

Recommended Book List

(an admittedly subjective list of Cliff's personal favorites)

Current TOP TEN

Mere Christianity - C. S. Lewis

- Incredibly insightful! I especially enjoy listening to the audiobook version. This is a book I revisit every year, and every year I hear (or read) things that I missed. Lewis acknowledges that he is not a theologian; and so, his take on certain theological matters is sometimes lacking.

Classic Christianity - Bob George

- This is the book I've given away more than any other. An easy read. The author explains the significance of Christ's death & resurrection to Christian living. His chapter on "faith" is marvelous and much needed! The book also provides the basis for meaningful Biblical counseling.

Anonymous - Alicia Britt Chole

- A very engaging and easy read! The chapters are short, the principles and insights are very powerful and applicable to Christian life.

Finding God - Larry Crabb

- A good book that explores our layers of sin and our need to solely find (rely on) God (particularly during times of difficulty). Larry's psychological background and expertise come through and keep the book from being labeled an "easy read", but it's not hard either.

Putting Amazing Back Into Grace - Michael Horton

- An informative and somewhat light book that advances the theology of man's total depravity (sin nature) and God's saving and sovereign grace. Michael is thoroughly covenantal, so I have to overlook that occasionally.

Streams In the Desert - compiled by Mrs. Charles Cowman

- The best daily devotional book I have ever read. The book is a compilation of devotional thoughts and insights from Christian writers of old. Especially good for times of trial and difficulty! Requires extra effort on occasion to grasp what the King James Bible is trying to say.

Coffeshop Conversations - Dale & Jonalyn Fincher

- A modern and very helpful book on Christian apologetics. Sure, I disagree with the authors' viewpoints several places; but overall, it is a solid and useful contribution on how Christians can engage secular people in meaningful conversations.

Fearless Faith - John Fischer

- This book challenges Christians to regard the Gospel of God's salvation as more important than the cultural-social issues that tend to consume our time and energy. He encourages believers to work on integrating the Gospel in their lives rather than separating the Gospel into a useless sacred category. A good companion to Coffeshop Conversations. Fischer is a favorite author of mine (in spite of his Arminian theology).

The Sovereignty of God - Arthur Pink

- I first read this book about 1978; it's the book that opened my eyes to what the Bible really teaches about God's Sovereignty and Greatness and Grace. He's God; I'm not.

Million Miles in a Thousand Years - Donald Miller

- Not a theological read on any level, but Miller is a good writer and I found this book encouraging and motivating me to intentionally "live a better story".

Very Honorable Mentions

Systematic Theology - Wayne Grudem

- A very thorough, accessible, and satisfying treatment of Bible doctrine from a guy still living. If you have questions about Truth (Bible doctrine), this is the book to get. I appreciate Grudem's strong view of God's sovereignty and historic premillennialism. My only measurable disagreement is on his modified view of the gift of prophecy.

Prodigal God - Timothy Keller

- From everything I hear, anything by Keller is outstanding -- but, so far, this is the only one I have read. Keller's insights and applications are spot-on! This book explores Jesus' telling of the parable popularly referred to as "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15).

Knowing God - J. I. Packer

- Seemed that everyone was reading this when I was attending college (the first time). First published in 1973, it's not as reader-friendly as what modern readers have come to expect, but it is sure to enrich your mind and enlarge your understanding of GOD.

Hiding Place - Corrie ten Boom

- Gripping true story of faith from World War 2 -- before and after the Nazi invasion of Denmark. The unabridged audiobook makes it even better!

Life Together - Dieterich Bonhoeffer

- A small, pointed book on what genuine Christian fellowship ought to look like. Bonhoeffer was a Confessing Church pastor executed by the Nazis.

Myths the World Taught Me - R. Scott Richards

- An excellent book defending Biblical Christianity (apologetics). The author's treatment is witty, creative, and satisfying.

How to Keep Your Kids on Your Team - Charles Stanley

- My favorite parenting book. Very principled, understandable, and attainable. Additional books by John Rosemond fill in the gaps.

Tell the Truth - Will Metzger

- The best book on the Bible's teaching concerning evangelism that I have read. Metzger warns Christians against presenting an easy-believism gospel that contains only half-truths.

Signs of the Apostles - Walter Chantry

- A short paperback examining the Bible's teaching concerning the supremacy of God's revelation in Christ and the Bible and the purpose of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit in the New Testament. (Chantry is a cessationist.)

First the Antichrist - Bob Gundry (Robert Gundry)

- An excellent starter book on the doctrine of eschatology (future events). Gundry advances the classic (or, historic) premillennial view, but not the pretribulational rapture. The book is almost certainly out of print, so I'm unsure about its availability. An earlier book is entitled The Church and the Tribulation.

On a Hill Too Far Away and

Finding God (Where You Least Expect Him)

- Additional titles by John Fischer. Both excellent!