



*Working to see what Christ will do in Scotland tomorrow.*

**Stornoway  
Reformed Presbyterian  
Church of Scotland**

part of a global church with a glorious heritage



## January 2018 Newsletter



### WELCOME

### LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship—11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

### PRAYER MEETING

Thursday—7.30pm

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Word from the Manse.....	2
News & Events.....	2
Gleanings by Bill Lucas.....	4
On Being a Lifelong Learner.....	6
How to Pray for Your Pastor.....	8
The Attributes of God.....	10
Children's Corner.....	12

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Stornoway RPCS  
Bridge Community Centre  
Bayhead Embankment  
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis,  
Scotland, HS1 2EB

[www.stornowayrpcs.org](http://www.stornowayrpcs.org)

[info@stornowayrpcs.org](mailto:info@stornowayrpcs.org)

Scottish Charity No: SC043043

## WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

Let me take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year and to pray for the Lord's blessing for you in 2018. We must ever be mindful of what God has done for us and look forward with anticipation for new mercies in the future. Each new year gives us a perfect opportunity to reflect on these things, to give praise and thanks to Him, and to confess any sin and purpose new obedience.

Sadly, those who are without God in this world pass from one year to the next without real hope. We live in a world of pain, suffering, and disappointments. Those people who tend to see the glass half-full will comfort themselves with the expectation that something good will happen in 2018 or that by their own determination they can make the year a better one. On the other side, those who see the glass half-empty may wonder what new difficulty is coming next. As Christians, we have a different perspective seeing that all things are in the hands of a faithful and sovereign God. The Heidelberg Catechism reminds us that our comfort in life comes from the fact that, "He also preserves me in such a way that, without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation."

As we look to 2018, let's resolve to walk with God and to do so ever more closely. Our greatest joys are found when we are abiding in Christ, irrespective of whether we are in prosperity or adversity. Of course one of the ways that we can draw close to Him is by listening to His Word. How can you do this more effectively in 2018?

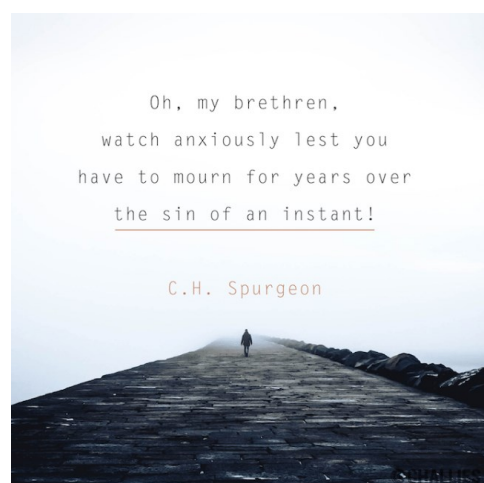
For some of you it may be a case of starting or getting back into the habit of reading God's Word daily. You can find various Bible reading plans online that will take you through the Bible in a year. The *Let's Worship God* reading notes are also helpful and will take you through smaller sections of Scripture each day. The main thing is to be in God's Word and listening to what He says in it.

For others you may already read God's Word regularly. How can you walk more closely with Christ? Look for one way to meditate more deeply on God's Word this year. Resolve to do just one thing that will get you thinking more about Christ and the benefits of redemption. What could that look like? For some it may be taking one verse and committing it to memory, repeating it to yourself throughout the day in order to digest its truths. Or perhaps it will be a case of writing out God's Word to help you think on it more carefully – remember that kings in Israel were to write their own copy! Maybe it will be a case of taking time to get away from distractions, to turn off the TV, and to read what Godly men say about a certain passage. There are many things that could be done, but choose just one and seek to cultivate the joy of dwelling in God's presence through His Word.

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97

In Christ,

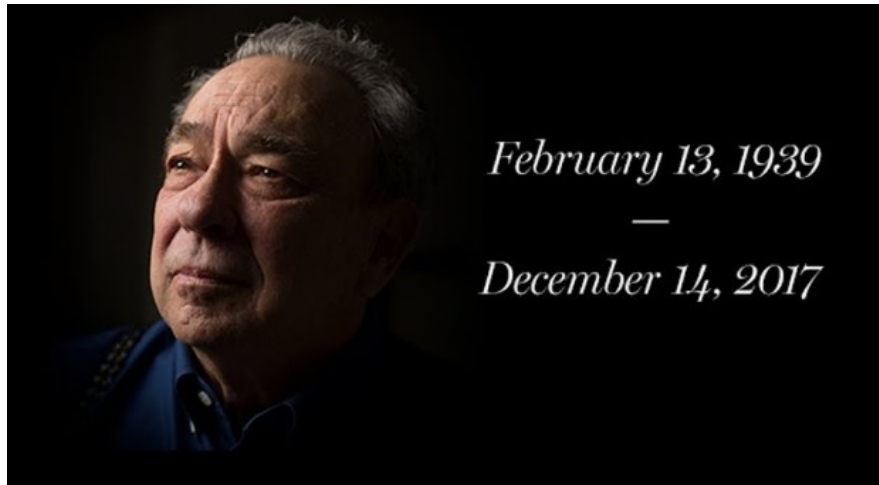
Stephen



## NEWS & EVENTS

### R.C. SPROUL: AN APPRECIATION

As we exited the double doors at the back of the church the pastor was there to greet us and shake our hands. He had a warm smile and a twinkle in his eyes as I filed by exchanging quick pleasantries. I thanked him for his message which — though it wasn't impressive or remarkable by any metric — was preached with simplicity and authority telling of the glory of Jesus as he calmed the storm. In that



moment I was fascinated by how ordinary it all was, especially because just the day before this pastor, R.C. Sproul, had spoken to a conference attended by thousands of people from all over the world.

R.C. Sproul was a titan of the Christian faith. He was uncompromising on the doctrine of justification by faith alone, a strident defender of the Bible, and perhaps did more to raise an awareness of the holiness of God than any other in the last century. In the coming days I'm quite certain we'll begin to see in part how big of a footprint this man left, but its fullness will only be measured in its breadth and depth when we all stand in the presence of God. Men and women, young and old, educated and uneducated will bear testimony to the lasting impact R.C. had on their lives.

In the hours since his death what I've marveled at is the reason behind his impact. If I can write it, R.C. wasn't particularly hip and trendy. In his ministry he didn't push the envelope or toe the line of edginess. He didn't go to great lengths to contextualize culture or pant after a trivial relevancy. Rather, he was committed to the historic Christian faith expressed in the ancient creeds, he dug in on the penal substitution of Jesus Christ, and stood in the circumference of Reformed Christianity even before its resurgence. Yet, he captivated millions. Why?

I suppose some could say it was his personality, larger-than-life vision, or stage presence. It's true, R.C. was the perfect combination of many things. But I tend to think the answer is ultimately found somewhere else. His effectiveness, I think, is rooted in the Bible. R.C.'s passion was to clearly and simply teach and preach the Bible as it has been given to us by God. He was a man of the Book. Those familiar with his teaching will remember how often (for he regularly repeated himself) he reminded us: "You are required to believe, to preach, and to teach what the Bible says is true, not what you want the Bible to say is true." That will bring us, no doubt, into direct conflict with the sin in us and around us, but it will also direct us to that righteousness which alone can give us a standing before God — the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

At best, R.C. was a vessel through whom the Bible came in a demonstration of the Spirit and power. He once wrote, "I believe the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests his power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything but that in which God has placed it. His Word. He alone has power to change lives for eternity and that power is focused on the Scriptures."

In the weeks and months ahead family, friends, and colleagues will write personal and moving tributes for this great man. I will read them and give thanks to Jesus for his life and legacy. But as I sit here tonight I'm particularly thankful for a man who taught and preached the Bible with clarity and simplicity. He has finished his course, he has kept the faith. Well done, brother.

**Rev. Kyle Borg, Winchester RPCNA**  
**[www.gentlereformation.com](http://www.gentlereformation.com)**

## GLEANINGS BY BILL LUCAS

### BUT WHO MAY ABIDE THE DAY OF HIS COMING?

His first coming was without external pomp or show of power, and yet in truth there were few who could abide its testing might. Herod and all Jerusalem with him were stirred at the news of the wondrous birth. Those who supposed themselves to be waiting for Him, showed the fallacy of their professions by rejecting Him when He came.

His life on earth was a winnowing fan, which tried the great heap of religious profession, and few enough could abide the process. But what will His second advent be? What sinner can endure to think of it? "He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked." When in His humiliation He did but say to the soldiers, "I am He," they fell backward; what will be the terror of His enemies when He shall more fully reveal Himself as the "I AM?"

His death shook earth and darkened heaven, what shall be the dreadful splendour of that day in which as the living Saviour, He shall summon the quick and dead before Him? O that the terrors of the Lord would persuade men to forsake their sins and kiss the Son lest He be angry! Though a lamb, He is yet the lion of the tribe of Judah, rending the prey in pieces; and though He breaks not the bruised reed, yet will He break His enemies with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

None of His foes shall bear up before the tempest of His wrath, or hide themselves from the sweeping hail of His indignation; but His beloved blood-washed people look for His appearing with joy, and hope to abide it without fear: to them He sits as a refiner even now, and when He has tried them they shall come forth as gold.

Let us search ourselves this morning and make our calling and election sure, so that the coming of the Lord may cause no dark forebodings in our mind. O for grace to cast away all hypocrisy, and to be found of Him sincere and without rebuke in the day of His appearing.

**CHS**

### THE BIBLE, THE WHOLE BIBLE, AND NOTHING BUT THE BIBLE!

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?" (Luke 10:25-26)

Notice in this passage, the high honour which our Lord Jesus Christ places on the Bible. He refers the lawyer at once to the Scriptures, as the only rule of faith and practice. He does not say in reply to his question, "What does the Jewish Church say about eternal life? What do the Scribes, and Pharisees, and priests think? What is taught on the subject in the traditions of the elders?"

He takes a far simpler and more direct course. He sends his questioner at once to the writings of the Old Testament, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?" He takes a far simpler and more direct course. He sends his questioner at once to the writings of the Old Testament, "What is written in the Law? What do you read there?"

4 Let the principle contained in these words, be one of the foundation principles of our Christianity. Let the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, be the rule of our faith and practice. Holding this principle, we travel upon the king's highway. The road may sometimes seem narrow, and our faith may be severely tried -- but we shall not be allowed greatly to err. Departing from this principle, we enter on a pathless wilderness. There is no telling what we may be led to believe or do. Forever let us bear this in mind. Here let us cast anchor. Here let us abide.

**J C RYLE**

## PRAYER

The prayer of faith opens the hand of the God of salvation and brings fresh supplies of His grace into our souls. That means an endowment of power that will enable us to not only persevere in religious duties, but to persevere in them with a warmth and liveliness of heart that will cause every good habit to yield its full return of spiritual helpfulness.

**Dr Alexander Stewart**

## SURPRISE RESULT

"And who knoweth whether thou are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

A young woman who desired to serve as a missionary felt compelled instead to help raise four motherless children. No doubt she poured her heart into caring for those little ones -- as all four became missionaries. Our desires may not materialise as we think and we may spend our life doing obscure things in unseen places. But if we take our passion for God and apply it to where He leads, the results will surprise us! A life that changed diapers and wiped runny noses received a fourfold return on her investment! May this become our experience.

**Deborah Manera**

## BANDS OF SLOTH

Even wise virgins sometimes slumber, but it is high time for all to shake off the bands of sloth. It is to be feared that many believers lose their strength as Samson lost his locks, while sleeping on the lap of carnal security ...

The church of God has so little influence over the world because the world has so much influence over the church.

**CHS**

## MEDITATION

It is not the bee's touching of the flower that gathers honey, but her abiding for a time upon the flower that draws out the sweet. It is not he who reads most, but he who meditates most -- who will prove the choicest, sweetest, wisest and strongest Christian.

**Thomas Brooks**

## THINK ON THESE THINGS (PHILIPPIANS 4:8)

A magazine had an article about a person so frustrated by limited success with his garden that he had considered giving it up and said he would "cultivate his mind" instead. Somebody quoted a little couplet to him: "Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds, The harvest can either be flowers or weeds." Christians are exhorted to think on things which are honest and lovely so that such thoughts will take form as virtuous acts of kindness or as words fitly spoken that will be worthy of praise.

**Brian Powlesland**

## TAKE ME AS I AM

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved." (Jer. 17:14). Here is this sin! Save me from it! Here is this snare! Break it to pieces! Here is this lust! Lord, subdue it! Here is this temptation! Deliver me out of it! Here is my proud heart! Lord, humble it! Here is my unbelieving heart! Take it away, and give me faith; give me submission to Your mind and will.

**Take me as I am with all my sin and shame** and work in me everything well pleasing in Your sight.

**J.C.Philpot**

## ON BEING A LIFELONG LEARNER

Over the years, I have heard many professing Christians say that they don't read very much. This has to be one of the most discouraging things that a pastor can hear a Christian admit. It may only be more disheartening to hear young men complain about how much they have to study in seminary. It is a privilege of the highest degree to get to give yourself to a diligent study of the deep things of God. Why wouldn't we want to know as much as possible about the living and true God—both from His word and from those he has appointed to teach us the riches of His word? Why wouldn't we want to be as careful as we can in handling truth.

A number of years ago, I asked a friend of mine, who is a respected Reformed theologian, why we didn't have more solid theologians in our day. His response was unexpected—yet, it stuck me as being true: He said, “the church has never had many great theologians.” There is only one conclusion that we can reach as to why that is the case. We don't consider our need to be diligent in persevering as lifelong learners.

At the end of his life and ministry, when he was “being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of his departure had come,” the Apostle Paul charged his protégé, Timothy, to “bring the books and above all the parchments.” When the greatest of Christ's apostles was coming to the end of his life, what did he want to do? He wanted to learn more. Whether the books to which he referred were the Old Testament Scriptures, or not, matters little. The principle is clear. The Apostle Paul, with his massive intellectual ability, felt as though there was so much more to learn. To be sure, the Scriptures are the principle books we should diligently study. However, we should want to read everything that will help us learn the Scriptures better, the work of God in history, the examination of the actions of men in the diverse cultures and to the creation around us. Charles Spurgeon once remarked on the profound example in this request when he wrote:

“Even an apostle must read...He is inspired, and yet he wants books! He has been preaching at least for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He had seen the Lord, and yet he wants books! He had had a wider experience than most men, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the third heaven, and had heard things which it was unlawful for a man to utter, yet he wants books! He had written the major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books! The apostle says to Timothy and so he says to every preacher, ‘Give yourself to reading.’ The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own. Brethren, what is true of ministers is true of all our people. *You need to read.*” **1**

Having been in ministry for nearly a decade, I often feel as though I am just beginning to scratch the surface of God's word. After finishing seminary, I had the privilege of being a regular panelist on a theological podcast. Over the six years of my involvement, I left feeling as though I had received a seminary education on top of that which I had already received through the books that I read, as well as on account of the interaction that I had with the other panelists and with the guests.

We have more resources available to us today than ever before in human history. The number of publications—both print and electronic (*e.g.* [Google Books](#), [Internet Archive](#) and [Logos](#))—at our disposal is astonishing. When we find ourselves criticizing theologians or historians of a bygone generation, it would do us well to remember that many of them did not have access to many of the resources that we have. Additionally, we should remember that there is always more to learn from those who have gone before us. We are, in the words of Bernard of Chartres, “standing on the shoulders of giants.” It should then be, as Cornelius Van Til put it, “not surprising if we see further than they saw.” Most recently I have been reading through Herman Bavinck's [Reformed Dogmatics](#) for the second time. As I do, I am finding how much I have missed when I first read sections of it. I am astonished at how precise he was in articulating and defending the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. I am also seeing how

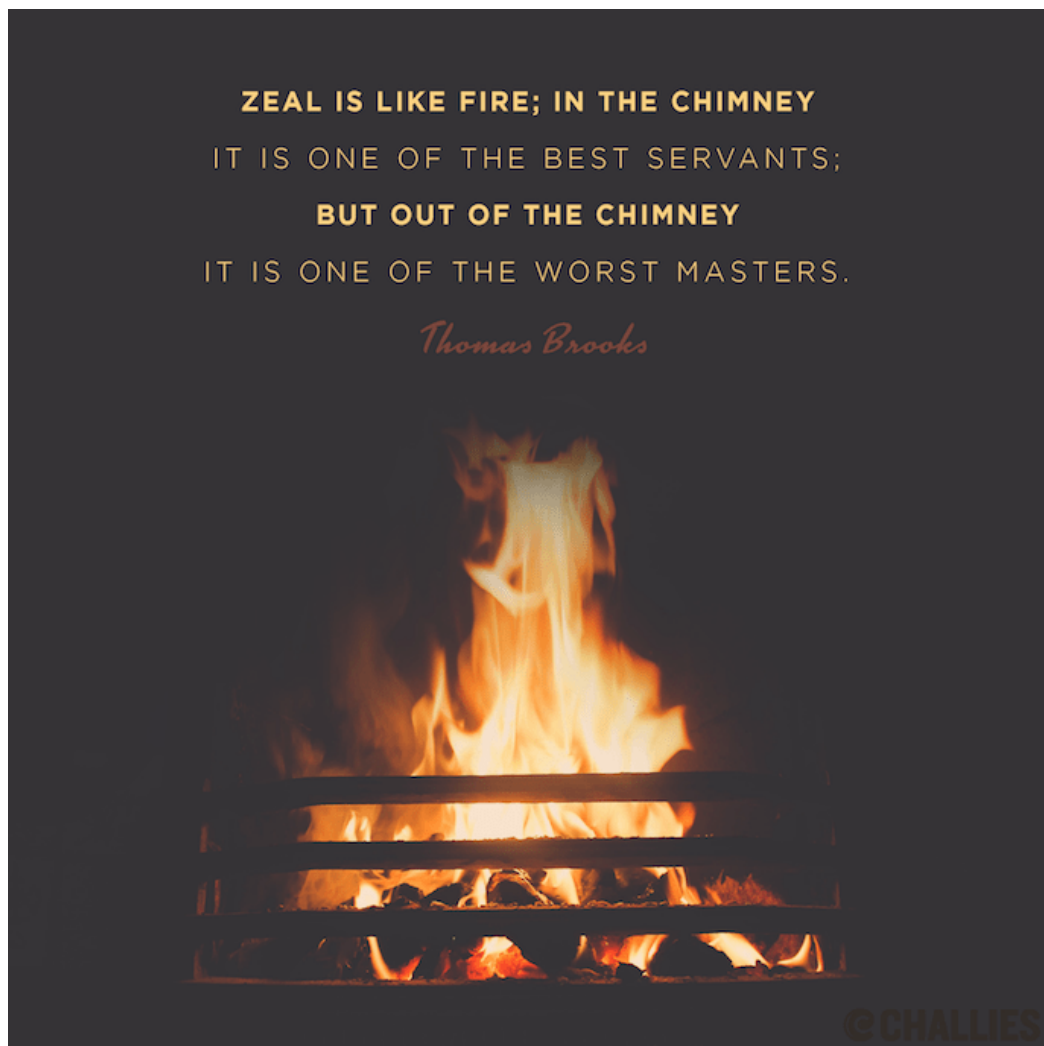
much more carefully I need to know the Scriptures. There is always so much more to learn and glean. In our foolishness, we sometimes act as though we have arrived, so to speak, at a plateau of learning. The greatest minds have readily admitted in their latter years that they knew much less than they thought that they knew when they were young. Augustine's *Retractions* is a prime example of our need to become lifelong learners. After all, every believer and minister is a theologian in process.



When I was in seminary, students loved to debate various theological subjects. I remember on one occasion having a quite heated debate with a fellow student. When I told my dad about the encounter, he said, “Nick, whenever people want to contentiously debate, just tell them, ‘You know, I have so much more to learn. I need to go home and read more.’” Though there is a time and place for theological debate, my father’s advice is full of wisdom. The wisest man who ever lived—our Lord Jesus excepted—gave the following wisdom principle: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going” (Eccl. 9:11). If we would be wise, we would acknowledge how little wisdom we actually possess and we would commit ourselves to becoming lifelong learners.

1. An excerpt from Charles Spurgeon’s 1863 sermon, “[Paul—His Cloak and His Books.](#)”

**Nick Batzig, [www.feedingonchrist.com](http://www.feedingonchrist.com)**



## HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

When Roman legions invaded Caledonia (modern-day Scotland) in the late first century AD, it was said by the historian Tacitus that the powerful Celtic chieftain Calgacus emerged and rallied his tribes against the might of Rome, famously declaring, “They make a desert, and they call it peace.”

Today’s Christian pastor is likewise making similar stands for biblical Christianity in the midst of a secular desert created by an anti-Christian culture. The Bible describes a faithful pastor as an elder who oversees the flock and the household of God. According to Paul, pastor/elders rule the church (Titus 1:5) and guard the treasures of Christ (v. 9). Additionally, they minister to the people by teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

If ever there was an era in Christian history that believers should be committed to praying for their pastors, it is now. James rebukes our prayerlessness when he says, “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2). And what prayers are we offering up to God on behalf of our pastors? Let me suggest several.

### THAT HE WOULD DELIGHT IN PREACHING

If your minister is not being blessed and instructed by the Word, it is highly unlikely that you will be. Your spiritual well-being is directly linked to your pastor’s seeking the Lord in his preparation for the sacred desk. If he is not diligently seeking the Lord, you won’t find Him in his preaching either.

A godly pastor is a joyful, dutiful herald of the most high King. His enthusiasm for proclaiming God’s Word will be infectious and unstoppable, and it will be readily apparent to all who hear him that this is a man who knows his God. Second Timothy 4:1–2 reads:

*“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”*

### THAT HE WOULD ENJOY THE LORD’S DAY

I suspect that many people who sit week after week in the pews of their particular church have no idea how difficult a Sunday is for a minister and his family. Pray for your pastor’s Sundays. Robert Murray M’Cheyne says: “A well-spent Sabbath we feel to be a day of heaven upon earth. . . . We love to rise early on that morning, and to sit up late, that we may have a long day with God.”

---

*“Pastors are often subject to unique spiritual temptation, so pray for God to protect these men from the evil one .”*

---

### THAT HE WOULD LEAD HIS FAMILY WELL

8 Pray that God would help your pastor in the midst of busyness to taste and see that the Lord is good. Pray that his children would grow up loved and cherished in the household of faith. Joel Beeke says: “Family worship is the foundation of child rearing. As family worship goes, so will go the family. The Puritans thought family worship was the whole backbone of society.” We read in Deuteronomy 6:4–7:



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

#### THAT HE WOULD HAVE A HEART FOR THE LOST

May your pastor have a Christ like love for the lost and a joy in telling others about the Shepherd-King. If a man loves the Lord, he will love telling others the old story of the gospel. He also will teach and model for others a renewed sense of evangelism and mission. He is worthy to receive the glory and honor due Him (Rev. 4:11). Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, is worthy to receive the reward. We need our pastors to have a zeal for the lost.

#### THAT THE LORD WOULD PROTECT HIM

A growing personal relationship with Christ will supply the motivation and zeal needed for a pastor’s duty to God. It will be tiring. It will require an all-in, total commitment. Pray that God would provide every physical and emotional need for the call to serve. Pastors are often subject to unique spiritual temptation, so pray for God to protect these men from the evil one. Pray that they would guard themselves and be granted personal holiness. Pray that they would apply the means of grace to their own hearts, by God’s help.

#### THAT HE WOULD PREACH THE GOSPEL

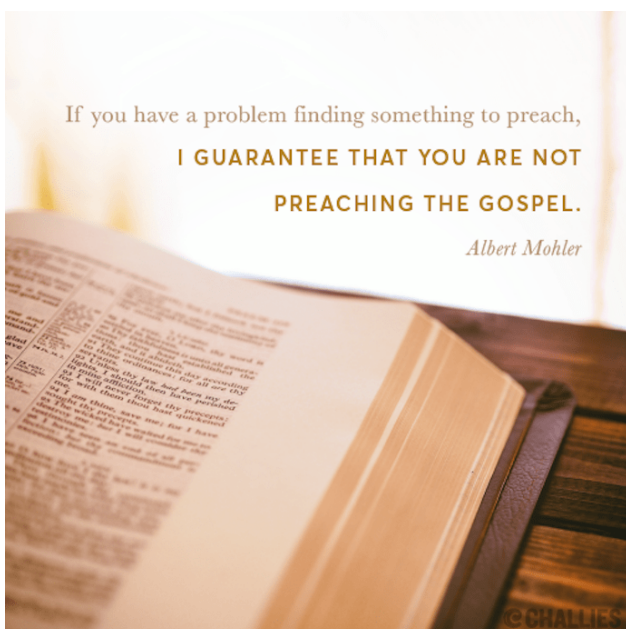
Thomas Smyth of the antebellum historic Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, S.C., once charged a young pastor by saying:

*“Preaching is your preeminent employment, so the Gospel is the sum and substance of your preaching — the power of God and the wisdom of God unto salvation. Necessity is laid upon you, yea, woe is unto you if you preach not the Gospel. . . . Preach Christ as set forth in the Gospel—the sum and substance of God’s testimony, and the author of eternal salvation to all who believe upon him.*

*Preach—this glorious Gospel of good news—first and last, every way, and everywhere, in public and in private; in the pulpit and by the press; to the living and to the dying; to the lost and the saved.”*

Pray for your pastor, pray as if your very life and those you love depended upon it.

**Melton L. Duncan, Tabletalk Magazine**



— T H E —

# ATTRIBUTES

# of GOD

To study God's attributes is to study his character, to answer questions like, *Who is God?* and *What is God like?* A typical classification of God's attributes divides them into those that are **incommunicable** (those that he does not share or "communicate" to anyone or anything else) and **communicable** (those that he shares with other beings). Like most theological classifications, this one is imperfect but still helpful as we seek to understand what is so far beyond ourselves.

God's communicable attributes can be further categorized into: attributes of God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose and "summary" attributes (attributes that, in a more particular way, modify each of the others).

It is important to consider that God is not simply the sum of his attributes. His attributes are not separate from one another, but each one modifies or qualifies each of the others.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

*Systematic Theology* | Wayne Grudem  
*The Attributes of God* | A.W. Pink

### ASEITY

God is self-existent and self-sufficient and has no need of human beings or the rest of creation.

### BEAU

#### Summary

God is the sum of

### GLORY

#### Summary attributes

The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.

### GOOD

#### Moral

God is the all good who does is

### JEALOUSY

#### Moral attributes

God always seeks to protect his own honor.

### KNOW

#### Mental

God fulfills and all things. God's o

### OMNIPRESENCE

God has no size or shape and is present in all places with his entire being.

### PEAC

#### Moral

God, in actions and confusi

### TRUTHFULNESS

#### Mental attributes

God is the true God whose knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.

### UNITY

God's will all of his times. T never in

## **ETERNITY**

*Summary attributes*

---

the possessor and the all desirable qualities.

## **BLESSEDNESS**

*Summary attributes*

---

God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.

## **ETERNITY**

---

God has always existed, having no beginning and no end, and experiencing no succession of moments.

## **FREEDOM**

*Attributes of Purpose*

---

God does whatever he pleases.

## **GOODNESS**

*Attributes*

---

the final standard of good, and all he is and all worthy of approval.

## **HOLINESS**

*Moral attributes*

---

God is separated from sin and he is committed to seeking his own honor.

## **IMMUTABILITY**

---

God cannot change in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises.

## **INVISIBILITY**

*Attributes describing God's being*

---

God's total essence, all of his being, will never be visible to us.

## **KNOWLEDGE**

*Moral attributes*

---

fully knows himself actual and possible (This is also known as omniscience)

## **LOVE**

*Moral attributes*

---

God eternally gives of himself to others.

## **MERCY**

*Moral attributes*

---

God is good to those in misery and distress and he is good to those who deserve punishment.

## **OMNIPOTENCE**

*Attributes of Purpose*

---

God is able to do all his holy will. (This is also known as God's sovereignty)

## **ORDER**

*Attributes*

---

his being and is separate from all chaos and disorder.

## **PERFECTION**

*Summary attributes*

---

God fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no qualities that would be desirable for him.

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

*Moral attributes*

---

God is the final standard of what is right and he always acts in accordance with what is right. (This is also known as God's justice)

## **SPIRITUALITY**

*Attributes describing God's being*

---

God is a being who is not made up of matter and who cannot be perceived by our bodily senses.

whole being includes all these attributes at all times. These attributes are in opposition.

## **WILL**

*Attributes of Purpose*

---

God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of all that exists.

## **WISDOM**

*Mental attributes*

---

God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.

## **WRATH**

*Moral attributes*

---

God intensely hates all sin.

# Children's Corner



Dear Children

The year 2017 has now gone and we are at the beginning of a New Year – 2018. Beginnings can be very exciting. We don't know what lies ahead and we secretly hope that each new day will bring us some welcome surprises. But beginnings can also cause us concern. We can be afraid that bad things will happen and make us unhappy. So whether we experience good times or bad times it would be good for us to follow the example of King David in Psalm 16, verse 8 to set the Lord always before us to guide us and help us along life's journey.

My dear Children, you are all at the beginning of life's journey in this world. Think of your life as being like a builder building a house. First of all he has to dig deep till he reaches the rock. Then he lays the foundations. If these foundations are not on the rock then he is in trouble. The house is in danger of collapsing. Read Matthew chapter 7 and verses 24-27 and also Luke chapter 6 and verses 47-49. There you will see what happens to a house which doesn't have the right foundations.

What does Christ mean by building on the rock? If you read the Psalms you will see that, over and over again, David speaks about God the Lord as the Rock of his salvation. So building on the rock means that we are to trust in Christ as our Saviour – the Rock of our salvation. In Psalm 31, verse 3 David also says that, because God is his Rock, He will lead him and guide him and, in Psalm 48, that He will be our guide even until death.

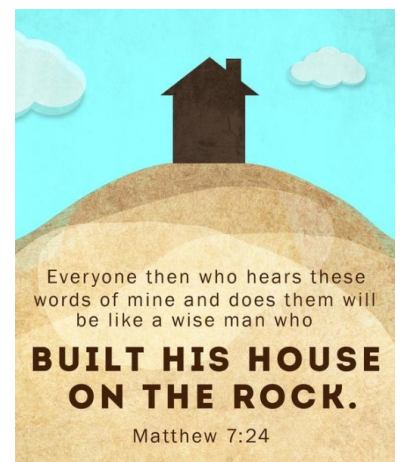
As you begin a New Year and as you are also at the beginning of life's journey in this world I pray that you will ask God to help you to trust in Christ as your own Saviour. Ask God to lead you and guide you not just throughout this New Year but also to be the Guide of your youth. (Jeremiah 3:4). He promises: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go and I will guide you with my eye. (Psalm 32, verse 8). This is the instruction and guidance which God provides for you in the Bible and which will benefit you not just for time but also for eternity. God will always lead you and guide you in right paths as He promises in Psalm 23, verse 3. Follow Him and your New Year will indeed be a good one, blessed by the Lord.

With my love and prayers for a very Happy New Year. Granny M

Activity:

Fill the empty spaces in the sentences below with one of these words:

God                      Rock                      Redeemer                      Most High                      joyful  
 guide                      fortress                      salvation                      mighty                      lead                      refuge                      remembered



1. For you are my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_ and for your name's sake you

\_\_\_\_\_ me and \_\_\_\_\_ me. Psalm 31

2. My \_\_\_\_\_ Rock, my \_\_\_\_\_ is God. Psalm 62

3. They \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ was their Rock, the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ God their \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 78

4. Let us make a \_\_\_\_\_ noise to the Rock of our \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 95