It is time for my annual summer book review and suggested reading list. A wise mentor once told me that a man is the product of the books he reads and the friends he keeps. Through reading we associate with great men and women of the past and present as we spend time with them through the books they write. What type of company do you keep?

Every year I publish a review of my readings from the past twelve months in hopes of encouraging you to pick up and enjoy some good company during the coming year. I also hope this will give you some idea of works to avoid for the sake of your time and money. The summer months are upon us, and I trust that they will bring opportunity to imbibe deeply in some good books! So, if you are looking for some suggestions of books to read—and, in some cases, a couple to avoid—I offer the following from my own list of completed readings from the past year.

Apologetics

I’m not quite sure whether to include God, Greed, and the (Prosperity) Gospel: How Truth Overwhelms a Life Built on Lies (223 pp.) by Costi Hinn under “Apologetics” or “Biography.” It is a little of both. That made this book quite a bit different than I expected. I thought it was going to be more of a critique of the theology of the prosperity gospel movement. Costi tells the story of his time in the prosperity movement and his radical conversion to true saving faith. That conversion is itself a refutation of the greed, materialism, and idolatry so rampant in the prosperity movement. This is an easy read and one I recommend. The last few chapters contain some wise counsel for those who long to reach loved ones caught in theological error. Costi’s testimony is an encouragement to the believer as you see the power of truth in overcoming error. It is also a good word of warning as he candidly shares the mistakes he made in sharing truth with his family.

Every Thought Captive: A Study Manual for the Defense of Christian Truth by Richard L. Pratt Jr. (142 pp.) is a great introductory-level book on the presuppositional approach to apologetics. The first part of the book details the effects of the fall and sin upon the human mind and thus on human reasoning and logic. The second half demonstrates that every non-Christian worldview is inherently contradictory, and thus every objection to Christian truth is self-refuting. This is a good start for anyone wanting to better understand the basics of a biblical apologetic approach.

Theology

John MacArthur’s Sanctification: God’s Passion for His People (68 pp.) is a short and concise overview of the doctrine of sanctification. You can easily read this in one sitting. Much of the book centers around reflections on Paul’s passion for the Galatian believers: “My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you” (Gal. 4:19). The difference between antinomianism and legalism gets a brief discussion. He spends a bit of time explaining how the modern “young, restful, and reformed” movement has erred on the side of antinomianism. Recommended.

Blood Work: How the Blood of Christ Accomplishes our Salvation (150 pp.) by Anthony J. Carter is a great primer on the Bible’s teaching concerning the death of Christ. The book is filled with good illustrations, Scripture references, and citations from familiar hymns. It will give you an appreciation for the sacrifice of Christ. The author highlights the doc-

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trines of propitiation, justification, redemption, sanctification, and reconciliation. The blood of Christ grants us freedom, ransom, peace, and cleansing. A very thought-provoking read that could launch you into weeks of study in the passages he cites.

In his book God’s Glory in Salvation through Judgment: A Biblical Theology (571 pp.), James Hamilton Jr. suggests that the central unifying theme of Scripture and thus the purpose of God’s work in history is to glorify Himself by saving His people through judgments. You can immediately think of many examples of God doing that very thing. The flood, the exodus, the Babylonian captivity, and the cross of Christ are all examples of God saving people through a judgment and being glorified in it. I enjoyed the book. It challenged me to see the events of redemptive history in a new light and consider the interconnected themes of Scripture from a different perspective. I appreciated the overview and outline of every book in Scripture that Hamilton provided and the way in which he traced the theme through each one. However, at times I felt he was stretching a bit to make certain books (like Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Philippians) fit his overarching framework. It is not light reading. It is very theological and requires an attentiveness to details and theology.

A Biblical Case for Cessationism: Why the Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit Have Ended (176 pp.) is a concise, simple, and easy-to-read presentation of the arguments for the cessationist position. Tom Pennington does an excellent job of answering key objections as well as dispelling some of the straw man arguments that continuationists use. Pennington affirms that God still works, heals, and even performs supernatural deeds. However, the spiritual gifts of healing, miracles, and speaking foreign languages is not given by the Spirit today. The book includes a great treatment on the nature, purpose, and extent of those gifts. While not painting all charismatics as heretics and frauds, Pennington does warn of the obvious and serious excesses within the movement. One of the final chapters includes quotes from early church fathers and theologians throughout church history who have affirmed the temporary nature of the miraculous sign gifts described in the New Testament. Highly recommended for those who want a good introductory volume on this subject.

I enjoyed Your Glory: A Biblical Study by my former Bible college professor Phil Powers (209 pp.). Phil examines every use of the key words translated “glory” in the Scriptures to show the centrality of that theme. I was amazed at how vast that subject is when you look at all the various ways that “glory” is used and described in Scripture. Phil’s style makes this subject very accessible to your average reader, who will be encouraged by the reminder that we were created to enjoy and reflect God’s glory for eternity. Highly recommended.

Biblical Counseling

Peacemaking for Families by Ken Sande and Tom Raabe (240 pp.) is a companion to Sande’s The Peacemaker, which deals with conflict resolution more generally than this book for families. This book is filled with helpful, biblical counsel for resolving conflict in the home. The principles work when both parties in conflict are committed to applying biblical principles and obeying biblical commands. A couple chapters apply the principles to raising children and resolving conflict between spouses. An excellent book!

Current Issues

Owen Strachan’s new book The War on Men: Why Society Hates Them and Why We Need Them (200 pp.) is excellent and could have been much longer. I wish it were another hundred pages. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I appreciated that the book doesn’t merely chronicle the modern culture’s disdain of masculinity. The modern feminist’s attack on “toxic masculinity” is contrasted with Scripture’s teachings on manhood and God’s design for men in this world. Finally, Owen lays out a good battle plan for raising biblical men who embrace their manhood and the role it is to play in the home, church, and culture. The book contains a number of practical suggestions for embracing manhood and training others to do the same. Owen is our featured speaker for our 2024 Equipping Conference (June 7–8). We will be giving away a copy of this book with every registration. Highly recommended.

Critical Reading

The Communist Manifesto ends with these words: “The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians [working class] have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.” Written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the manifesto calls for continual uprising, even by violence, if necessary, by the “oppressed class.” The manifesto describes every relationship, every exchange, and every interaction between persons in terms of oppressor and oppressed. Once you understand the Marxist worldview, you will see it all over American culture and society. The communitarian revolution in America took place without a “forcible overthrow” of the institutions. If you want to know your enemy and understand the mindset we are up against in our culture, you should read through this.

I am preparing to write a book on “demon slayers,” exorcisms, and deliverance ministry proponents. Consequently, I have to wade through a bunch of horrible books filled with false doctrine and error so that I can address their teachings. First up is The Secrets to Deliverance: Defeat the Toughest Cases of Demonic Bondage by Alexander Pagani (150 pp.). Pagani uses a new hermeneutic he calls “prototype timing” that he claims was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit to build an entire theology of demonology and deliverance. This opened up for him “a whole new layer of revelation in God’s Word.” I’ll save a full treatment of this nonsense for the book, but this “hermeneutic” gives license for the serial abuse of nearly any and every passage of Scripture. Pagani presses the “temple” metaphor in Scripture beyond the breaking point as he builds exorcism and deliverance doctrine off isolated verses from Ezekiel’s description of a temple in Ezekiel 40–48. Pagani has a chapter that offers advice for exercising demons from an anus. No, I am not joking.

Also chock-full of nonsense is Jeremiah

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**Adult Sunday School Class: Taught by a team of men dedicated to sound biblical teaching**

Adult Sunday school continues to touch on numerous biblical subjects. We are blessed with a number of capable teachers who are sharing their gifts and talents. The schedule through the month of June currently includes Simon Pranaitis bringing us a study in Philippians, then, a special Sunday with our Equipping Conference speaker, Owen Strachan, and Jeff Miller teaching from the book of Habakkuk for the rest of the month. We trust this will bring great glory to our Lord and Savior. —Cornel Rasor

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**Special Report: Jeff Miller, KCC Elder**

Meet Jeff Miller

Born in Longview, Washington, Jeff grew up in Southern California. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in clinical microbiology, he launched his early career as a public health microbiologist in the East San Francisco Bay area. In his early thirties, desiring to serve the Lord and eager for theological training, Jeff and his wife, Penny, moved to Dallas, where he attended Dallas Theological Seminary. Jeff and Penny enjoyed thirty-five years of marriage and brought up three children before the Lord took her home in December, 2007.

Jeff moved to North Idaho in 2015, where his son and family also live, and began attending KCC in 2017. Now retired from a career in the construction industry, he likes working around the house and shop, and also enjoys kayaking, fishing, and woodworking.

Over the years, Jeff has served in local churches as church planter, interim pastor, elder, and Bible teacher. He has a special burden that local churches would be grounded in sound doctrine and practice through Scripture to better serve our Savior and bring glory to God. KCC has benefited greatly from his heart and gift for teaching, particularly in adult Sunday school and the men’s ministry.
Young Adult/Young Married Fellowship

YOUNG MARRIED FELLOWSHIP is REBUILDING!
Couples around the ages of 18-28 are invited to join the conversation on
June 29, 6:00 p.m.,
at 208 S. Kootenai Bay Rd., Sandpoint
Burgers and hotdogs provided,
please bring a side dish/snack.
Contact James and Hannah Pranaitis for more information.
208-217-3156

Women’s Ministry <<<

Thursday Moms’ Group
Moms with children five and under are invited to a playgroup on Thursday mornings from 9:30–11:30 a.m.
to visit and let the kids play!
Please contact Emily Hill at 208-596-6904 with any questions.

LADIES’ RETREAT REPORT
The KCC Ladies’ Retreat was a beautiful time of learning, fellowship, and worship among the forty ladies that attended. The focus was on the gifts God has given us, how we can minister to our sisters-in-Christ where we are at, and areas for self-evaluation. Thank you to all who helped make the retreat a success!

Bridal Shower
For Rebekah Kasperson
Saturday, June 15
10:00 a.m.
At the church
She is registered on Amazon.

Upcoming bridal shower,
July 13.
for Raelyn McArthur.

Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp
Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.

CAMP WORKDAYS—May 31 and June 1
There is much to do before the campers start arriving. There are jobs for all skills and ages. Please contact Aaron Kin if you are able to help out, or for more information. kinfamily@icloud.com
LOCK-IN!
Friday-saturday
JUNE 14–15
7:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m.
Pizza and snacks!
Games!
And more!

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Colossians 3:17

LOOKING AHEAD
We are starting to look forward to next fall’s sports. We will be offering girls volleyball for ages ten years through 12th grade. For boys, there will be soccer for 7th-12th grades. We are also looking into cross-country with some of the other MCL schools. Stay tuned.

VOLUNTEER/FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY
We would like to team up with the camp and fix a few things in the gymnasium before next season. We are currently raising money for soccer goals and some basketball hoops for the side walls in the camp gym. These will really benefit the Thunder program but will also be helpful to the summer camps. If anyone is able to put in some time working on some projects or would be able to contribute financially, it would be a huge blessing to the camp and the Thunder program. If you would like to donate to either of those projects, please contact Tracy Jensen.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES
There may be some open gyms throughout the summer. We are still working out details of summer events, but you can check the Facebook page or contact Tracy Jensen for details.

Kootenai Classifieds <<<

SHARPENING SERVICES
We sharpen knives, scissors, lawn mower blades, hatchets, axes, and garden tools. Reasonable rates. Call or text for an appointment. David Forsyth (208-610-1532)

CEDAR FENCE POSTS, POLES, AND MIXED WOOD FIREWOOD
Firewood by the log truck load. Call John 208-290-4359

SUMMER MUSIC LESSONS
Bella Noté Studio
Contact Rachel Gordon
303-746-2565

To have your items listed in this section, please send your information to Lisa Slippy by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email her at lisaslippy@gmail.com.
WE NEED YOU!
We are in need of volunteers; especially godly men who want to help raise godly young men in our older clubs! We have close to one hundred kids in our church and community wanting to participate. We can’t facilitate that without willing saints able to serve. Please speak with Lori Thomson if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Questions? Call Lori Thomson (208-610-1916) or Emily Brambila (208-304-6881), or email ac@kootenaichurch.org

SUMMER CALENDAR
- Directors Meeting—July (TBD)
- Leader & LIT Meeting—August 2, 6 p.m.
- Week of Adventure!—August 19-23
- Club Nights Begin—September 6

KCC will be kicking off our FIFTH YEAR of Adventure Club next school year! This year, we’ll be journeying through the curriculum titled Man, Sin, and Salvation.

Church Prayer Chain
If you would like to be added to the email list and receive prayer requests from our church body, please email Maryanne Britten at marianabritten@hotmail.com or Aaron Kin at kinfamily@icloud.com.

Save the Date
AUGUST 18
KCC ALL-CHURCH BBQ

RIDE-SHARING OPPORTUNITY
If you are interested in being paired up with others from your area for this purpose, contact Debi Owinyo at debiowinyo@icloud.com or Kathy Conger at secretary@kootenai.church.

MEAL MINISTRY
Our church is a body, and we help one another as needs arise. One practical way we do this is through the Meal Ministry. Andrea Kinne and Kaitie Forsyth organize meals to be delivered to those in need. Sign-up is available at the Welcome Table.

HUMAN SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND GOD’S CREATION
WITH OWEN STRACHAN
JUNE 7–8

2024 EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO BE IN THE ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY?
If not...
Please give your information to Kathy Conger or email her at secretary@kootenai.church. Also email her a photo!

“KCC Activity Board” on Facebook!
Johnson’s book The Warrior Bride: Conquering the Five Demonic Spirits that War Against God’s End-Time Church (160 pp.). Nearly every chapter mentions some “prophetic dream” Johnson claims to have had in which God revealed some new, special secret for spiritual victory over demons. He exegetes those dreams while weaving Scripture references in for support whenever he can. He assumes that something outside the gospel is necessary for your deliverance and something not revealed in Scripture necessary to experience it.

Vladimir Savchuk takes allegorizing Scripture to a new level in his book Fight Back: Moving from Deliverance to Dominion (180 pp.). Savchuk makes the Old Testament book of Esther the basis for his book on spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry. What does Esther have to teach us about being delivered from evil spirits? Savchuk is glad you asked! Esther dressing in royal garments shows us the importance of dressing up mentally according to our position in Christ. She approached the king, which illustrates how we come to God to be delivered from demonic influences. Just as Esther prepared a banquet for the king, so we are to prepare a banquet of praise for God instead of blaming Him for our problems. Esther revealing her Jewish identity teaches us that confession is instrumental in deliverance. And so goes the torturous abuse of Scripture for 180 pages.

One of the most prominent figures on the “deliverance ministry” scene today is Greg Locke, who has parlayed his exorcism emphasis into a media, speaking, and publishing empire. The third book in his Spiritual Warfare Series is Cast It Out: The Call to Set People Free (183 pp.), in which he attempts to provide biblical support for his teaching that Christians can be demon-possessed and need deliverance to live lives of freedom and victory. He makes much out of the long ending of Mark (Mark 16:9–20) and Jesus’s command to cast out demons. He attempts to answer objections to exorcisms and support his charismatic practices. Demonstrating his utter lack of discernment, Eric Metaxas wrote the foreword, offering a glowing endorsement of Locke’s work.

A “classic work” in the field of deliverance ministry theology is Pigs in the Parlor (177 pp.) by Frank Hammond. It was published in 1990 at the height of the deliverance ministry popularity of the 80s and 90s. Hammond believes that Christians can be demon-possessed. In fact, he claims in the book that he has never met a Christian that did not need deliverance. According to Hammond, not only can Christians be possessed by demons, but every Christian actually is possessed by at least one evil demonic spirit. The book is full of anecdotes and accounts of private revelations that have led Hammond in his deliverance encounters. A number of chapters give guidance for exorcisms gleaned from his private revelations, conversations with demons, and his personal experiences. This book is confusing, convoluted, and short on sound doctrine—the hallmarks of the deliverance ministry movement as a whole.

**Current Events**

The Price of Tomorrow: Why Deflation Is the Key to an Abundant Future by Jeff Booth (208 pp.) was a fast and fun read. He analyzes the impact of our rapidly changing world and shows how technology is constantly driving the cost of goods and services down. Of course, the progress of technology inevitably disrupts industry and eliminates jobs—think of the calculator manufacturer. When was the last time you purchased a calculator since you have dozens of free options on your cell phone? Pay phones, film cameras, and cassette players (Walkman) have disappeared, being replaced by cheaper (sometimes free) and better alternatives. This book discusses the economic impact of technology, why technology increases, and why we resist it. This will challenge your thinking in some areas in a very good way. Highly recommended.

**Biography**

I didn’t get to read more than one biographical work this year, and the one I did read was something of a disappointment. The Affectionate Theology of Richard Sibbes by Mark Dever (192 pp.) is another in the A Long Line of Godly Men Profile series published by Ligonier Ministries. This was Dever’s doctrinal thesis, and while very thorough and detailed, it did not appeal to my affections at all. It read like a doctrinal thesis, and that is not a compliment. Of all the books in this series, this was my least favorite. I have enjoyed other things written by Dever, but this didn’t measure up to my expectations.

**Miscellaneous**

Bethlehem’s Star by our very own Paul Taylor (70 pp.) was a fun Christmas-time read. Looking at the biblical record, Paul critiques all the popular theories about the star that came to rest over the place where Jesus was (Matt. 2:9). The book seeks to explain who the magi were, why they came, how many there were, and the timing of their visit. If that subject has ever intrigued you, I recommend you pick up a copy of Paul’s book.

**Audiobooks**

I have read through Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing three times, twice by myself and once to my kids. This time, I listened to it on audiobook (ten hours and twenty minutes). Audible has two separate readings. One is abridged to six hours, and I would not recommend that one. I have never listened to it, but there is no way they can cut four hours out of that book without doing unconscionable damage to the story. This is the account of an ill-fated Antarctic expedition. Even on my fourth time through the book, I was spellbound listening to it. All I can say is—you have got to read it! Buy the book, but make sure you get the one published by Carroll & Graf Publishers (blue cover), as it has the most pictures. You will want to see them all.

John Trapp once said, “As water tastes of the soil it runs through, so does the soul taste of the authors that a man reads.” With all that cries out for your attention, don’t forget to give proper attention to reading. Read widely and read wisely. Above all, don’t forget to read your Bible! That is the most important book of all.

“Remember that it is not hasty reading—but serious meditation on holy and heavenly truths, which makes them prove sweet and profitable to the soul. It is not the mere touching of the flower by the bee which gathers honey—but her abiding for a time on the flower which draws out the sweet. It is not he who reads most, but he who meditates most—who will prove to be the choicest, sweetest, wisest, and strongest Christian.” —Thomas Brooks
2024 EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

HUMAN SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND GOD’S CREATION

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Sign up online at kootenaichurch.org, or in the foyer.