

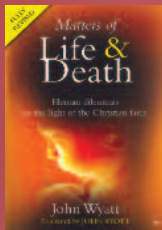
talking books - why read?

John Greenall highlights the importance of our reading

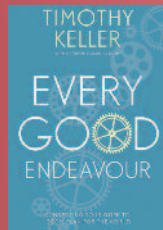


In the summer of AD 386, a young man lay weeping under a fig tree in a Milanese garden. Tormented by his failure to overcome his sinfulness, he cried out to God: 'Will you be angry forever?' Suddenly he heard a child's voice, chanting. 'Take and read; take and read.'

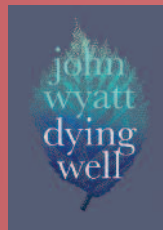
He'd brought to the garden Paul's letter to the Romans. He picked it up, opened it, and read the passage his eyes first fell on. 'Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.'



Matters of Life & Death (fully revised)
John Wyatt
IVP/CMF, 2009
9781844743674
Price: £7.00



Every Good Endeavour
Timothy Keller
Hodder & Stoughton, 2012
9781444702606
Price: £8.00



Dying Well
John Wyatt
IVP, 2018
9781783594856
Price: £8.00



Hard Questions about Health and Healing
Andrew Fergusson
CMF, 2005
9780906747346
Price: £5.00



Foundations – a survival guide for junior doctors
CMF, 2018
9780906747438
Price: £15.00

Available from CMF:
cmf.org.uk/bookstore



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Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.' (Romans 13:13-14)

Immediately he felt as though the darkness of his doubt had fled. This was the moment of his conversion; the beginning of a life for Christ that has perhaps had more impact than any other since. This young man was Augustine, perhaps the greatest of the early church fathers.

We're not Augustine. We're unlikely to have the influence he did. And I don't want to encourage randomly opening the Bible and reading whatever we see first. The point is to take and read God's Word. It's God's Word that will convict us and change us as we study and wrestle with it. Ask God to make it clear to you by his Spirit.

where do I start?

There are so many books and articles out there to help us do this. But where do you start? What are the key books to read that will give you a foundation?

'15-minute book club' is coming to CMF soon. The aim is to read three books a term covering a breadth of topics relevant to medics, nurses and midwives, from ethics to apologetics, mission to mental health.

Why not consider joining or even starting a book

club? It's a way to help you carve out time to read, digest and understand the content as you discuss it with others. Reading 15 minutes a day means you will get through about twelve titles per year.

but I'm too busy!

However good the books and the bargains, many of you may still be reluctant to buy and read them. Perhaps you're too busy, or perhaps you've got too many books already?

The apostle Paul wasn't too busy to read. In fact, getting hold of his books and parchments was one of his priorities.² Busyness is about priorities: do we want to understand God's Word more and better apply it to our lives? Spending ten minutes a day reading on the bus or listening to an audiobook can make a huge difference, time you might otherwise spend on Facebook or watching a Netflix box set!

So, take books and read them. Ask that God will use them to help you understand his Word and his will, to help you grow in your love of him and his people and to equip you better to live out your discipleship as a student. ■

REFERENCES

1. Augustine trans. Blaiklock EM. *The confessions of Saint Augustine*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1983, VII.xii.29
2. 2 Timothy 4:13

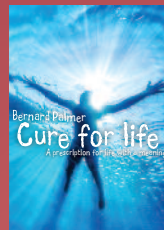
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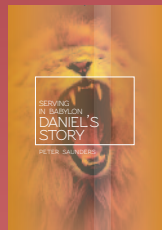
The Human Journey
Peter Saunders
CMF, 2014
9780906747582
Price: £6.99



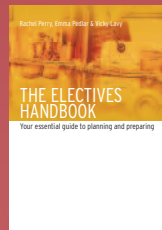
A Better Story
Glynn Harrison
IVP, 2016
9781845501891
Price: £8.00



Cure for Life
Bernard Palmer
CMF, 2017
9780906747711
Price: £6.00



Serving in Babylon: Daniel's Story
Peter Saunders
CMF, 2017
9780906747742
Price: £2.00



The Electives Handbook
Rachel Perry, Emma Pedlar & Vicky Lavy
CMF, 2014
9780906747506
Price: £3.00



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