

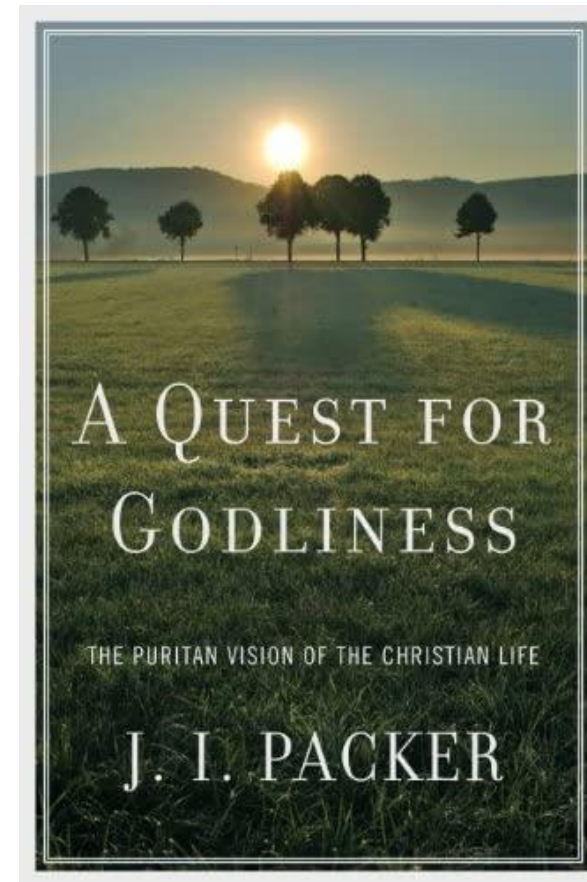
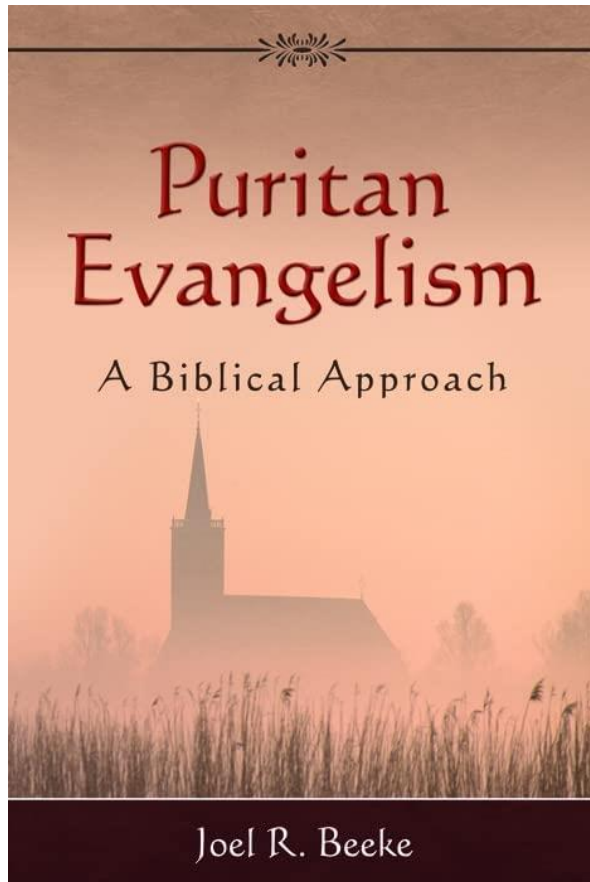
Puritan Evangelism

Puritan Conference 2022

Dr. Michael Riccardi



Key Resources



Puritans Misunderstood

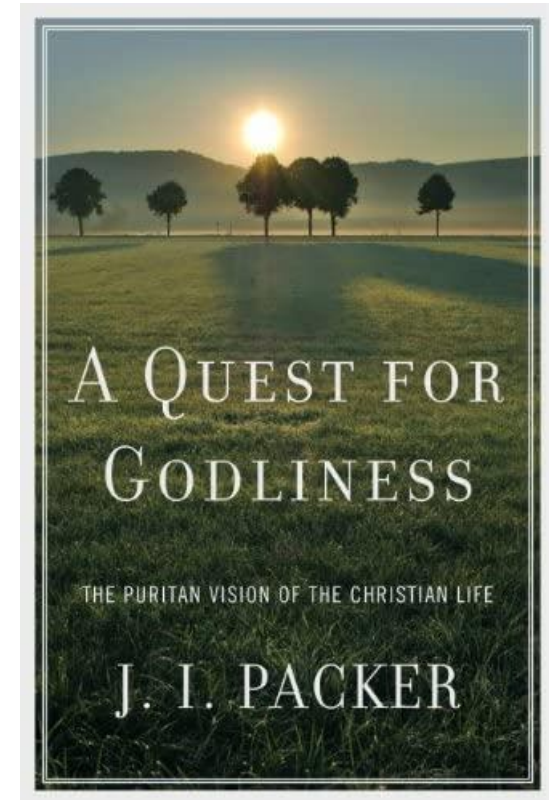


Puritans Misunderstood



Evangelism in the Local Church

“The Puritans did not regard evangelistic sermons as a **special class** of sermons, having their own peculiar style and conventions; ...

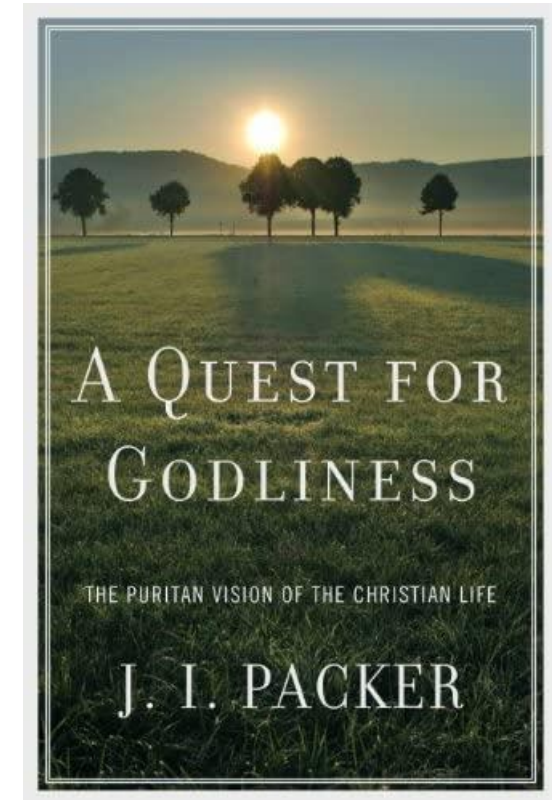


J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 166



Evangelism in the Local Church

“...the Puritan position was, rather, that since all Scripture bears witness to Christ, and all sermons should aim to expound and apply what is in the Bible, **all proper sermons** would of necessity declare Christ and so be to some extent evangelistic.”

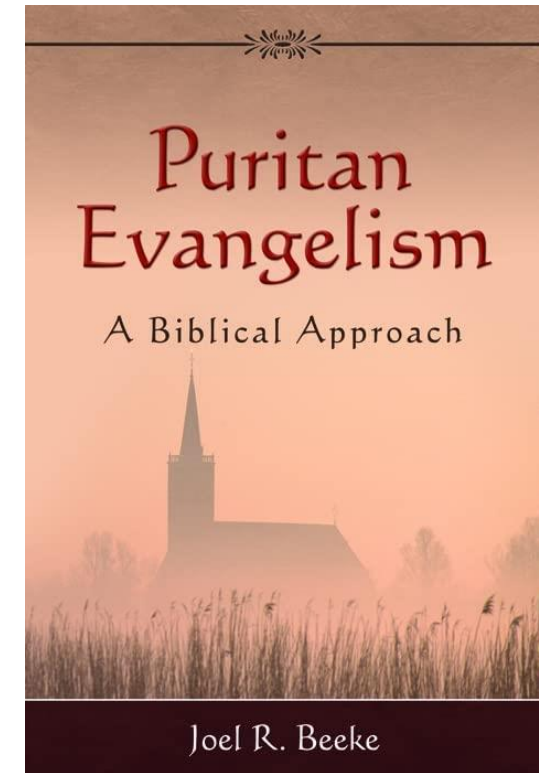


J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 166



Puritan Evangelism

“The expression ‘Puritan evangelism,’ then, refers to how the Puritans proclaimed what God’s Word counsels regarding the salvation of sinners from sin and its consequences.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 6



Puritan Evangelism



Thomas Manton, “Wisdom is Justified of Her Children,” *Works*, 2:102–03

“The **sum of the gospel** is this, that all who, by true **repentance** and **faith**, do forsake the flesh, the world, and the devil, and give themselves up to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as their creator, redeemer, and sanctifier, **shall find God as a father**, taking them for his reconciled children, ...



Puritan Evangelism

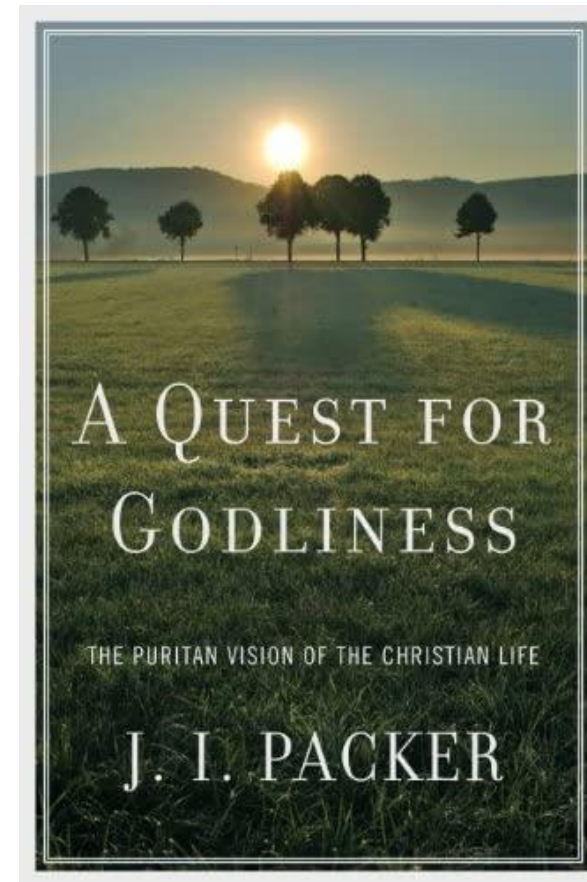
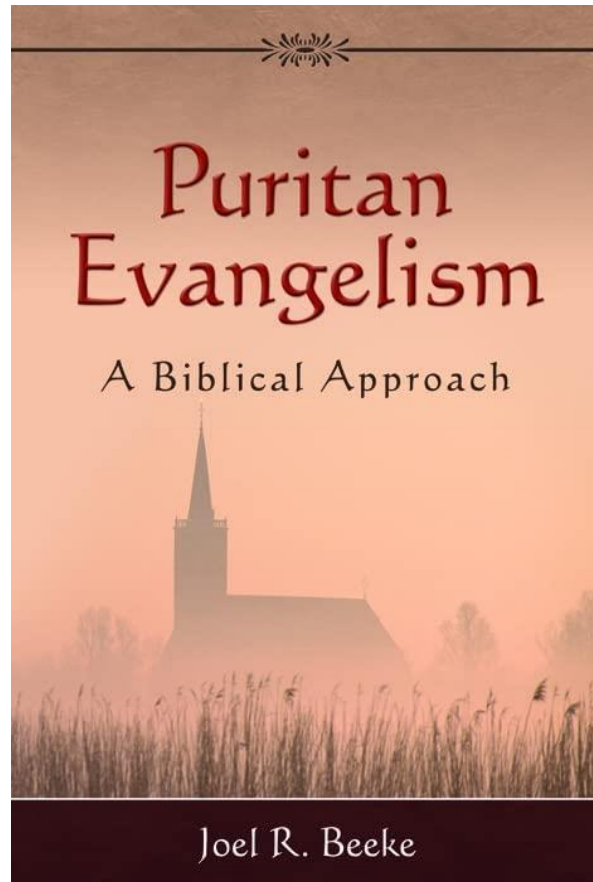


Thomas Manton, “Wisdom is Justified of Her Children,” *Works*, 2:102–03

“...and for Christ’s sake
pardoning their sin, and by his
Spirit giving them his **grace**;
and, if they persevere in this
course, will finally **glorify** them,
and bestow upon them
everlasting happiness; but will
condemn the unbelievers,
impenitent, and ungodly to
everlasting punishment.”



Key Resources



Key Secondary Sources

- Sidney H. Rooy, *The Theology of Missions in the Puritan Tradition. A Study of Representative Puritans: Richard Sibbes, Richard Baxter, John Eliot, Cotton Mather, and Jonathan Edwards* (Laurel, MS: Audubon Press, 2006).
- Johannes van den Berg, *Constrained by Jesus' Love: An Inquiry into the Motives of the Missionary Awakening in Great Britain in the Period between 1698 and 1815* (Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1956).

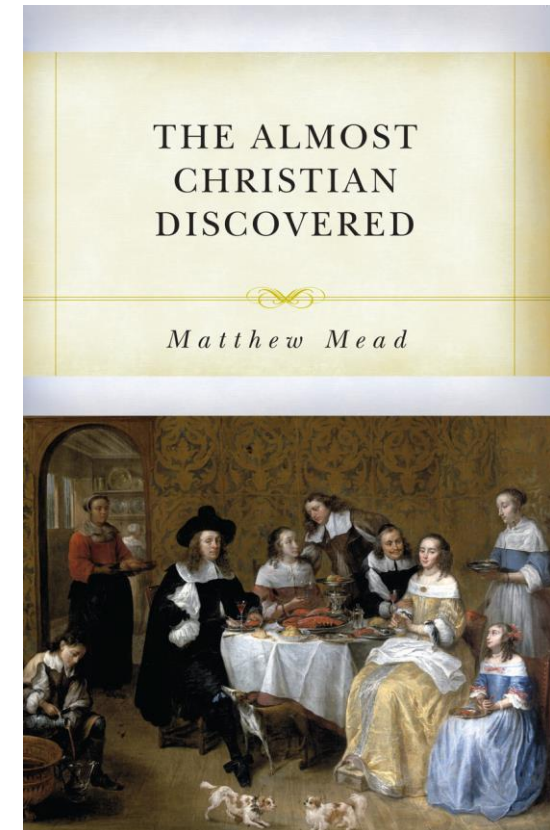
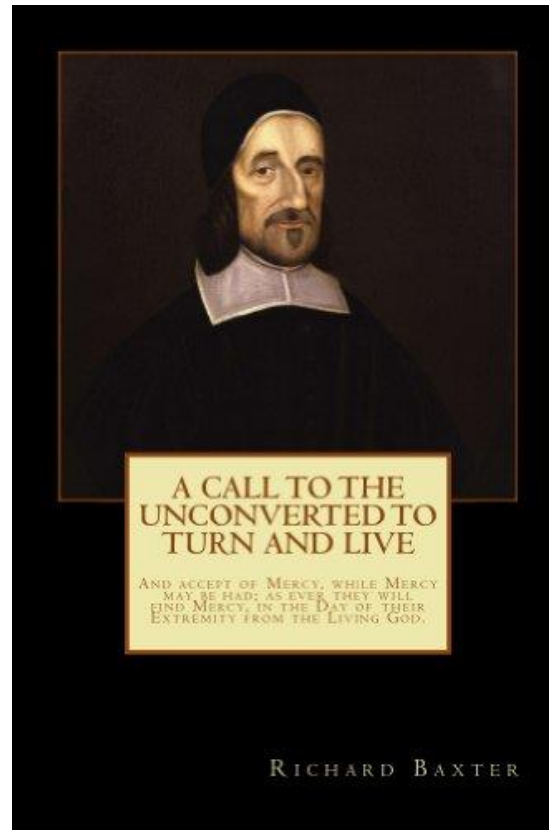
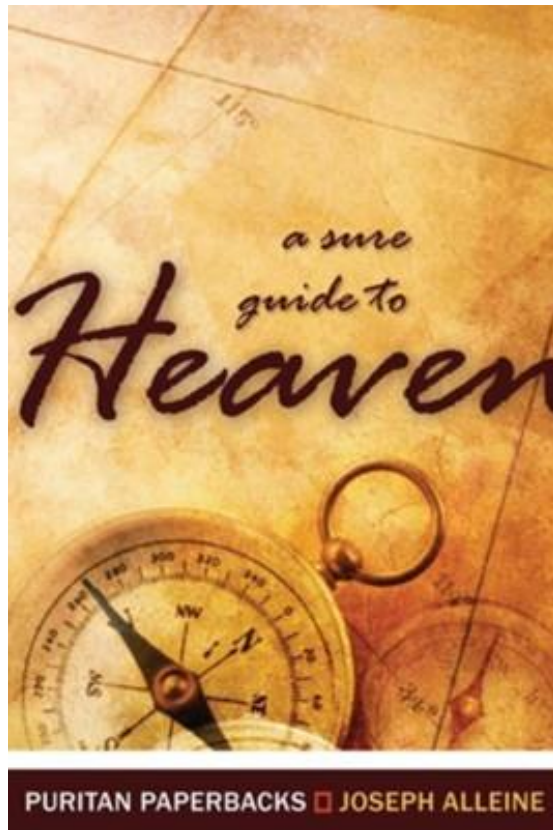


Key Secondary Sources

- Alden T. Vaughan, *New England Frontier: Puritan and Indian, 1620–1675* (Boston: Little, Brown, and co., 1965).
- R. Pierce Beaver, *Pioneers in Mission* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966).
- Charles L. Chaney, *The Birth of Missions in America* (South Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1976).
- William S. Barker, “The Rediscovery of the Gospel: The Reformation, the Westminster Divines, and Missions,” *Presbyterion* 24/1 (1998): 38–45.

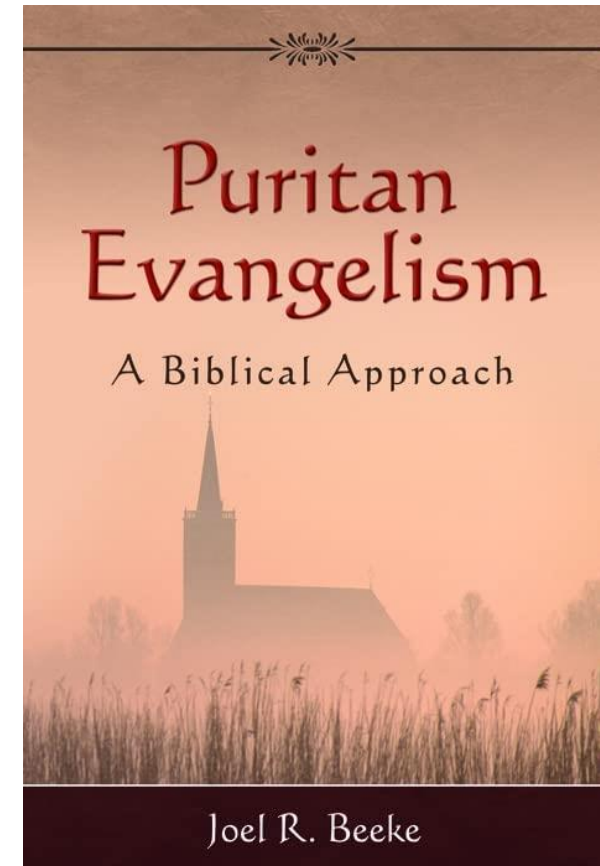


Key Primary Sources



Outline

- I. The **Characteristics** of Puritan Preaching
- II. The **Method** of Puritan Evangelism
- III. The **Inward Disposition** of the Puritan Evangelist



I. Characteristics of Preaching

- A. Thoroughly Biblical
- B. Unashamedly Doctrinal
- C. Experimentally Practical
- D. Holistically Evangelistic
- E. Studiously Symmetrical



A. Thoroughly Biblical

“The first and
principal duty of a
pastor is to
feed the flock by
diligent preaching of
the Word.”



Owen, *The True Nature of a Gospel Church*, Works, 16:74



A. Thoroughly Biblical

A Sure Guide to Heaven

ately Peter lifts up his hands, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who in his abundant mercy has begotten us again” ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). How feelingly does Paul magnify the free mercy of God in it, “God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, has quickened us together with Christ. By grace are you saved” ([Ephesians 2:4-5](#))!

b.) The external cause is the merit and intercession of the blessed Jesus. He has obtained gifts for the rebellious ([Psalm 68:18](#)), and through him it is that God works in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight ([Hebrews 13:21](#)). Through him are all spiritual blessings bestowed upon us in heavenly places ([Ephesians 1:3](#)). He intercedes for the elect that believe not ([John 17:20](#)). Every convert is the fruit of his travail. Never was an infant born into the world with that difficulty which Christ endured for us. All the pains that he suffered on the cross were our birth-pains. He is made sanctification to us ([1 Corinthians 1:30](#)). He sanctified himself, that is, set apart himself as a sacrifice, that we might be sanctified ([John 17:19](#)). We are sanctified through the offering of his body once for all ([Hebrews 10:10](#)).



A. Thoroughly Biblical

A Sure Guide to Heaven

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“...for you have been
born again not of
seed which is
perishable but
imperishable, that is,
through the living
and enduring word of
God.”

– 1 Peter 1:23



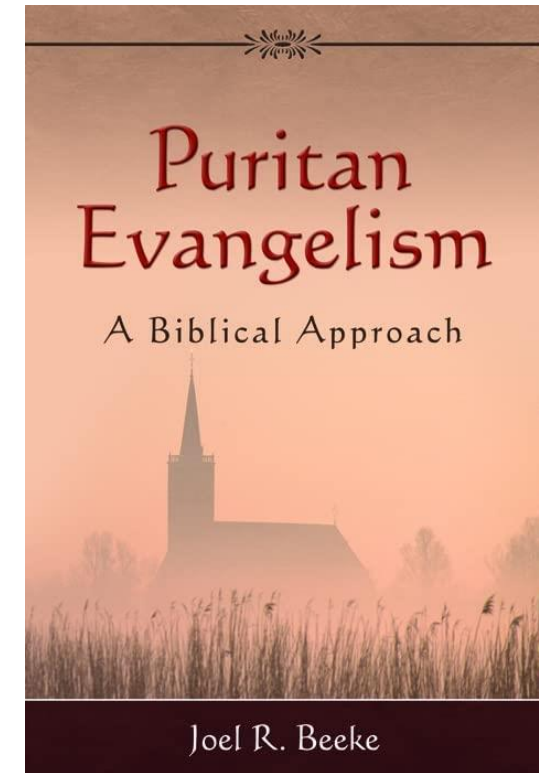
B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

- William Perkins: “The science of living blessedly forever” (*Works*, 1:10).
- William Ames: “The doctrine or teaching of living to God” (*The Marrow of Theology*, 77).
- Sinclair Ferguson: “Only in light of the whole body of divinity ... could a minister provide a diagnosis of, prescribe for, and ultimate cure spiritual disease in those who were plagued by the body of sin and death” (*Compromised Church*, 266).



B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

“They did not conciliate their hearers by lightening up their messages with humorous stories or folksy anecdotes. They felt the awesome responsibility of handling eternal truth and addressing immortal souls.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 15–16



B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

1. The Doctrine of God
2. The Doctrine of Sin
3. The Doctrine of Christ



B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

1. The Doctrine of God

2. The Doctrine of Sin

3. The Doctrine of Christ



1. The Doctrine of God



Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“If he be **good**, and infinitely good, there is all the reason in the world that you should love him; and there is no show of reason that you should love the world or sin before him. ...



1. The Doctrine of God



Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“...If he be faithful and true, his threatenings must be feared, and his promises must not be distrusted; and there is no reason that you should make any question of his word. ...



1. The Doctrine of God



Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“...If he be **holy**, ... then he must be an enemy to sin, and to all that are unholy, because they are contrary to his nature. Consider that he is **almighty**, and there is no resisting him...in the [blink] of an eye he can snatch thy guilty soul from thy body, ...



1. The Doctrine of God



Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“...A word of his mouth can set all the world against thee, and set thine own conscience against thee too...and if he be thine enemy, it is no matter who is thy friend; for all the world cannot save thee, if he do but condemn thee. ...



1. The Doctrine of God



Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“...He was from eternity, and thou art but as it were of yesterday; thy being is from him; thy life is always in his hands, thou canst not live an hour without him, thou canst not fetch a breath without him, nor think a thought, nor speak a word, nor stir a foot or a hand without him...



1. The Doctrine of God



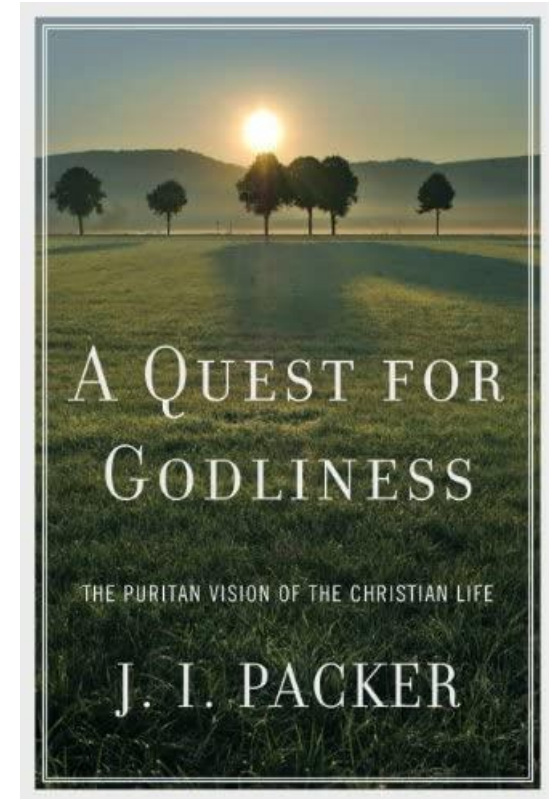
Richard Baxter, *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, Works, 2:589–90

“...no love can be great enough, and no praises can be high enough, and no service can be holy and good enough for a such a God ... this is not a God to be neglected, or dallied with; nor a God to be resisted, nor provoked by the willful breaking of his laws.”



1. The Doctrine of God

“The **irony** of our situation is that if we spend time preaching to modern pagans about the character of **God** we shall be told that we are **not preaching the gospel**. But the Puritans would not tell us that; nor would Paul.”



J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 169



B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

1. The Doctrine of God
2. The Doctrine of Sin
3. The Doctrine of Christ



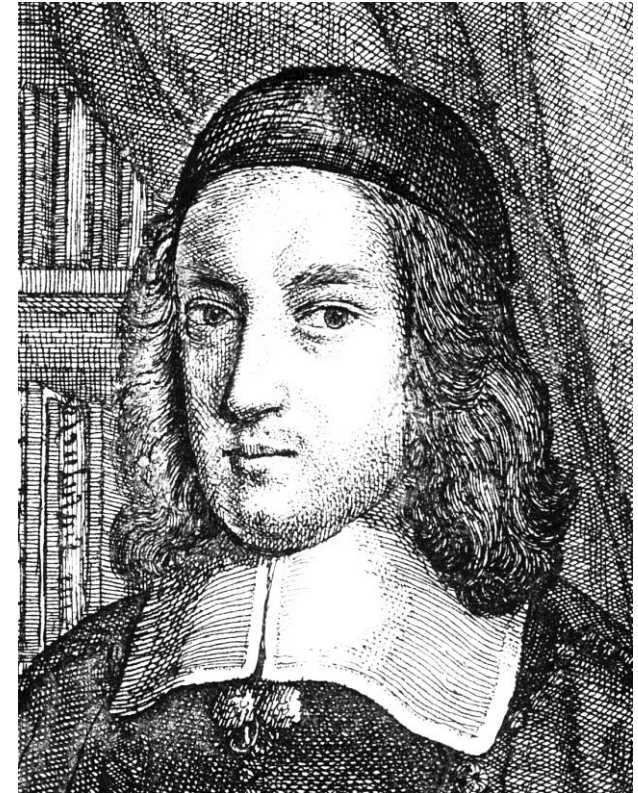
2. The Doctrine of Sin

- Moral Rebellion against God
- Omission & Commission
- Thought, Word, Deed
- The Heinousness of Sin
 - S. Bolton, Burroughs, Reynolds, Venning
- Original Sin (Imputation & Transmission)
- The Horrors of Eternal Punishment



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“God has set you a day and that is today. While it is called today, hear his voice, and harden not your hearts. When this day of patience is over, if you are still found unprovided, **woe to you**, for you are undone for ever! ...



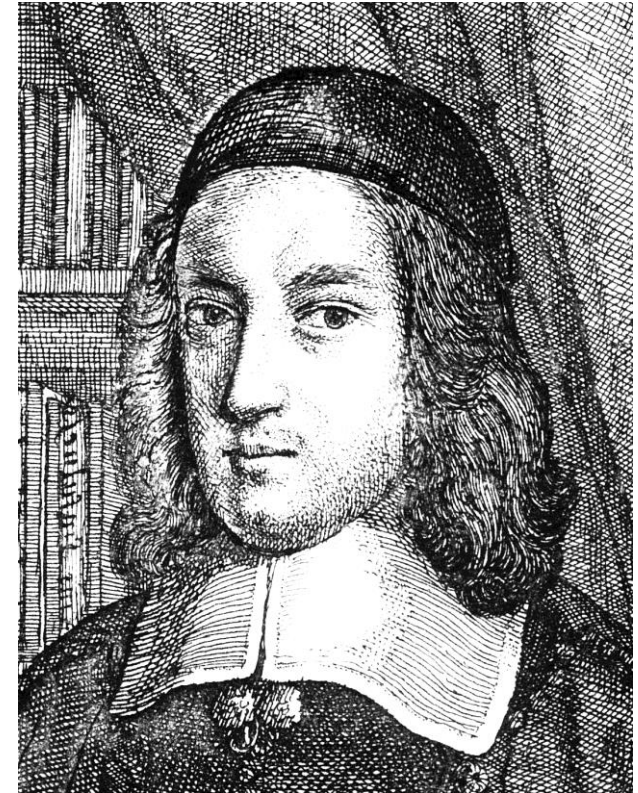
Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 220



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...I pray you, think of it,
have you not grieved God
enough yet? Nor wronged
your own soul enough yet?

Are you afraid of being
happy too soon? Or of going
to Hell too easily and
cheaply, that you will not
repent or that you delay it?

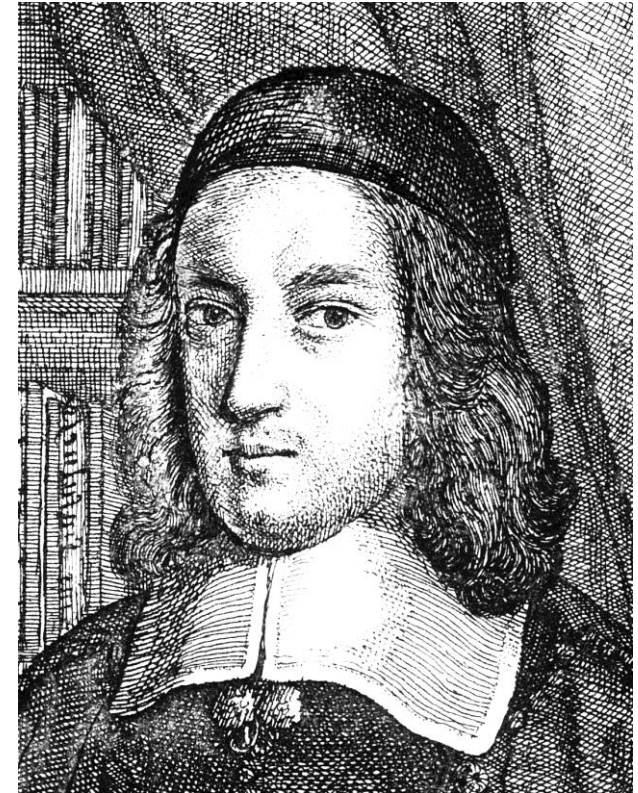


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 220



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...If in this your day you do not consider the things of your peace, you may have them hidden from your eyes, and go blindfold to Hell and be damned for ever; and then God will require payment **to the utmost farthing** (Matthew 18:23–34). ...

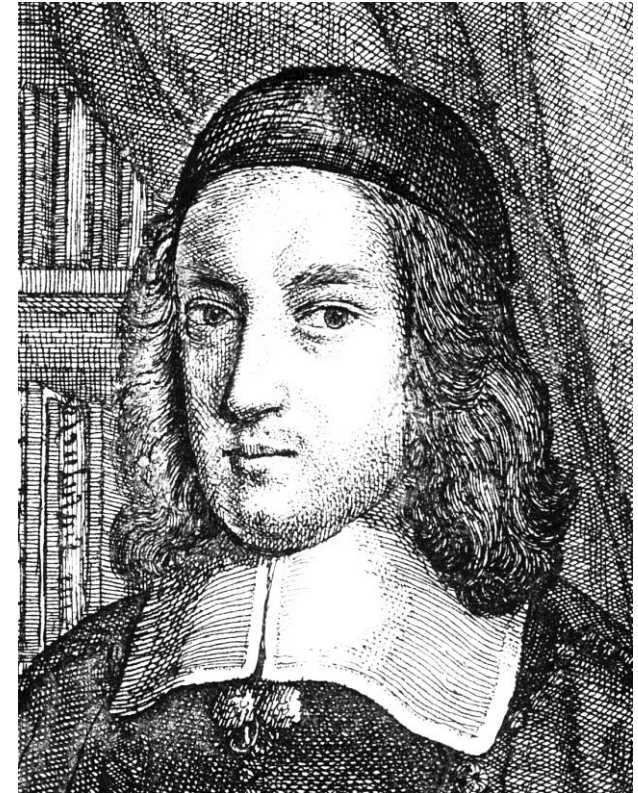


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 220



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...He will be paid all that is due; for time, for talents, for means, for mercies, for patience and forbearance, he will be paid for all. If he is not glorified **by** you now, he will be glorified **upon** you then.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 220



2. The Doctrine of Sin



Thomas Brooks,
An Ark for All God's Noahs, xiv

“O Sirs! that you would judge that only worth much now, which will be found of much worth at last, when you shall lie upon a **dying bed**, and stand before a **judgment seat**.”



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:197

“Hear me, ye that labor for the world, as if heaven were in it; **what will ye do when at death** you shall look back over your shoulder, and see what you have spent your time and strength for, shrinking and vanishing away from you? ...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:197

“...When you shall look forward, and see vast eternity opening its mouth to swallow you up; O then what would you give for a well-grounded assurance of an eternal inheritance.”



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:30

“Those that continue
Christless now, will be left
speechless then. God forbid
that you that have heard so
much of Christ, and you that
have professed so much of
Christ, should at last fall into
a worse condition than those
that never heard the name of
Christ.”



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:561

“The world affords not
a sadder sight, than **a**
poor Christless soul
shivering upon the
brink of eternity.”



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“Consider with thyself, man,
how canst thou imagine thou
canst support **that infinite
wrath** that Christ grappled
with in the room of God’s
elect! He had the **strength** of a
Deity to support him, Isa.
42:1. ... He had the fulness of
his Spirit to prepare him, Isa.
41:11...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“...He had the ministry of an **angel**, who came post from heaven to relieve him in his agony, Luke 22:43. He had **the ear of his Father** to hear him, for he cried, ‘and was heard in that he feared,’ Heb. 5:7. He was **assured of the victory**, before the combat; he knew he should be justified, Isa. 1:8...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“...And yet for all this he
was **sore amazed**, and
sorrowful even to death,
and **his heart was melted**
like wax in the midst of
his bowels. ...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“...If the case stood thus
with Christ,
notwithstanding all these
advantages he had to bear
the wrath of God for a little
time; how dost thou think, a
poor worm as thou art, to
dwell with everlasting
burnings, or contend with
devouring fire? ...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“...I beseech thee, by the mercies of God, **by all the regard and love thou hast to thy own soul**, neglect not time, but make quick and sure work of it. **Get an interest** in this sacrifice quickly, what else will be thy state when vast eternity opens to swallow thee up...



2. The Doctrine of Sin



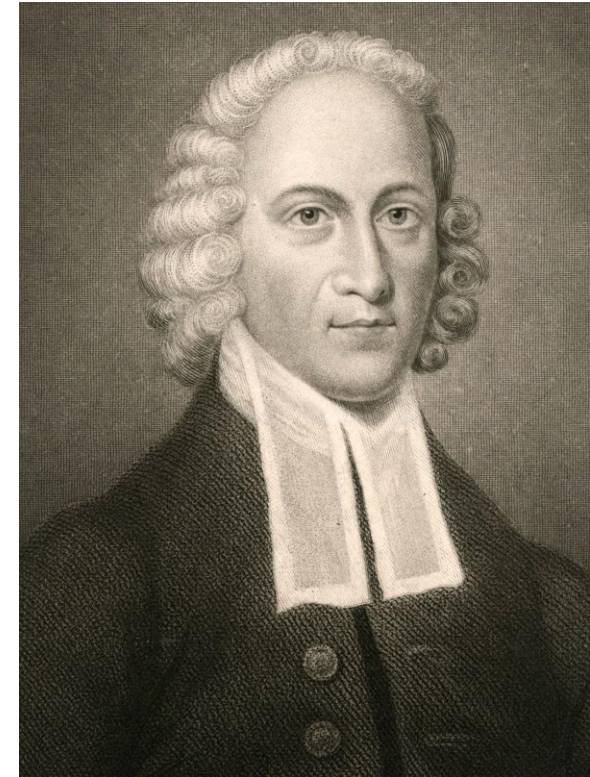
John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:163

“...what wilt thou do, man,
when thine eye-strings and
heart-strings are breaking?
O, what a fearful shriek
will thy conscience give,
when thou art presented
before the dreadful God,
and no Christ to screen
thee from his indignation!”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“There are a great many in Christian countries who go along all their lifetime toward an eternity, and never believe they are going to eternity before they come to die. In their health they have thought there was no world to come, no such thing as hell, have thought that it was nothing but a mere fiction invented to frighten folk; but when they lay a-dying, they have been as fully convinced of a hell as if they were actually in it.”

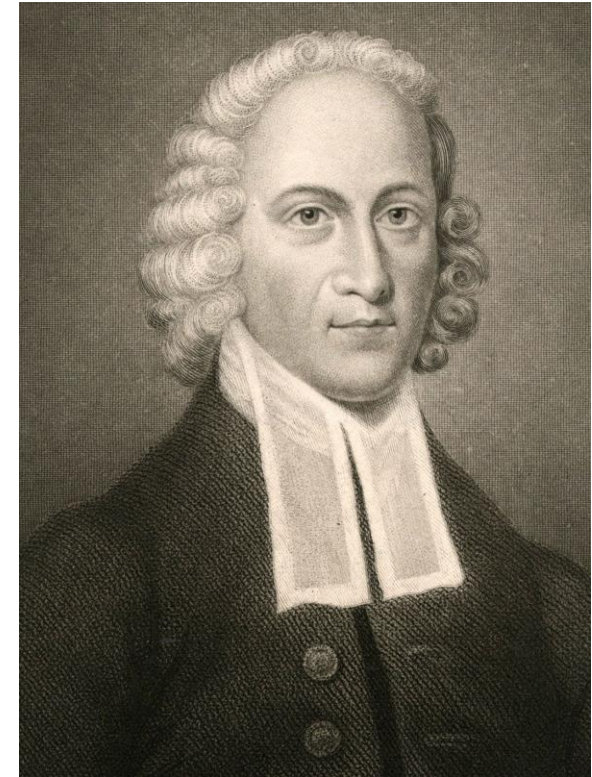


Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“Almost every natural man that hears of hell, flatters himself that he shall escape it; he depends upon himself for his own security. If it were so, that we could come to speak with [those in hell], and could inquire of them, one by one, whether they expected when alive, and when they used to hear about hell, ever to be the subjects of that misery, we doubtless should hear one and another reply, ...

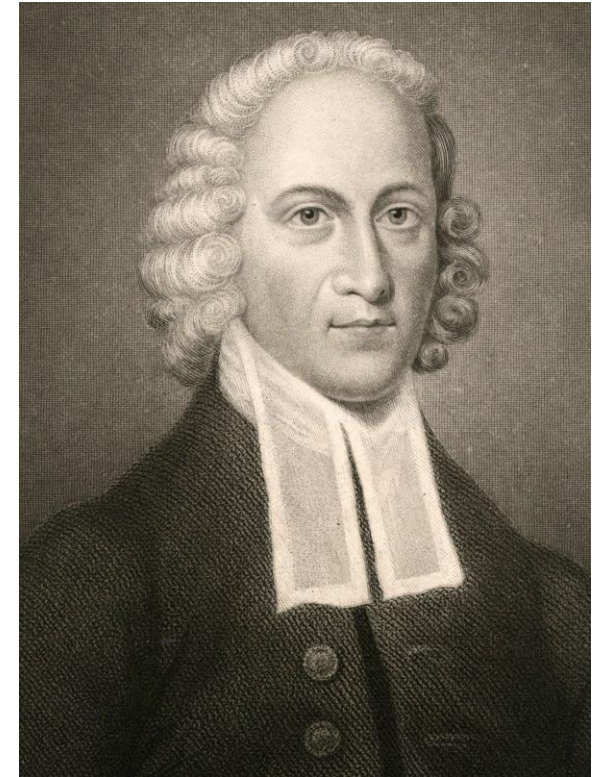


Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...‘No, I **never intended** to come here; I had laid out matters otherwise in my mind; I thought I should contrive well for myself; I thought my scheme good; I intended to take effectual care; but **it came upon me unexpected**; I did not look for it at that time, and in that manner; it came as a thief; death outwitted me; God’s wrath was too quick for me. ...

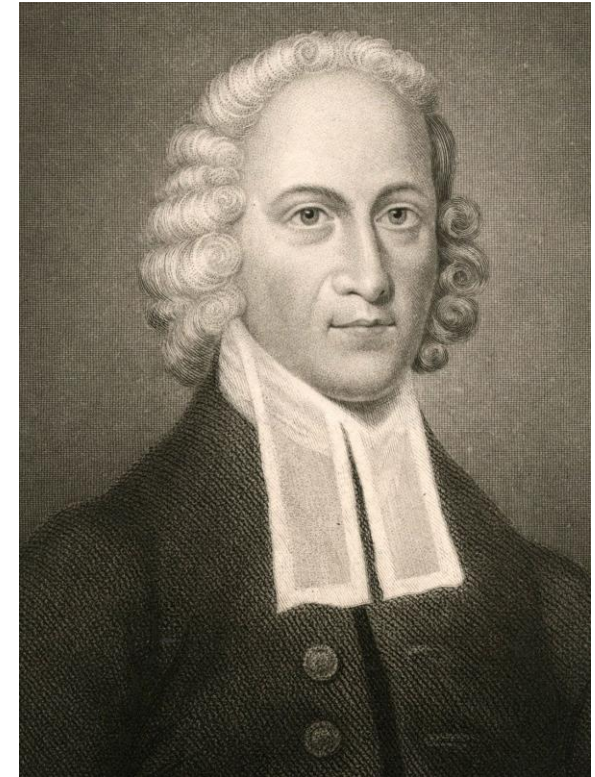


Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...‘O my cursed foolishness! I was flattering myself, and pleasing myself with vain dreams of what I would do hereafter, and when I was saying peace and safety, then sudden destruction came upon me.’”



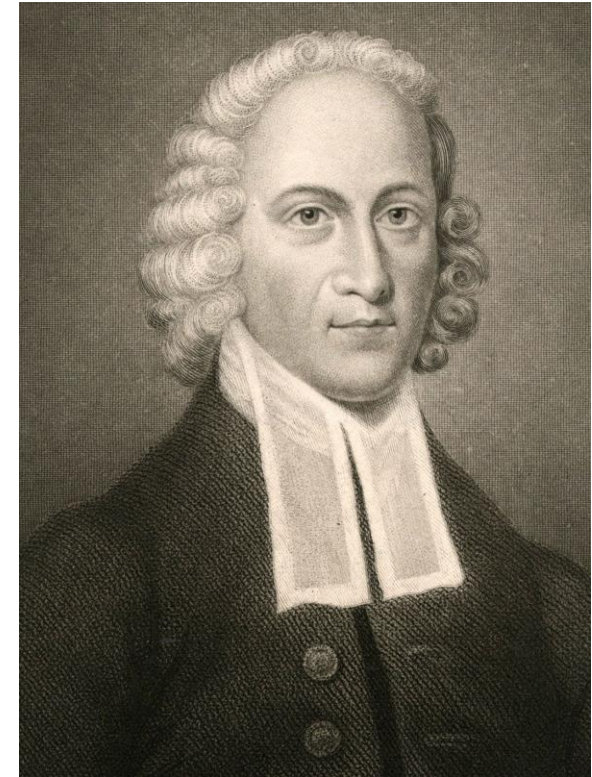
Jonathan Edwards

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of almighty God **one moment**; but you must suffer it to **all eternity**; there will be no end to this exquisite horrible misery: when you look forward, **you shall see a long forever**, a boundless duration before you, which will swallow up your thoughts, and amaze your soul; ...

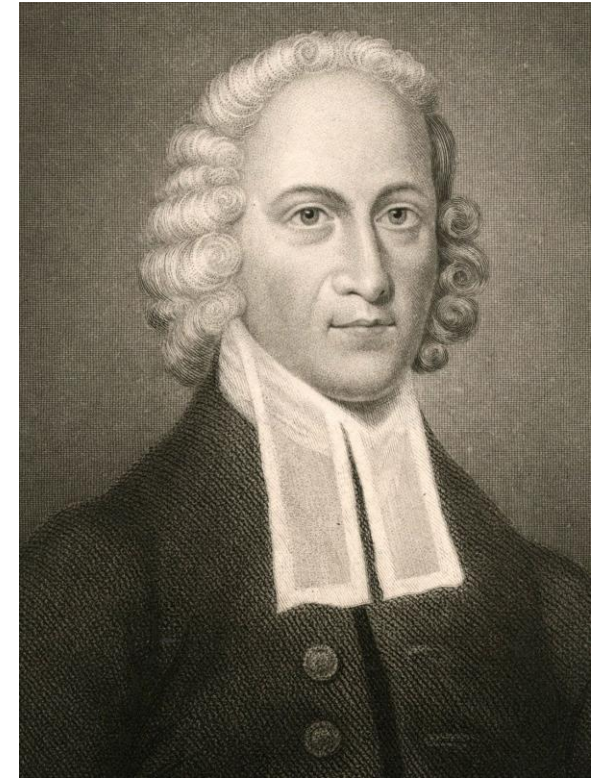


Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...and you will **absolutely despair** of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all; you will know certainly that **you must wear out long ages**, millions of millions of ages, in wrestling and conflicting with this almighty merciless vengeance; ...

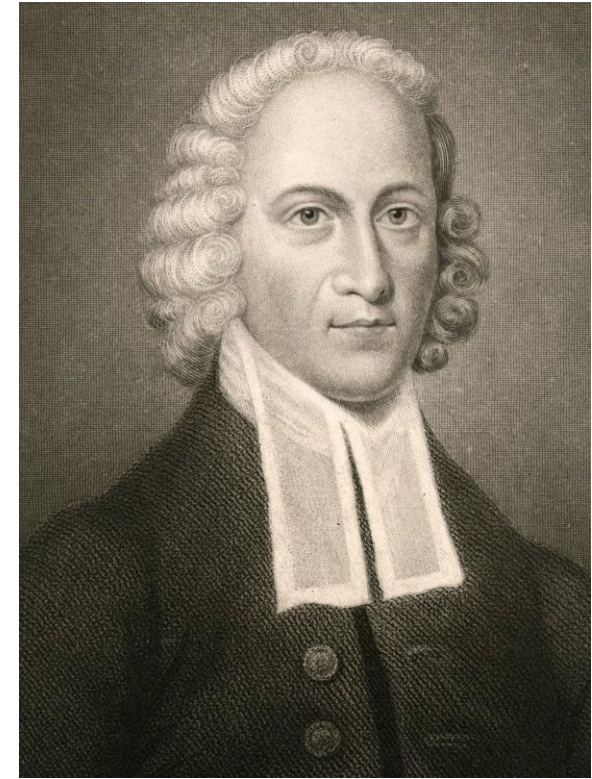


Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



2. The Doctrine of Sin

“...and then when you have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains.”



Jonathan Edwards
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”



B. Unashamedly Doctrinal

1. The Doctrine of God
2. The Doctrine of Sin
3. The Doctrine of Christ



3. The Doctrine of Christ

- Sibbes: “Preaching is the chariot that carries Christ up and down the world” (*Works*, 5:508).
 - Thomas Goodwin, *Christ Our Mediator*
 - Isaac Ambrose, *Looking Unto Jesus*
 - John Owen, *The Person of Christ & The Glory of Christ*
 - John Flavel, *The Fountain of Life Opened*



3. The Doctrine of Christ

- The Lordship of Christ
- The Free Offer of the Gospel
- Unto the Magnification of Christ



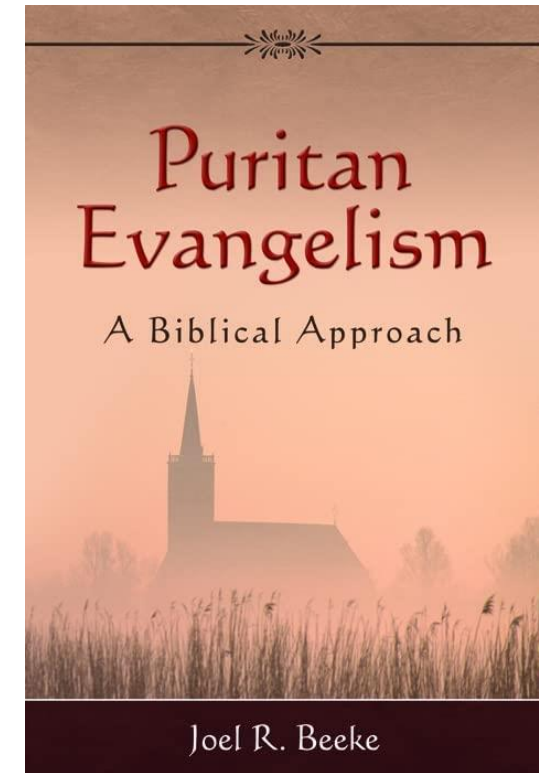
3. The Doctrine of Christ

- The **Lordship** of Christ
- The **Free Offer** of the Gospel
- Unto the **Magnification** of Christ



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“They offered [Christ] as Prophet, Priest, and King. They did not separate His benefits from His person or offer Him as a Savior from sin while ignoring His claims as Lord.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 19



3. The Doctrine of Christ



Joseph Alleine,
A Sure Guide to Heaven, 45

“All of Christ is accepted by the sincere convert. He loves not only the **wages** but the **work** of Christ, not only the **benefits** but the **burden** of Christ. He is willing not only to tread out the corn, but to draw under the yoke. He takes up the **commands** of Christ, yea, the **cross** of Christ. ...



3. The Doctrine of Christ



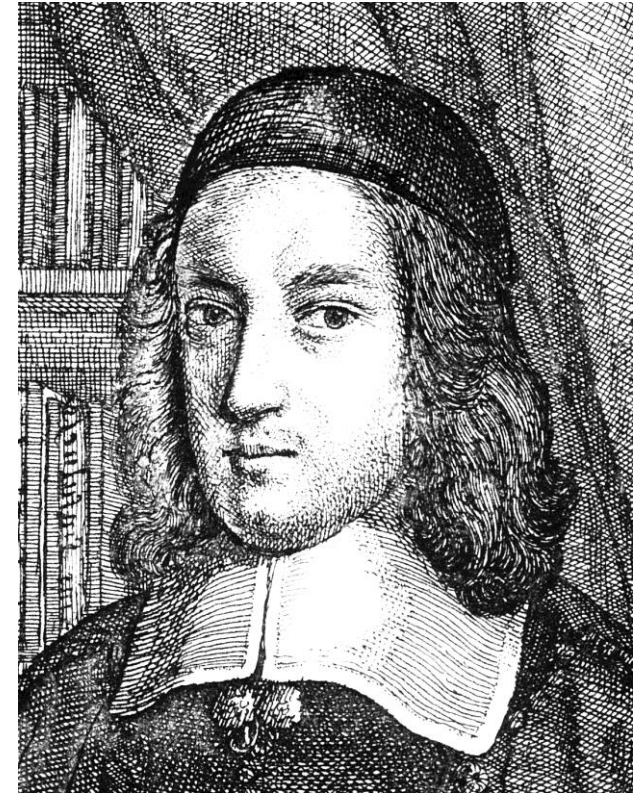
Joseph Alleine,
A Sure Guide to Heaven, 45

“...The unsound convert takes Christ by halves. He is all for the **salvation**, but not for **sanctification**. He is for the **privileges**, but does not appropriate the **person** of Christ. He divides the offices and benefits of Christ. This is an error in the foundation. Whoever loves life, let him beware here. It is **an undoing mistake...**”



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“Receive a **whole Christ**; not only Jesus, but Lord; not only Saviour but Prince (Colossians 2:6). Be as willing to die **to** sin as he was to die **for** sin, and as willing to **live** to him as he was to **die** for you. Be as willing to be his, to serve him, as that he should be yours to save you. **Take him on his own terms**, give up yourself wholly to him.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 221

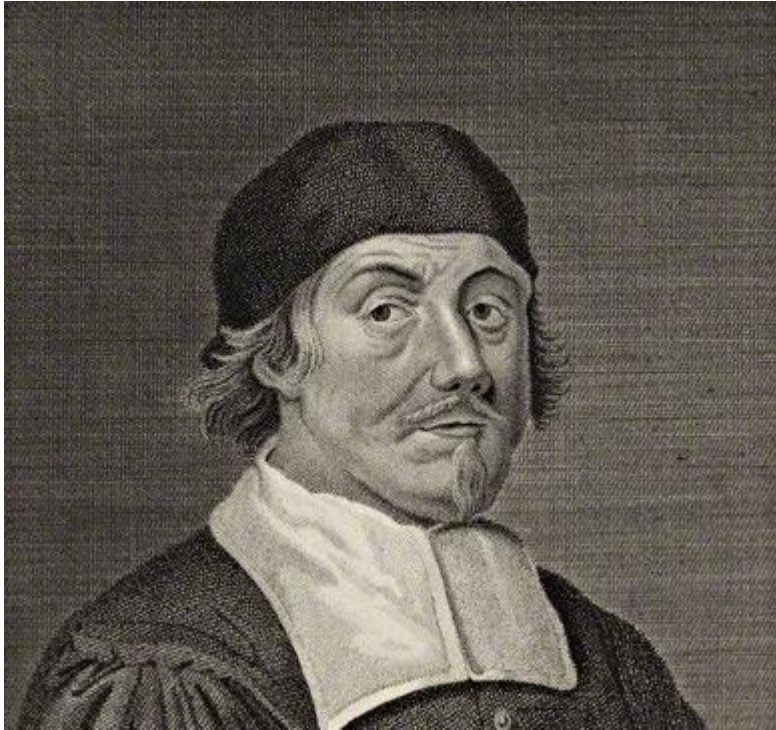


3. The Doctrine of Christ

- The Lordship of Christ
- The Free Offer of the Gospel
- Unto the Magnification of Christ



3. The Doctrine of Christ



Robert Traill, “By what Means may Ministers best win Souls?”, *Works*, 1:246

“Two things ministers have to do: ...

1. To **set him forth** to people; to paint him in his love, excellency, and ability to save.

2. To offer him unto them, **freely, fully, without any limitation** as to sinners, or **their sinful state.**”



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“Jesus Christ is offered
most freely, and **without**
exception of any person,
every Sabbath, every
Sermon.”



Robert Bolton,
*A Treatise on Comforting Afflicted
Consciences*, 185



3. The Doctrine of Christ



William Perkins, *Workes*, I:111; II:608

“...the Ministers of the
Gospell ought
indifferently to exhort **all**
and every one to repent.”



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“Consider the infinite
condescension and love of
Christ, in his invitations
and calls of you to come
unto him for life,
deliverance, mercy, grace,
peace, and eternal
salvation. ...



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...Multitudes of these invitations and calls are recorded in the Scripture, and they are all of them filled up with those **blessed encouragements** which divine wisdom knows to be suited unto lost, convinced sinners. ...



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...In the declaration and preaching of them, Jesus Christ yet stands before sinners, **calling, inviting, encouraging** them to come unto him. This is something of the word which he now speaks unto you: Why will ye **die?** why will ye **perish?** why will ye not have **compassion** on your own souls? ...



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...Can your hearts endure, or
can your hands be strong, in
the day of wrath approaching?

... **Look unto me**, and be
saved; **come unto me**, and I
will ease you of all sins,
sorrows, fears, burdens, and
give rest unto your souls.

Come, I entreat you; lay aside
all procrastinations, all
delays; put me off no more; ...



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...eternity lies at the door
... do not so hate me as
that you will rather perish
than accept of deliverance
by me. These and the like
things doth the Lord
Christ continually declare,
proclaim, plead and urge
upon the souls of sinners.



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...He doth it in the preaching of the world, as if he were present with you, stood amongst you, and spake personally to every one of you. ... He hath appointed the ministers of the gospel to appear before you, and to deal with you in his stead, avowing as his own the invitations which are given you in his name.”



Owen, *The Glory of Christ, Works*, 1:422



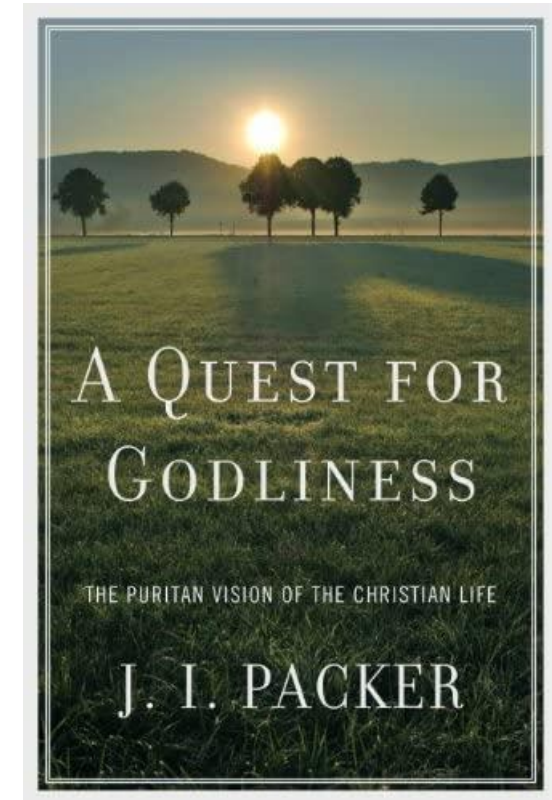
3. The Doctrine of Christ

- The Lordship of Christ
- The Free Offer of the Gospel
- Unto the Magnification of Christ



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“All of us who preach the gospel, I suppose, desire **men’s conversion**. Many, no doubt, are concerned also to **glorify God** by a faithful declaration of his truth. But how many, when preaching the gospel, are consumed by **the longing to magnify Christ**—to extol the richness, and freedom and glory of his grace, and the perfection of his saving work? ...



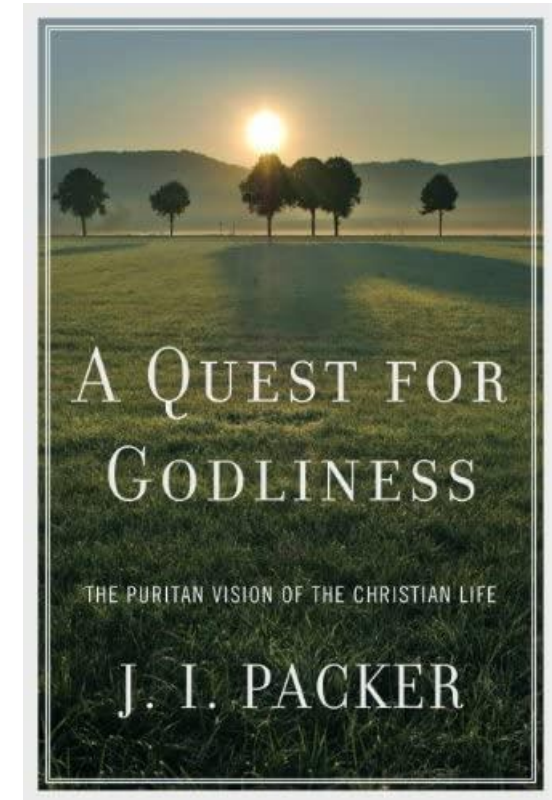
J. I. Packer,
A Quest for Godliness, 175–76



3. The Doctrine of Christ

“...The cheap and perfunctory way in which the Person of the Saviour is sometimes dealt with in modern evangelistic preaching forces this question upon us. Puritan gospel preaching was **concerned above all things to honour Christ**: to show his glory to needy men and women.

It is much to be wished that we who preach the gospel in these days might recover the same **overmastering concern to exalt this mighty Saviour.**”



J. I. Packer,
A Quest for Godliness, 175–76



3. The Doctrine of Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:307

“O what a melting consideration is this! that out of his agony comes our victory; out of his condemnation, our justification; out of his pain, our ease; out of his stripes, our healing: out of his gall and vinegar, our honey; out of his curse, our blessing; out of his crown of thorns, our crown of glory; out of his death, our life: ...



3. The Doctrine of Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:307

“...if he could not be released, it was that you might. If Pilate **gave sentence against him**, it was that the great God might **never give sentence against you**. If he yielded that it should be with Christ **as they require**, it was that it might be with our souls as well **as we can desire**. And therefore, *Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!*”



3. The Doctrine of Christ



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:164

“O it is **sweet** at all times,
especially at such a time, to
see the **reconciled face** of
God, through Jesus Christ,
and hear **the voice of peace**
through the blood of the
cross.”



I. Characteristics of Preaching

- A. Thoroughly Biblical
- B. Unashamedly Doctrinal
- C. **Experimentally Practical**
- D. Holistically Evangelistic
- E. Studiously Symmetrical



C. Experimentally Practical

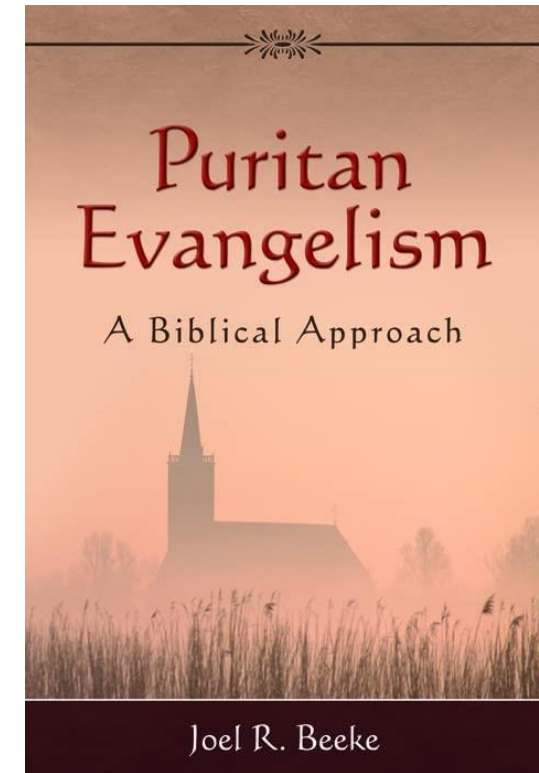
- Latin: *experimentum* – to put to the test, to find or know by experience
- **Saying, “Honey is sweet” vs. *Tasting Honey***
- William Perkins: “Preach **one** Christ **by** Christ to the **praise of Christ**” (*Works*, 2:762).
- Discriminating Application



C. Experimentally Practical

“Discriminatory preaching defines the difference between the non-Christian and the Christian.

Discriminatory preaching pronounces the wrath of God and eternal condemnation upon the unbelieving and impenitent. It likewise offers the forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who embrace by true faith Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. ...

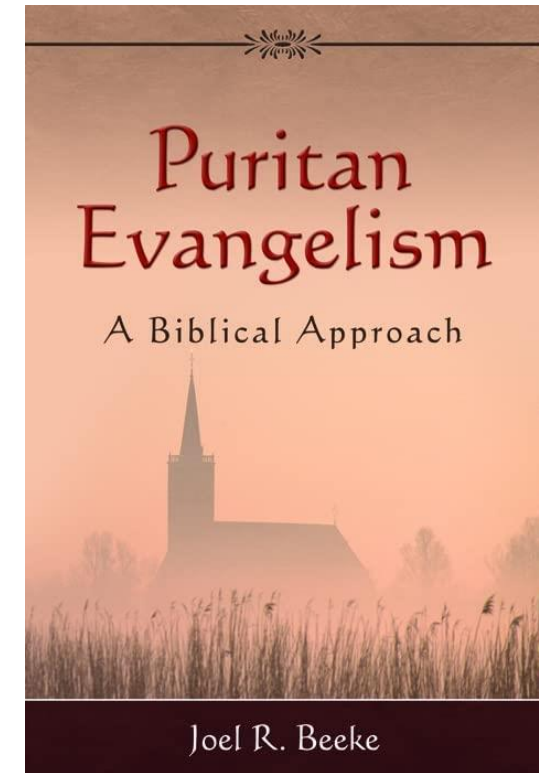


Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 2#



C. Experimentally Practical

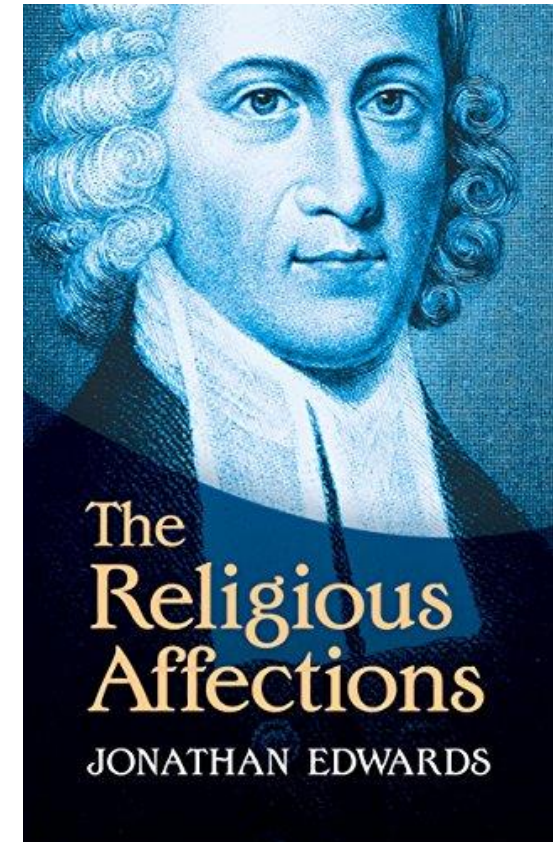
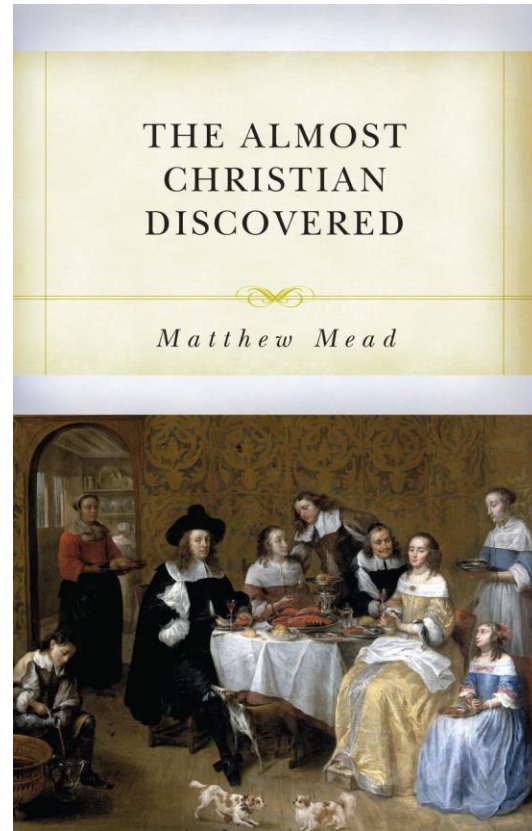
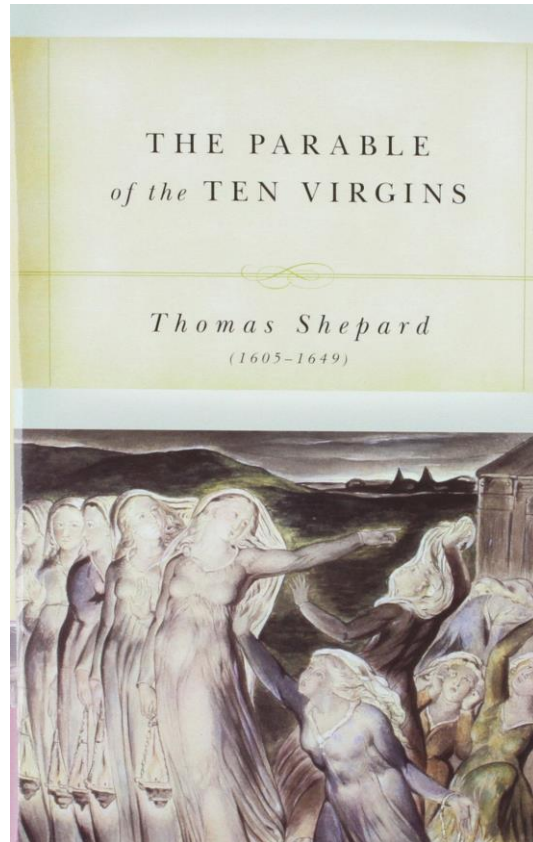
“...Such preaching teaches that if our religion is not experiential, we will perish—not because experience itself saves, but because Christ who saves sinners must be experienced personally as the Rock upon whom our eternal hope is built (Matt 7:22–27; 1 Cor 1:30; 2:2).”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 2#

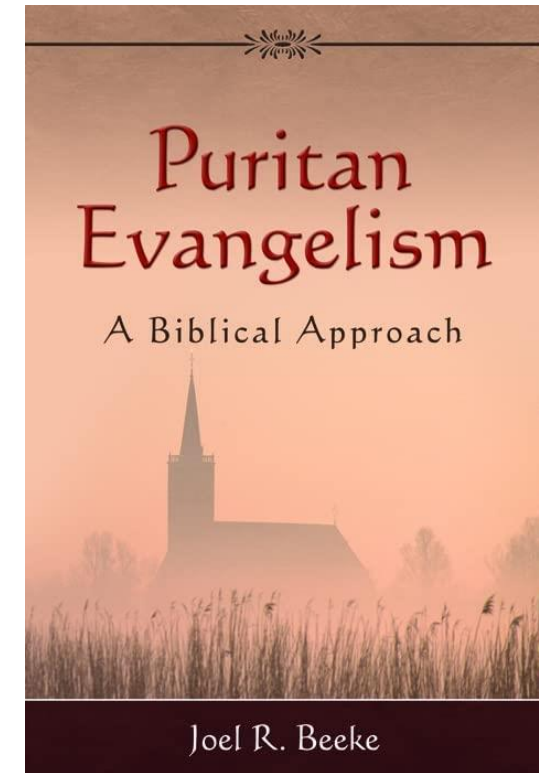


C. Experimentally Practical



C. Experimentally Practical

“How different this is from most contemporary preaching! The Word of God is often preached today in a way that **will never transform anyone** because it never discriminates and never applies. ...

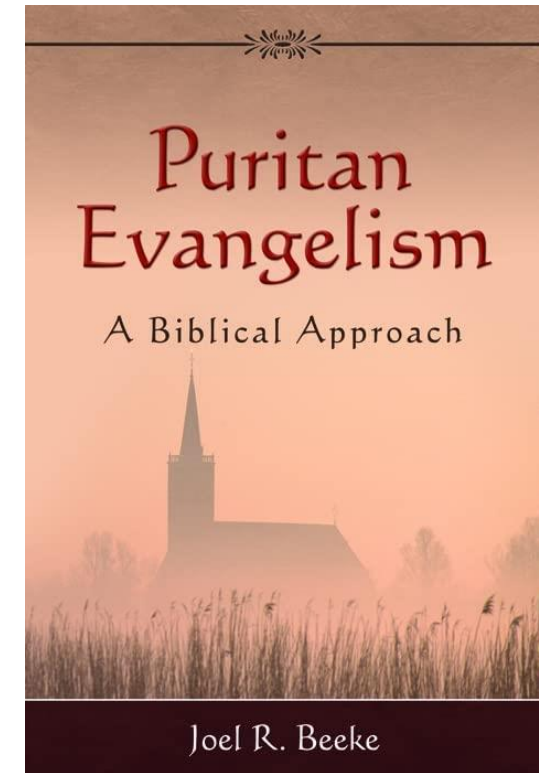


Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 29



C. Experimentally Practical

“...Preaching is reduced to a lecture, a catering to the wishes and needs of people, or a form of experientialism removed from the foundation of Scripture.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 29



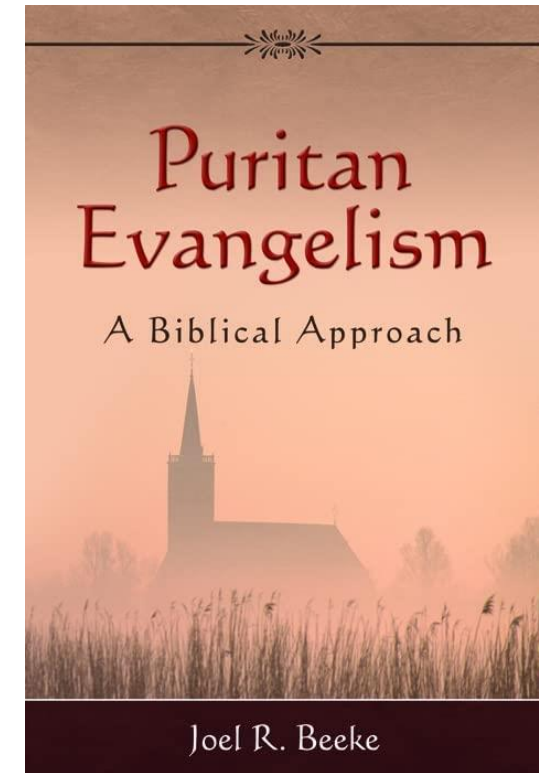
I. Characteristics of Preaching

- A. Thoroughly Biblical
- B. Unashamedly Doctrinal
- C. Experimentally Practical
- D. Holistically Evangelistic**
- E. Studiously Symmetrical



D. Holistically Evangelistic

“...the Puritans preached the precepts of the law before they offered the promises of the gospel. They spoke about the obligations that lie upon sinners before showing the way of deliverance through faith in the blood of Christ.”

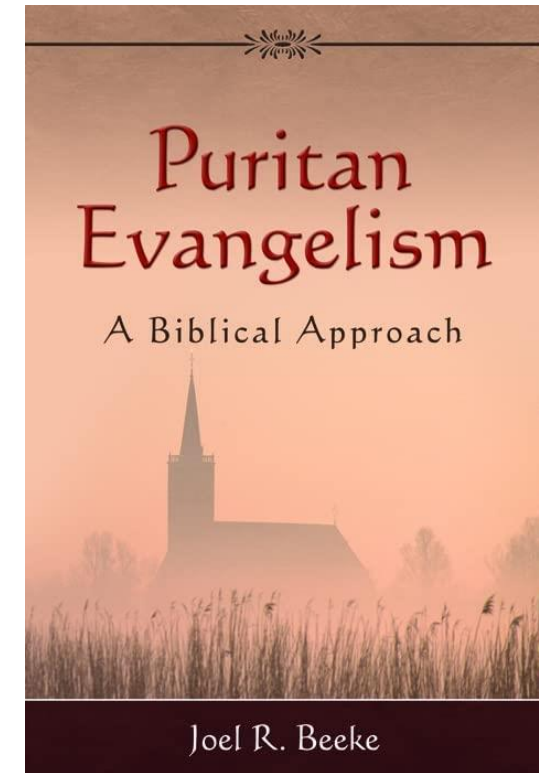


Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 38



D. Holistically Evangelistic

“When God is about to play the chord of grace in the soul, they taught, he usually starts with the bass note of the law.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 40



D. Holistically Evangelistic



John Bunyan,
The Pilgrim's Progress, 162

“If I look narrowly into the best of what I do now, I still see sin, new sin, mixing itself with the best of what I do; so that now I am forced to conclude, that notwithstanding my former fond conceits of myself and duties, I have committed sin enough in one duty to send me to hell, even if my former life had been faultless. ...



D. Holistically Evangelistic



John Bunyan,
The Pilgrim's Progress, 162

“...Unless I could obtain
the righteousness of a
man that never had
sinned; neither mine
own, nor all the
righteousness of the
world could save me.”



D. Holistically Evangelistic

The Preaching of Repentance

- John the Baptist: “Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt 3:1–2).
- Jesus: “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt 4:17).



D. Holistically Evangelistic

The Preaching of Repentance

- John the Baptist (Matt 3:1–2)
- Jesus (Matt 4:17)
- Peter: “‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘**Repent...**’” (Acts 2:37–38).
- Paul: “God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should **repent...**” (Acts 17:30).



D. Holistically Evangelistic

The Preaching of the New Birth

- John 3:3, 5, 7 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ... Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be **born again**.’”



I. Characteristics of Preaching

- A. Thoroughly Biblical
- B. Unashamedly Doctrinal
- C. Experimentally Practical
- D. Holistically Evangelistic
- E. Studiously Symmetrical



II. Method of Evangelism

A. Plain Preaching

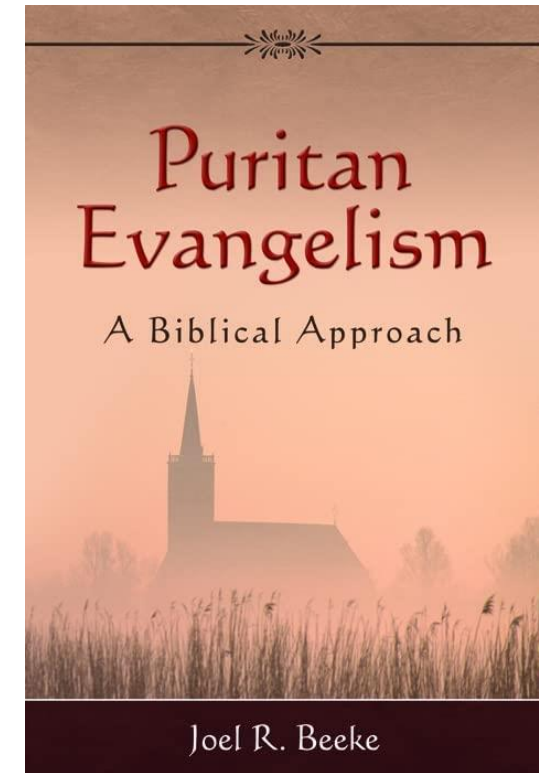
1. Addressed the **Mind** with Clarity
2. Confronted the **Conscience** Pointedly
3. Wooed the **Heart** Passionately

B. Catechetical Evangelism



1. Addressed the Mind

“Puritan evangelists labored to show sinners **the unreasonableness of persisting in sin**. They tore away every excuse for remaining unregenerate, whether it be an unbeliever’s own inability and unwillingness, or divine sovereignty and election.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 58



1. Addressed the Mind



Joseph Alleine,
A Sure Guide to Heaven, 30

“You begin at the wrong end if you dispute about your election. Prove your conversion and then never doubt your election. ... **Whatever God’s purposes be, which are secret, His promises are plain.** How desperately do rebels argue, ‘If I am elected I shall be saved, do what I will. If not, I shall be damned, do what I can.’ ...



1. Addressed the Mind



Joseph Alleine,
A Sure Guide to Heaven, 30

“...Perverse sinner, will you begin where you should end? **Is not the word before you?** What saith it? ‘Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out.’ ‘If you mortify the deeds of the body you shall live.’ ‘Believe and be saved’ (Acts 3:19; Rom. 8:13; Acts 16:31). ...



1. Addressed the Mind



Joseph Alleine,
A Sure Guide to Heaven, 30

“...What can be plainer?
Do not stand still
disputing about your
election, but set to
repenting and believing.
Cry to God for converting
grace. Revealed things
belong to you; in these
busy yourself.”



1. Addressed the Mind

“Have you not souls as well as bodies? Would you not be saved from sin as well as from sickness? **Hasten to Jesus Christ, then**, the physician, the Saviour of souls. Is there any other Christ? Is there salvation in any other? Has God any more Sons to send? Is there any other way to Heaven? Have we not been in peril long enough? ...



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 222



1. Addressed the Mind

“...Come now to Christ; if ever there were reason for it, there is now. Will you need him? You do now. Will he be lovely hereafter? He is now. These things being so, we should fly like doves to the windows and not stand a moment longer lest we die, and die in our sins, and then farewell to happiness and hope for ever. ...

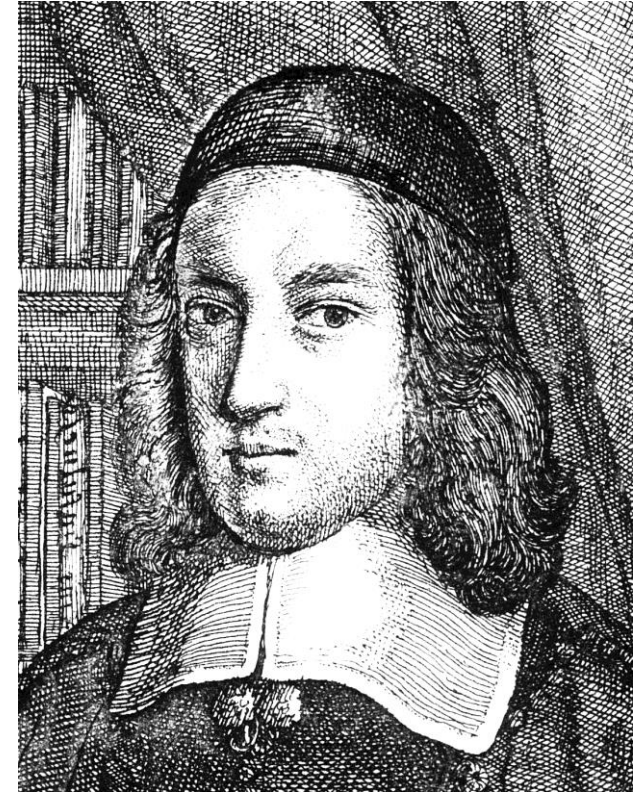


Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 222



1. Addressed the Mind

“...But I trust that this is not in vain. I am willing to hope that I have not preached from nor prayed to God in vain, that I have not **expostulated** with and **besought** you in vain, but that you will yet repent and believe the Gospel.”



Ralph Venning,
The Sinfulness of Sin, 222



1. Addressed the Mind



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:478

“If God be your enemy, **you have an immortal enemy**, who lives for ever to avenge himself upon his adversaries. ... Alas, **where will you turn?** To whom will you complain? But what will you do, when you shall stand at the bar, and see that God, who is your enemy, **upon the throne?**”



1. Addressed the Mind



John Bunyan,
A Few Sighs from Hell

“O sinner! Sinner! There are better things than Hell to be had! and at a cheaper rate by the thousandth part! O, there is no comparison! There is Heaven! There is God! There is Christ! There is communion with an innumerable company of saints and angels! Hear the message then that God sends, that Christ sends, that saints bring.”



II. Method of Evangelism

A. Plain Preaching

1. Addressed the **Mind** with Clarity
2. Confronted the **Conscience** Pointedly
3. Wooed the **Heart** Passionately

B. Catechetical Evangelism



2. Confronted the Conscience



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:83

“It is indeed infinite mercy that God is come so near you as to dwell in your flesh, and that he hath fixed upon such an excellent method to save poor sinners. And hath he done all this? is he indeed come home, even to your own doors, to seek peace? ...



2. Confronted the Conscience



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:83

“...doth he veil his
unsupportable glory under
flesh, that he might treat
you the more familiarly?
and yet do you refuse him,
and shut your hearts
against him? then hear one
word, and let thine ears
tingle at the sound of it: ...



2. Confronted the Conscience



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:83

“...Thy sin is hereby aggravated **beyond the sin of devils**, who never sinned against a mediator in their own nature; who never despised or refused—because indeed they were never offered—terms of mercy, as you are. ...



2. Confronted the Conscience



John Flavel,
The Fountain of Life Opened, Works, 1:83

“...And I doubt not but the devils themselves, who now tempt you to reject Christ, will, to all eternity, upbraid your folly for rejecting this great salvation, which in this excellent way is brought down, even to your own doors.”



II. Method of Evangelism

A. Plain Preaching

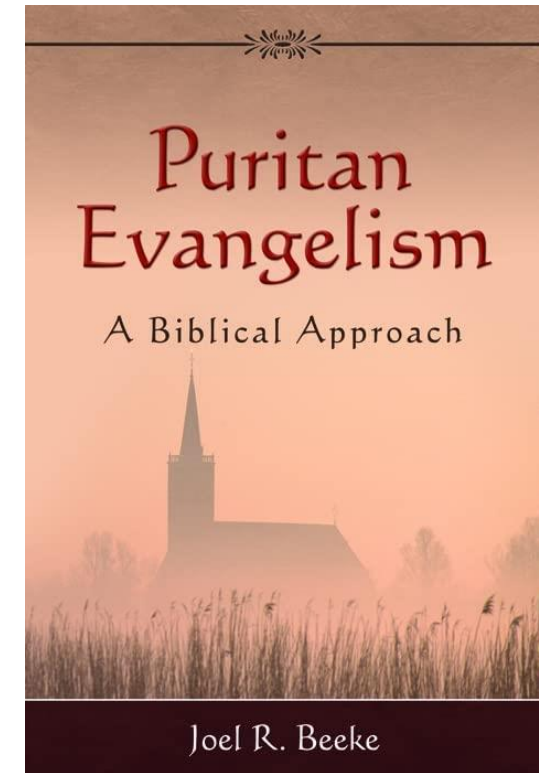
1. Addressed the **Mind** with Clarity
2. Confronted the **Conscience** Pointedly
3. Wooed the **Heart** Passionately

B. Catechetical Evangelism



3. Wooed the Heart

“It is unusual today to find a ministry which both feeds the mind with solid biblical substance and moves the heart with affectionate warmth, but this combination was commonplace with the Puritans. They did not just reason with the mind and confront the conscience; they appealed to the heart.”

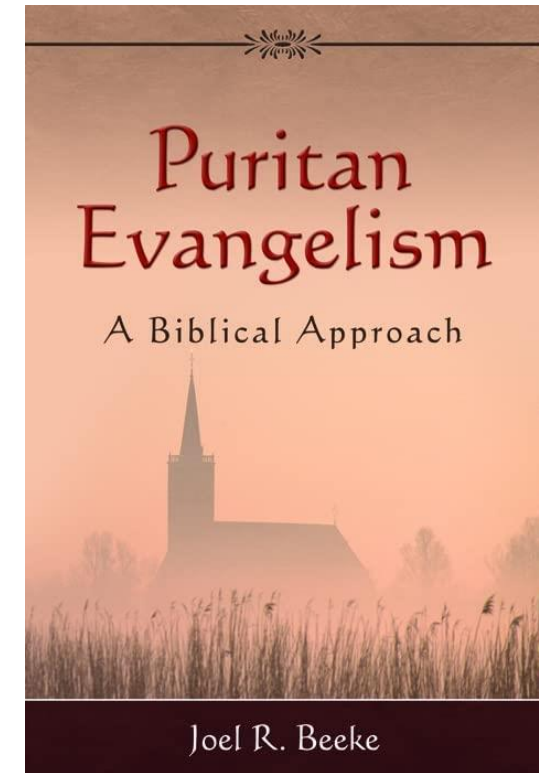


Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 61



3. Wooed the Heart

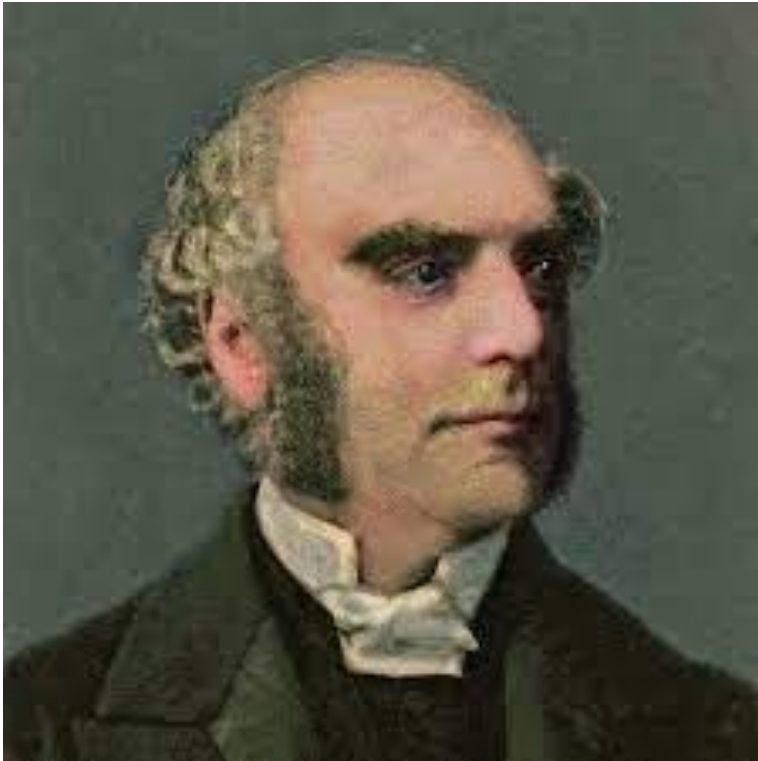
“They set forth Christ in His **loveliness**, hoping to make the unsaved **jealous** of what the believer has in Christ.”



Beeke, *Puritan Evangelism*, 61



3. Wooed the Heart

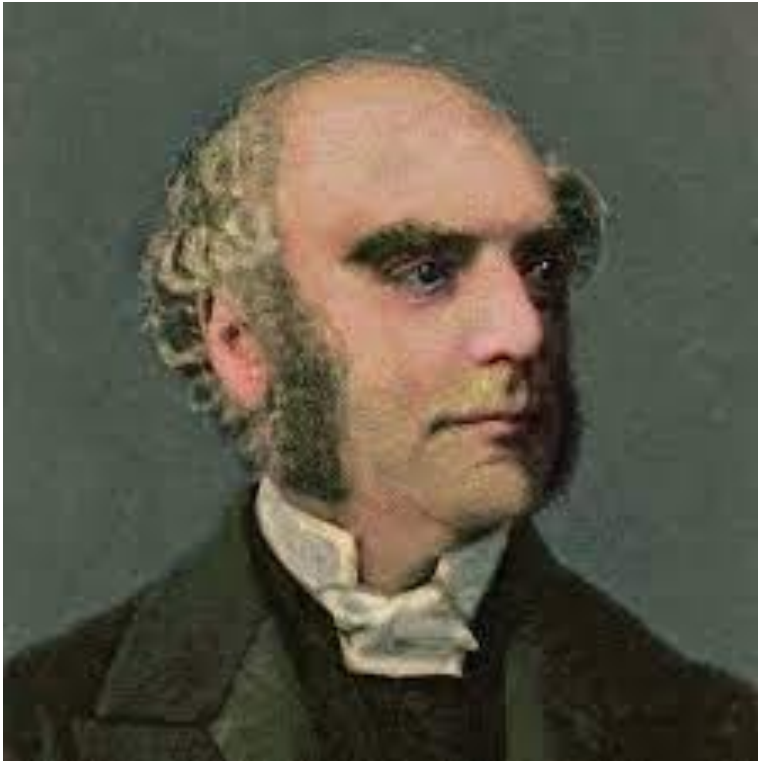


Octavius Winslow,
“The Entire Pardon and Justification of
the Believing Sinner”

“This [happiness] is the attainment the world is eagerly in search of—but the believer in Christ is its only possessor; he has found it, and found it in Jesus; he has found it in a renunciation of self-righteousness, and in a humble reception of Christ; and there is **no happiness**, worthy of the name, that is sought and found **out[side] of Jesus. ...**



3. Wooed the Heart

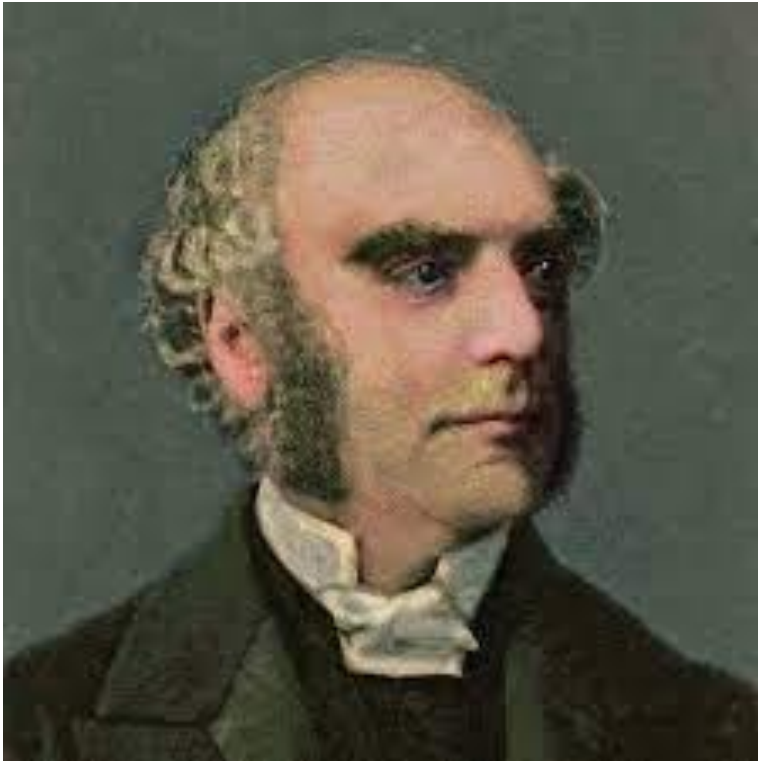


Octavius Winslow,
“The Entire Pardon and Justification of
the Believing Sinner”

“...What true happiness
can the heart feel while it
is unrenowned, its sins
unpardoned, the soul
unjustified, and therefore
under condemnation, and
exposed to the wrath of
the holy and just God? ...



3. Wooed the Heart



Octavius Winslow,
“The Entire Pardon and Justification of
the Believing Sinner”

“...O dream not of
happiness, reader, until
you have gone as a
repenting sinner to the
cross of Christ; until the
atoning blood has been
applied to your conscience,
and the Spirit bears his
witness to your adoption.”



3. Wooed the Heart

“If there were ten thousand thousand millions of worlds, and as many heavens full of men and angels, Christ would not be pinched to supply all our wants, and to fill us all. Christ is a well of life; but who knoweth how deep it is to the bottom? ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



3. Wooed the Heart

“...This soul of ours hath
love, and cannot but love
some fair one. And oh, what
a **fair** One, what an **Only** one,
what an **excellent, lovely,**
ravishing One, is Jesus! Put
the beauty of ten thousand
thousand worlds of
paradises, like the garden of
Eden, in one; ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



3. Wooed the Heart

“...put all trees, all flowers,
all smells, all colors, all
tastes, all joys, all
sweetnesses, all loveliness, in
one: oh, what a fair and
excellent thing would that be!
And yet it would be less to
that fair and dearest Well-
beloved, Christ, ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



3. Wooed the Heart

“...than one drop of rain to the whole seas, rivers, lakes, and fountains of ten thousand earths. Oh, but Christ is heaven’s wonder, and earth’s wonder! ... Oh, if I could persuade thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand of Adam’s sons, to flock about my Lord Jesus, and to come and take their fill of love! ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



3. Wooed the Heart

“...Oh, pity for evermore, that there should be such a one as Christ Jesus, so boundless, so bottomless, and so incomparable in infinite excellency and sweetness, and so few to take Him! Oh, oh, ye poor, dry, and dead souls, why will ye not come hither with your [empty] vessels, and your empty souls, ...



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



3. Wooed the Heart

“...to this huge, and fair, and deep, and **sweet well of life**, and fill all your [empty] vessels? Oh that Christ should be so large in **sweetness** and **worth**, and we so narrow, so pinched, so ebb, and so void of all happiness. And yet men will not take Him! **They lose their love miserably, who will not bestow it upon this lovely One.**”



Samuel Rutherford,
The Loveliness of Christ



II. Method of Evangelism

A. Plain Preaching

1. Addressed the **Mind** with Clarity
2. Confronted the **Conscience** Pointedly
3. Wooed the **Heart** Passionately

B. Catechetical Evangelism



B. Catechetical Evangelism



Richard Baxter,
The Reformed Pastor, 186f

“Let them that have taken most pains in public, examine their people, and try whether many of them are not nearly as ignorant and careless as if they had never heard the gospel. For my part, I study to speak as plainly and as movingly as I can...and yet I frequently meet with those that have been my hearers eight or ten years, who know not whether Christ be God or man, and wonder when I tell them the history of his birth and life and death as if they had never heard it before. ...



B. Catechetical Evangelism



Richard Baxter,
The Reformed Pastor, 186f

“...I have found by experience, that some ignorant persons, who have been so long unprofitable hearers, have got more knowledge and remorse of conscience in half an hour’s close disclosure, than they did from ten years’ public preaching. I know that preaching the gospel publicly is the most excellent means, because we speak to many at once. But it is usually far more effectual to preach it privately to a particular sinner.”



III. Disposition of the Evangelist

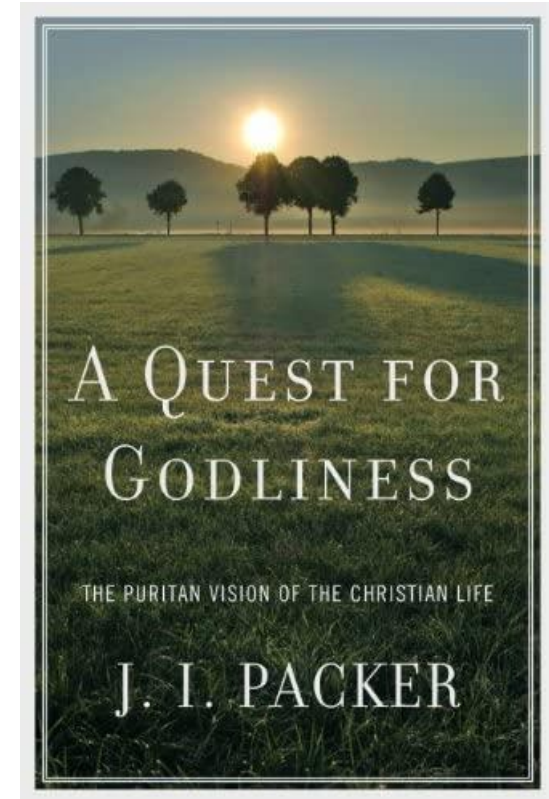
A. Dependency on the Holy Spirit

B. Men of Prayer



A. Dependent on the Holy Spirit

“All devices for exerting psychological pressure in order to precipitate ‘decisions’ must be eschewed, as being in truth presumptuous attempts to intrude into the province of the Holy Ghost.”

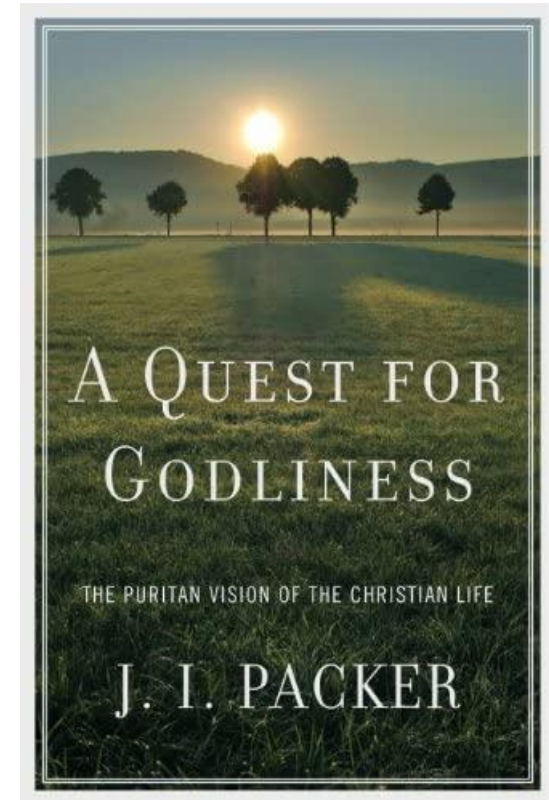


J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 163



A. Dependent on the Holy Spirit

“Evangelism must rather be conceived as a long-term enterprise of patient teaching and instruction, in which God’s servants seek simply to be faithful in delivering the gospel message and applying it to human lives, and leave it to God’s Spirit to draw men to faith through this message in his own way and at his own speed.”



J. I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, 164



B. Men of Prayer



Richard Baxter,
The Reformed Pastor, 123

“He preacheth not
heartily to his people, that
prayeth not earnestly for
them.”



B. Men of Prayer

“No man preacheth
that sermon well
that doth not **first**
preach it to
his own heart.”



Owen, *The Duty of a Pastor*, Works, 9:455



B. Men of Prayer

“If the word do not
dwell with power **in** us,
it will not pass with
power **from** us.”



Owen, *The True Nature of a Gospel Church*, Works, 16:76



Puritan Evangelism

Puritan Conference 2022

Dr. Michael Riccardi

