The First 250 Books for Your Church Library

The first 250 books that can get a church well on its way to having a great library. The full article, with links to buy each book, is at **challies.com/articles/the-first-250-books-for-your-church-library**.

Starting Out

10

These are books for new believers, or those who are discipling them.

- [ ] 1 **What Is the Gospel?** Greg Gilbert
- [ ] 2 **Basic Christianity** John Stott
- [ ] 3 **Now What?** Aaron Armstrong
- [ ] 4 **Grounded in the Faith** Kenneth Erisman
- [ ] 5 **The Quiet Time Kickstart** Rachel Jones
- [ ] 6 **Core Christianity** Michael Horton
- [ ] 7 **The Gospel Way Catechism** Trevin Wax & Thomas West
- [ ] 8 **The Good News We Almost Forgot** Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 9 **Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart** J.D. Greear
- [ ] 10 **How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?** Donald Whitney

Reading and Understanding the Bible

15

Books that help you read the Bible and teach you to do so yourself.

- [ ] 11 **ESV Study Bible**
- [ ] 12 **Reformation Study Bible**
- [ ] 13 **Knowing Scripture** R.C. Sproul
- [ ] 14 **Read This First** Gary Millar
- [ ] 15 **How to Get the Most from God's Word** John MacArthur
- [ ] 16 **Taking God at His Word** Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 17 **Women of the Word** Jen Wilkin
- [ ] 18 **One-to-One Bible Reading** David Helm
- [ ] 19 **The One Story Bible** Greg Gilbert
- [ ] 20 **A Divine Tapestry** Ryan McGraw
- [ ] 21 **Dig Deeper** Nigel Beynon & Andrew Sach
- [ ] 22 **Can We Trust the Gospels?** Peter J. Williams
- [ ] 23 **New Bible Dictionary** IVP (ed. Marshall, Millard, Packer, Wiseman)
- [ ] 24 **ESV Bible Atlas** Crossway (Currid & Barrett)
- [ ] 25 **Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life** Donald Whitney

God, the Gospel, and Doctrine

19

Theology to get you grounded.

- [ ] 26 **Knowing God**
  J.I. Packer
- [ ] 27 **The Holiness of God**
  R.C. Sproul
- [ ] 28 **Chosen by God**
  R.C. Sproul
- [ ] 29 **What Is Reformed Theology?**
  R.C. Sproul
- [ ] 30 **Putting Amazing Back into Grace**
  Michael Horton
- [ ] 31 **The Doctrines of Grace**
  James Montgomery Boice & Philip Ryken
- [ ] 32 **Delighting in the Trinity**
  Michael Reeves
- [ ] 33 **The Deep Things of God**
  Fred Sanders
- [ ] 34 **None Like Him**
  Jen Wilkin
- [ ] 35 **Gentle and Lowly**
  Dane Ortlund
- [ ] 36 **The Cross of Christ**
  John Stott
- [ ] 37 **The Truth of the Cross**
  R.C. Sproul
- [ ] 38 **The Gospel**
  Ray Ortlund
- [ ] 39 **The Prodigal God**
  Tim Keller
- [ ] 40 **The Whole Christ**
  Sinclair Ferguson
- [ ] 41 **Christian Beliefs**
  Wayne Grudem
- [ ] 42 **Daily Doctrine**
  Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 43 **Urban Legends of Theology**
  Michael Wittmer
- [ ] 44 **The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God**
  D.A. Carson

Christian Living and Growth

18

Holiness, habits, and Christian living.

- [ ] 45 **The Pursuit of Holiness**
  Jerry Bridges
- [ ] 46 **The Discipline of Grace**
  Jerry Bridges
- [ ] 47 **Respectable Sins**
  Jerry Bridges
- [ ] 48 **Trusting God**
  Jerry Bridges
- [ ] 49 **The Hole in Our Holiness**
  Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 50 **Habits of Grace**
  David Mathis
- [ ] 51 **Devoted to God**
  Sinclair Ferguson
- [ ] 52 **Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health**
  Donald Whitney
- [ ] 53 **Uprooting Anger**
  Robert Jones
- [ ] 54 **The Blessing of Humility**
  Jerry Bridges
- [ ] 55 **Don't Waste Your Life**
  John Piper
- [ ] 56 **Desiring God**
  John Piper
- [ ] 57 **Just Do Something**
  Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 58 **Crazy Busy**
  Kevin DeYoung
- [ ] 59 **Conscience**
  Andrew Naselli & J.D. Crowley
- [ ] 60 **Resisting Gossip**
  Matthew Mitchell
- [ ] 61 **Good and Angry**
  David Powlison
- [ ] 62 **When People Are Big and God Is Small**
  Edward Welch

Prayer and Devotion

10

Books to teach you how to pray, and then help you with it.

- ☐ 63 **A Praying Life**
  Paul Miller
- ☐ 64 **Prayer**
  Tim Keller
- ☐ 65 **Praying the Bible**
  Donald Whitney
- ☐ 66 **Praying Backwards**
  Bryan Chapell
- ☐ 67 **The Prayer of the Lord**
  R.C. Sproul
- ☐ 68 **Praying Together**
  Megan Hill
- ☐ 69 **The Valley of Vision**
  ed. Arthur Bennett
- ☐ 70 **Piercing Heaven**
  ed. Robert Elmer
- ☐ 71 **New Morning Mercies**
  Paul David Tripp
- ☐ 72 **Morning and Evening**
  Charles Spurgeon

Classics

12

Books that, for good reason, have outlived their authors.

- ☐ 73 **The Pilgrim's Progress**
  John Bunyan
- ☐ 74 **Confessions**
  Augustine
- ☐ 75 **Mere Christianity**
  C.S. Lewis
- ☐ 76 **The Screwtape Letters**
  C.S. Lewis
- ☐ 77 **Holiness**
  J.C. Ryle
- ☐ 78 **Thoughts for Young Men**
  J.C. Ryle
- ☐ 79 **The Bruised Reed**
  Richard Sibbes
- ☐ 80 **Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices**
  Thomas Brooks
- ☐ 81 **The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**
  Jeremiah Burroughs
- ☐ 82 **Overcoming Sin and Temptation**
  John Owen (ed. Kapic & Taylor)
- ☐ 83 **A Little Book on the Christian Life**
  John Calvin
- ☐ 84 **All of Grace**
  Charles Spurgeon

The Church

10

Why the local church matters and why every Christian needs to be part of one.

- ☐ 85 **Nine Marks of a Healthy Church**
  Mark Dever
- ☐ 86 **What Is a Healthy Church Member?**
  Thabiti Anyabwile
- ☐ 87 **Church Membership**
  Jonathan Leeman
- ☐ 88 **The Prodigal Church**
  Jared C. Wilson
- ☐ 89 **Rediscover Church**
  Collin Hansen & Jonathan Leeman
- ☐ 90 **The Loveliest Place**
  Dustin Benge
- ☐ 91 **Love the Ones Who Drive You Crazy**
  Jamie Dunlop
- ☐ 92 **The Compelling Community**
  Mark Dever & Jamie Dunlop
- ☐ 93 **Finding the Right Hills to Die On**
  Gavin Ortlund
- ☐ 94 **Spiritual Gifts**
  Thomas Schreiner

Evangelism and Apologetics

15

Books on sharing the faith and defending it.

- [ ] 95 **The Reason for God**
  Tim Keller
- [ ] 96 **Confronting Christianity**
  Rebecca McLaughlin
- [ ] 97 **Tactics**
  Greg Koukl
- [ ] 98 **Cold-Case Christianity**
  J. Warner Wallace
- [ ] 99 **The Case for Christ**
  Lee Strobel
- [ ] 100 **Finding Truth**
  Nancy Pearcey
- [ ] 101 **Total Truth**
  Nancy Pearcey
- [ ] 102 **The Story of Reality**
  Greg Koukl
- [ ] 103 **Fool's Talk**
  Os Guinness
- [ ] 104 **The World Next Door**
  Rory Shiner & Peter Orr
- [ ] 105 **The Gospel and Personal Evangelism**
  Mark Dever
- [ ] 106 **Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God**
  J.I. Packer
- [ ] 107 **Reaching Your Muslim Neighbor with the Gospel**
  Ayman Ibrahim
- [ ] 108 **World Religions in Seven Sentences**
  Douglas Groothuis
- [ ] 109 **The Deconstruction of Christianity**
  Alisa Childers & Tim Barnett

Missions and the Global Church

8

Books on the church's mission, both local and global.

- [ ] 110 **Let the Nations Be Glad!**
  John Piper
- [ ] 111 **When Helping Hurts**
  Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
- [ ] 112 **Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global**
  Andy Johnson
- [ ] 113 **Dispatches from the Front**
  Tim Keesee
- [ ] 114 **From the Rising of the Sun**
  Tim Challies & Tim Keesee
- [ ] 115 **Faith in the Wilderness**
  ed. Hannah Nation & Simon Liu
- [ ] 116 **Operation World**
  Jason Mandryk
- [ ] 117 **The New Shape of World Christianity**
  Mark Noll

Marriage, Sex, and Singleness

13

Books on marriage, sex, and living single.

- [ ] 118 **The Meaning of Marriage**
  Tim & Kathy Keller
- [ ] 119 **When Sinners Say "I Do"**
  Dave Harvey
- [ ] 120 **This Momentary Marriage**
  John Piper
- [ ] 121 **Gospel-Shaped Marriage**
  Chad & Emily Van Dixhoorn
- [ ] 122 **Married for God**
  Christopher Ash
- [ ] 123 **Love That Lasts**
  Gary & Betsy Ricucci
- [ ] 124 **Build a Stronger Marriage**
  Bob Lepine
- [ ] 125 **Counsel for Couples**
  Jonathan Holmes
- [ ] 126 **The Marriage Bed**
  Ray Rhodes
- [ ] 127 **Redeeming Sex in Marriage**
  Scott Mehl
- [ ] 128 **What Is the Meaning of Sex?**
  Denny Burk
- [ ] 129 **Single Together**
  Lisa LaGeorge
- [ ] 130 **Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage**
  Jim Newheiser

Parenting and Family

13

Books on parenting and raising children.

- ☐ 131 **Shepherding a Child's Heart**
  Tedd Tripp
- ☐ 132 **Instructing a Child's Heart**
  Tedd & Margy Tripp
- ☐ 133 **Parenting**
  Paul David Tripp
- ☐ 134 **Age of Opportunity**
  Paul David Tripp
- ☐ 135 **Gospel-Powered Parenting**
  William Farley
- ☐ 136 **Purposeful and Persistent Parenting**
  John & Cindy Raquet
- ☐ 137 **Everyday Talk**
  Jay Younts
- ☐ 138 **The Disciple-Making Parent**
  Chap Bettis
- ☐ 139 **Family Worship**
  Donald Whitney
- ☐ 140 **Big Truths for Young Hearts**
  Bruce Ware
- ☐ 141 **Risen Motherhood**
  Emily Jensen & Laura Wifler
- ☐ 142 **What Do I Say When...?**
  Andrew & Christian Walker
- ☐ 143 **The Tech Exit**
  Clare Morell

Men and Women

12

Books that address issues specific to men and women.

- ☐ 144 **The Masculine Mandate**
  Richard Phillips
- ☐ 145 **Disciplines of a Godly Man**
  R. Kent Hughes
- ☐ 146 **The Men We Need**
  Brant Hansen
- ☐ 147 **Reclaiming Masculinity**
  Matt Fuller
- ☐ 148 **The Humility Project for Men**
  Edward Welch
- ☐ 149 **Feminine Appeal**
  Carolyn Mahaney
- ☐ 150 **Adorned**
  Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
- ☐ 151 **True Woman 101**
  Mary Kassian & Nancy Leigh DeMoss
- ☐ 152 **To Be a Woman**
  Katie McCoy
- ☐ 153 **Glimpses of Grace**
  Gloria Furman
- ☐ 154 **Men and Women in the Church**
  Kevin DeYoung
- ☐ 155 **Mere Complementarianism**
  Denny Burk

Suffering, Grief, and Death

13

Books on suffering, grief, death, and other forms of sorrow.

- ☐ 156 **Surprised by Suffering**
  R.C. Sproul
- ☐ 157 **If God Is Good**
  Randy Alcorn
- ☐ 158 **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God**
  ed. John Piper & Justin Taylor
- ☐ 159 **Does Grace Grow Best in Winter?**
  Ligon Duncan
- ☐ 160 **A Book of Comfort for Those in Sickness**
  P.B. Power
- ☐ 161 **Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy**
  Mark Vroegop
- ☐ 162 **When God Weeps**
  Joni Eareckson Tada & Steve Estes
- ☐ 163 **Hope When Life Unravels**
  Adam Dooley
- ☐ 164 **The Last Enemy**
  Michael Wittmer
- ☐ 165 **Seasons of Sorrow**
  Tim Challies
- ☐ 166 **Grieving, Hope and Solace**
  Albert N. Martin
- ☐ 167 **You Are Still a Mother**
  Jackie Gibson
- ☐ 168 **Heaven**
  Randy Alcorn

Mental Health and Counseling

8

Books on mental health struggles and counseling.

- ☐ 169 **Made to Tremble**
  Blair Linne
- ☐ 170 **Is It Unspiritual to Be Depressed?**
  Paul Ritchie
- ☐ 171 **Running Scared**
  Edward Welch
- ☐ 172 **Understanding Trauma**
  Steve Midgley
- ☐ 173 **Side by Side**
  Edward Welch
- ☐ 174 **You're Only Human**
  Kelly Kapic
- ☐ 175 **Finally Free**
  Heath Lambert
- ☐ 176 **Addiction and the Local Church**
  Andy Constable & Mez McConnell

Culture and Contemporary Issues

13

Books on understanding today's culture and contemporary issues.

- ☐ 177 **Strange New World**
  Carl Trueman
- ☐ 178 **The Air We Breathe**
  Glen Scrivener
- ☐ 179 **Remaking the World**
  Andrew Wilson
- ☐ 180 **The Gathering Storm**
  Albert Mohler
- ☐ 181 **Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth**
  Thaddeus Williams
- ☐ 182 **Is God Anti-Gay?**
  Sam Allberry
- ☐ 183 **Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert**
  Rosaria Butterfield
- ☐ 184 **Love Thy Body**
  Nancy Pearcey
- ☐ 185 **Does God Care About Gender Identity?**
  Samuel Ferguson
- ☐ 186 **A Field Guide on Gender and Sexuality**
  Ligonier Ministries
- ☐ 187 **The Case for Life**
  Scott Klusendorf
- ☐ 188 **Digital Liturgies**
  Samuel James
- ☐ 189 **Terms of Service**
  Chris Martin

Work, Money, Time, and Aging

10

Books for those with questions about work, money, time, and aging.

- [ ] 190 **Work**
  Daniel Doriani
- [ ] 191 **The Gospel at Work**
  Greg Gilbert & Sebastian Traeger
- [ ] 192 **What's Best Next**
  Matt Perman
- [ ] 193 **Do More Better**
  Tim Challies
- [ ] 194 **Managing God's Money**
  Randy Alcorn
- [ ] 195 **The Treasure Principle**
  Randy Alcorn
- [ ] 196 **Money, Debt, and Finances**
  Jim Newheiser
- [ ] 197 **Zeal Without Burnout**
  Christopher Ash
- [ ] 198 **Not Old, Not Young, Not Done**
  Christopher Ash
- [ ] 199 **Making Good Return**
  Kathleen Nielson

Biography

23

Worthwhile biographies that span a range of subjects.

- [ ] 200 **Fearless Pilgrim**
  Faith Cook
- [ ] 201 **John Calvin: Pilgrim and Pastor**
  W. Robert Godfrey
- [ ] 202 **Here I Stand**
  Roland Bainton
- [ ] 203 **A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards**
  George Marsden
- [ ] 204 **Spurgeon**
  Arnold Dallimore
- [ ] 205 **Susie**
  Ray Rhodes Jr.
- [ ] 206 **George Whitefield**
  Arnold Dallimore
- [ ] 207 **John Newton**
  Jonathan Aitken
- [ ] 208 **Amazing Grace**
  Eric Metaxas
- [ ] 209 **William Tyndale**
  David Daniell
- [ ] 210 **Lady Jane Grey**
  Faith Cook
- [ ] 211 **Hudson Taylor: Gospel Pioneer to China**
  Vance Christie
- [ ] 212 **Adoniram Judson**
  Vance Christie
- [ ] 213 **Amy Carmichael: Beauty for Ashes**
  Iain Murray
- [ ] 214 **John and Betty Stam**
  Vance Christie
- [ ] 215 **For the Love of India**
  Jim Cromarty
- [ ] 216 **Missionary to the Cannibals of the South Seas**
  Paul Schlehlein
- [ ] 217 **Pure Gold**
  David McCasland
- [ ] 218 **The Hiding Place**
  Corrie ten Boom
- [ ] 219 **Through Gates of Splendor**
  Elisabeth Elliot
- [ ] 220 **David Livingstone**
  Vance Christie
- [ ] 221 **R.C. Sproul: A Life**
  Stephen Nichols
- [ ] 222 **Timothy Keller**
  Collin Hansen

Church History

8

Books to help you understand your history as a Christian.

- ☐ 223 **Church History 101**
  Sinclair Ferguson, Joel Beeke & Michael Haykin
- ☐ 224 **Church History in Plain Language**
  Bruce Shelley
- ☐ 225 **30 Key Moments in the History of Christianity**
  Mark W. Graham
- ☐ 226 **Sketches from Church History**
  S.M. Houghton
- ☐ 227 **The Unquenchable Flame**
  Michael Reeves
- ☐ 228 **The Reformation**
  Stephen Nichols
- ☐ 229 **For Us and For Our Salvation**
  Stephen Nichols
- ☐ 230 **Meet the Puritans**
  Joel Beeke & Randall Pederson

Pastor's Reference Shelf

20

Books that a pastor uses and wants you to use as well.

- ☐ 231 **ESV Expository Commentary (12 volumes)**
  Crossway (ed. Duguid, Hamilton & Sklar)
- ☐ 232 **Systematic Theology**
  Wayne Grudem
- ☐ 233 **The Wonderful Works of God**
  Herman Bavinck
- ☐ 234 **Institutes of the Christian Religion**
  John Calvin
- ☐ 235 **A Puritan Theology**
  Joel Beeke & Mark Jones
- ☐ 236 **Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms**
  ed. Chad Van Dixhoorn
- ☐ 237 **2,000 Years of Christ's Power (5 volumes)**
  Nick Needham
- ☐ 238 **Saving Eutychus**
  Gary Millar & Phil Campbell
- ☐ 239 **Conduct Gospel-Centered Funerals**
  Brian Croft & Phil Newton
- ☐ 240 **Pierced for Our Transgressions**
  Jeffery, Ovey & Sach
- ☐ 241 **Biblical Eldership**
  Alexander Strauch
- ☐ 242 **The Deliberate Church**
  Mark Dever & Paul Alexander
- ☐ 243 **The Trellis and the Vine**
  Colin Marshall & Tony Payne
- ☐ 244 **The Care of Souls**
  Harold Senkbeil
- ☐ 245 **Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands**
  Paul David Tripp
- ☐ 246 **Christ-Centered Preaching**
  Bryan Chapell
- ☐ 247 **Rediscovering Expository Preaching**
  ed. John MacArthur
- ☐ 248 **Lectures to My Students**
  Charles Spurgeon
- ☐ 249 **The Reformed Pastor**
  Richard Baxter
- ☐ 250 **Worship by the Book**
  ed. D.A. Carson