toynbee's Criteria for Collapsing Cultures

The four loves in Greek and their right application

Supplements, References, and Study Aids:

MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series (Expensive but worth every penny at \$600+ for the set)

Layman's Bible Commentary Set (Longman and Strauss)

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

Wheelock, Frederic M. *Wheelock's Latin* New York: HarperCollins, 2000. (6th ed or higher)

Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church* Vol. 1 in *The Penguin History of the Church* series. Rev

R.W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages* Vol. 2 in *The Penguin History of the Church* series