

Christian Biography

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY

NOTE: Please see the new page on Christian Biographies with many more resources than are on this page, including many biographies which can be borrowed from archive.org.

Wholesomewords: Some of the Best Christian Biography Resources on the web

- [Main page - for a list of biographies](#)
- [Missionary Biographies \(Worldwide Missions --multiple articles\)](#)
- [Free Christian eBooks](#)
- [Wholesome words store - books on Christian Biographie](#)

Miscellaneous

- [Pastor Steven Cole's list of Christian Biographies and short comments](#)
- [50 people every Christian should know : learning from spiritual giants of the faith](#) - borrow this book by Warren Wiersbe
- [Walking with the Giants : a minister's guide to good reading and great preaching](#) - borrow this book by Warren Wiersbe
- [Listening to the Giants : a guide to good reading and great preaching](#) - borrow this book by Warren Wiersbe
- [Preacher's and Evangelists - Christian History](#)
- [Theologians - Christian History](#)
- [Missionaries - Christian History](#)
- [Christians in Britain - Christian History](#)
- [The Cyber Hymnal: Biographies](#) click alphabet on left
- [Fox's Book of Martyrs](#) - "After the Bible itself, no book so profoundly influenced early Protestant sentiment as the Book of Martyrs. Even in our time it is still a living force. It is more than a record of persecution. It is an arsenal of controversy, a storehouse of romance, as well as a source of edification." - James Miller Dodds, English Prose.
- Google Search for Christian Biographies (Hint: put the name in quotes e.g., "Jonathan Edwards").
- [Wikipedia](#) has generally accurate biographies, but they are more historical and less Biblical.
- [Biographies from Dr John Piper at Desiring God](#) These synopses of the lives of some of the greatest saints of old emphasize what made them the men of God that history has proven them to be. If you need to be stimulated to read more Christian biographies, read John Piper's exhortation [Brothers, Read Christian Biography](#) in which he says...

"Hebrews 11 is a divine mandate to read Christian biography. The unmistakable implication of the chapter is that, if we hear about the faith of our forefathers (and mothers), we will "lay aside every weight and sin" and "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Heb 12:1-note). If we asked the author, "How shall we stir one another up to love and good works?" (Heb 10:24-note), his answer would be: "Through encouragement from the living (Heb 10:25-note) and the dead" (Heb 11-note). Christian biography is the means by which "body life" cuts across the generations."

Spiritual Journeys of Some Great Christians

- [Alford, Henry](#) (Henry Alford) ([Henry Alford - In "Biographical Sketches" by A J Hare, 1895](#)) ([Bio](#))
- [Athanasius](#) ([Athanasius--Exile](#)) ([Athanasius--Creed](#))
- [Augustine: The Swan is Not Silent](#)
- [Baxter, Richard](#) ([Writings](#)) ("[I preached... as a dying man to dying men](#)") ([Writings](#))
- [Richard Baxter - Christian History Magazine](#)
- [Bliss, Phillip](#) (songwriter companion of D Moody)
- [Bonhoeffer, Dietrich](#) ([Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship](#))
- [Bonar, Andrew](#)
- [Bonar, Horatius](#)
- [Corrie Ten Boom](#)

- [Booth, William](#)
- [Borden, William](#)
- [Brainerd, David - Life & Diary of David Brainerd](#) by Jonathan Edwards ([Bio](#))
- [Brainerd, David: Oh, That I May Never Loiter On My Heavenly Journey!](#)
- [Brainerd, David--Conversion](#) ([Brainerd, David--Dark Night of Soul](#))
- [Broadus, John](#)
- [Brooks, Phillips](#)
- [Bunyan, John: The Life of John Bunyan](#) ([The Death of John Bunyan](#))
- [Bunyan, John: To Live Upon God that Is Invisible](#) ([Bunyan, John](#))
- [Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners](#)
- [Calvin, John: The Divine Majesty of the Word](#)
- [Carey, William](#) ([Carey, William](#)) ([Life of William Carey](#))
- [Carmichael, Amy \(by Elisabeth Elliot\)](#) ([Carmichael, Amy](#)) ([Carmichael, Amy](#)) ([Songs](#))
- [Carver, George Washington](#)
- [Chambers, Oswald](#) ([Bio](#)) ([Bio](#))
- [Chalmers, James: Missionary to Cannibals](#) ([Chalmers, James](#))
- [Chapman, J. Wilbur](#)
- [Charnock, Stephen - author of "Existence & Attributes of God"](#)
- [Chesterton, Gilbert Keith](#)
- [Chrysostom, John](#)
- [Colson, Charles](#)
- [Coverdale Bible](#)
- [Cowper, William](#) ([Bio](#)) ([Hymns](#)) ([God Moves in a Mysterious Way - downcast? Listen to this one!](#))
- [Cowper, William: Insanity and Spiritual Songs in the Soul of a Saint \(by John Piper\)](#)
- [Cranmer, Thomas](#)
- [Crosby, Fanny](#) ([Hymns](#)) ([Bio](#)) ([Crosby, "Fanny"](#)) ([Some poetry](#))
- [Doddridge, Philip](#) ([Hymns written](#))
- [Drummond, Henry](#) ([Bio](#)) ([Website including links to his online books](#))
- [Dwight, Timothy](#)
- [Edwards, Jonathan: The Pastor as Theologian \(by John Piper\)](#)
- [Edwards, Jonathan](#) ([Great Awakening](#)) ([Edwards - Marriage](#))
- [Elliot, Jim \(alternate site\)](#) ([Youtube](#))
- [Edersheim, Alfred](#) ([Writings](#))
- [Evans, Christmas](#)
- [Flint, Annie Johnson](#) (some of her poetry)
- [Fox's Book of Martyrs](#)
- [Fox, George: Autobiography](#) ([Fox, George - Founder of Quakers](#))
- [Goforth, Jonathan](#) ([Goforth, Jonathan](#))
- [Goodwin, Thomas](#) ([Bio](#))
- [Guthrie, James](#)
- [Handel, George Frederic](#) ([Handel](#)) ([Music for Hymns](#)) ([I Know That My Redeemer Lives](#))
- [Havergal, Frances Ridley](#) ([Frances Ridley's Hymns](#)) ([Like A River Glorious](#))
- [Havner, Vance](#) ([Youtube](#)) (["Jesus Only" - online book](#)) ([Online audio sermons](#)) ([Quotes](#)) ([Biography](#))
- [Hodge, Charles](#)
- [Hus, John](#) ([English Bible History](#)) ([Bio](#)) ([Hour long video](#))
- [Hyde, John](#) ([Hyde, John](#)) ([Praying Hyde by Francis A. McGaw](#))
- [Judson, Adoniram](#)
- [Judson, Adoniram: How Few There Are Who Die So Hard \(by John Piper\)](#)
- [Judson, Ann](#) ([Judsons in Rangoon](#))
- [Knox, John](#) ([Preaching of John Knox in the Power of the Holy Spirit](#))
- [Kuhn, Isobel](#)
- [Kuyper, Abraham](#)
- [Latimer, Hugh](#) ([Bio](#))
- [LeTourneau, R G](#)
- [Liddell, Eric](#) ([Liddell, Eric](#)) ([video documentary](#))
- [Lightfoot, J. B.](#)
- [Lincoln, Abraham](#)

- [Livingstone, David \(Bio\) \(Bio\)](#) ("Dr. Livingstone I presume" - Stanley)
- [Lloyd-Jones, Dr. Martyn \(Spiritual Depression-video\) \(False Believer-video\) \(Heal Brokenhearted\)](#)
- [Lloyd-Jones, Martyn - Need for Revival and Baptism with the Holy Spirit \(Work of the Holy Spirit\)](#)
- [Luther, Martin: Lessons from His Life and Labor \(by John Piper\) \(Everlasting Gospel-youtube\)](#)
- [Luther, Martin \(Luther, Martin\) \(videos\)](#)
- [MacDonald, George](#)
- [Machen, J Gresham: Response to Modernism \(Machen, J. Gresham\)](#)
- [Manton, Thomas \(Manton, Thomas\) \(Bio\)](#)
- [Marsden, Samuel](#)
- [Marshall, Peter \(Sermon on youtube - Contrast of Faith\)](#)
- [Martyn, Henry \(Bio\) \(Short Youtube Bio\)](#)
- [Matheson, George](#)
- [M'Cheyne, Robert Murray \(Bio\) \(Bio\)](#)
- [Mears, Henrietta = Online book](#)
- [Melancthon, Philip \(Melancthon, Philip\) \(Melancthon, Philip\)](#)
- [Moody, Dwight L: His Life & Work \(550 page book\) \(videos\)](#)
- [Moon, Lottie \(bio\) \(bio for kids\) \(bio\) \(Video\)](#)
- [Morgan, G. Campbell \(271 page book "A Man of the Word: The Life of G Campbell Morgan\) \(Video from Skip Heitzig\)](#)
- [Mueller, George - Strategy for Showing God \(video 1\) \(video 2\) \(video 3\) \(video 4\)](#)
- [Mueller, George \(Müller, George -- Scripture Knowledge Institute\)](#)
- [Murray, Andrew \(Bio\)](#)
- [Newton, John: The Tough Roots of His Habitual Tenderness](#)
- [Newton, John \(Bio\) \(Bio\) \(Wonderful bio by Eric Metaxas - not free\)](#)
- [Owen, John: The Chief Design of My Life: Mortification and Universal Holiness](#)
- [Owen, John](#)
- [Packer, J I](#)
- [Parker, Joseph](#)
- [Pascal, Blaise \(Pascal, Blaise--Conversion \)](#)
- [Paton, John G: You Will be Eaten by Cannibals! \(Bio\)](#)
- [Pierson, Arthur T.](#)
- [Pink, Arthur \(critique\)](#)
- [Polycarp \(Polycarp--Death\)](#)
- [Puritans - Multiple Listings with short bio and links to writings](#)
- [Puritans - Christian History](#)
- [Ridley, Nicholas](#)
- [Rutherford, Samuel](#)
- [Ryle, John Charles](#)
- [Sankey, Ira](#)
- [Savonarola \(Savonarola's Bonfire of the Vanities\) \(Savonarola\)](#)
- [Schaeffer, Francis](#)
- [Scofield, Cyrus I](#)
- [Simeon, Charles: Brothers, We Must Not Mind a Little Suffering](#)
- [Simeon, Charles](#)
- [Simpson, A B](#)
- [Slessor, Mary \(Slessor, Mary\)](#)
- [Smith, Gypsy \(book\)](#)
- [Spafford, Horatio](#)
- [Spurgeon, Charles Preaching Through Adversity \(Bio\) \(Spurgeon's Personal Testimony: must read\)](#)
- [Spurgeon, Charles and Susannah](#)
- [Stam, John](#)
- [Studd, C. T. \(Studd, C. T.\)](#)
- [Taylor, Hudson \(Taylor, Hudson\) \(Taylor, Hudson\)](#)
- [Toplady, Augustus \(List of hymns including Rock of Ages\) \(Toplady, Augustus\)](#)
- [Tozer, A W \(Tozer, A. W\)](#)
- [Trench, R C](#)
- [Trotman, Born to Reproduce\) \(Other Writings\) Condensed Biography](#)

- [Tyndale, William \(Alternative\)](#) ([Execution](#)) ([God's Outlaw - full movie](#))
- [von Zinzendorf, Count Nicholas Ludwig \(Moravian Missions\)](#) ([Hymns-Jesus Thy Blood & Righteousness](#))
- [Waldensians \(Waldensian - Part 1\)](#) ([Waldensian - Part 2](#))
- [Warfield, Benjamin Breckinridge](#)
- [Watson, Thomas - Puritan](#)
- [Watts, Isaac \(Watts, Isaac\)](#) ([Watts, Isaac](#)) ([Hymns by Watts](#))
- [Webster, Noah \(Short bio\)](#) ([bio](#))
- [Wesley, Charles \(Wesley, Charles\)](#)
- [Wesley, John](#)
- [Wesley, John--Impact on America](#)
- [Wesley, John--Revival](#)
- [Wesley, Susanna \(Wesley, Susanna\)](#)
- [Whitefield, George \(Whitefield, George\)](#) ([Whitefield, George](#))
- [Whyte, Alexander](#)
- [Wilberforce, William \(Wilberforce - Death\)](#) ([Wilberforce, William](#))
- [Wycliffe, John \(Wycliffe, John--Death\)](#) ([Wycliffe, John](#)) ([Movie - Morningstar of the Reformation](#)) ([Video](#))
- [Zwingli, Ulrich \(Zwingli, Uhlrich--Death\)](#))

Martyrdom Past And Present

It is estimated that more than 50 million Christians died for their faith in the Dark Ages. It is estimated that a million Christians died for their faith when the Communists seized China. Unnumbered thousands died as martyrs in the revolutions and civil wars in Africa.

Polycarp, venerable bishop of Smyrna was a personal friend and pupil of John the Apostle. When he was age 86, he was urged by the Roman proconsul to reproach Christ and be set free. "Eighty and six years have I served Him and He never did me any injury. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?" The proconsul said: "I have respect for your age. Simply say, "Away with the Atheists" and be set free." Polycarp solemnly said, "Away with the Atheists"—pointing to the pagan crowd. He joyfully went to the stake, thanking God for counting him worthy to be numbered among the martyrs.

John Huss, the courageous pastor of Prague, was arrested, condemned, and sentenced to be burned by a church council in 1415. When Huss heard his sentence pronounced, he fell to his knees and prayed, "Lord Jesus, forgive my enemies." Then when he was chained to the stake, he prayed, "In Thee, O Lord, do I put my TRUST; let me never be ashamed." Then flames snuffed out the life of "The Morning Star of the Reformation."

On July 1st, 1555, **John Bradford** was burned to death. He was chaplain to King Edward Sixth of England, and was one of the most popular preachers of his day. But he was a martyr to his faith. As he was being driven out to Newgate to be burned, permission was given him to speak, and from the wagon in which he rode to his death the entire way out from West London to Newgate he shouted: "Christ, Christ, none but Christ!"

Having been banished, **Cyprian** suffered martyrdom in Carthage in 258. When the sentence of death was read to him he said, "I heartily thank Almighty God who is pleased to set me free from the chains of the body."

More Last Words Of Martyrs

- Henry Vos—"If I had twin heads, they should all be off for Christ."
- Castilla Rupea—"Though you throw my body down off this steep hill, yet will my soul mount upwards again."
- John Buisson—"I shall have a double jail delivery: out of my sinful flesh and out of the loathsome dungeon I have long lain in."
- Taylor—"Now lack I but two steps, and I am even at my Father's house."
- Carpenter—"All Bavaria is not as dear to me as my wife and children, but, for Christ's sake, I gladly forsake them."

During the terrible Boxer Rebellion in China the insurgents captured a mission station, blocked all the gates but one, and before this placed a cross flat on the ground. Then the word was passed to those inside that any who trampled the cross underfoot would be permitted their freedom and life, but that any refusing would be shot to death. Terribly frightened, the first seven students trampled

the cross under their feet and were allowed to go free. But the eight student, a young girl, refused to commit the sacrilegious act. Kneeling beside the cross in prayer for strength, she arose, and moved carefully around the cross and went out to face the firing squad. Strengthened by her example, every one of the remaining ninety-two students followed her to death.

Forty Wrestlers For Christ

In the days of the Roman Emperor Nero, there lived and served him a band of soldiers known as the "Emperor's Wrestlers." Fine, stalwart men they were, picked from the best and the bravest of the land, recruited from the great athletes of the Roman amphitheater.

In the great amphitheater they upheld the arms of the emperor against all challengers. Before each contest they stood before the emperor's throne. Then through the courts of Rome rang the cry: "We, the wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Emperor, to win for thee the victory and from thee, the victor's crown."

When the great Roman army was sent to fight in far-away Gaul, no soldiers were braver or more loyal than this band of wrestlers led by their centurion Vespasian. But news reached Nero that many Roman soldiers had accepted the Christian faith. Therefore, this decree was dispatched to the centurion Vespasian: "If there be any among your soldiers who cling to the faith of the Christian, they must die!"

The decree was received in the dead of winter. The soldiers were camped on the shore of a frozen inland lake. It was with sinking heart that Vespasian, the centurion, read the emperor's message.

Vespasian called the soldiers together and asked the question: "Are there any among you who cling to the faith of the Christian? If so, let him step forward!" Forty wrestlers instantly stepped forward two paces, respectfully saluted, and stood at attention. Vespasian paused. He had not expected so many, nor such select ones. "Until sundown I shall await your answer," said Vespasian. Sundown came. Again the question was asked. Again the forty wrestlers stepped forward.

Vespasian pleaded with them long and earnestly without prevailing upon a single man to deny his Lord. Finally he said, "The decree of the emperor must be obeyed, but I am not willing that your comrades should shed your blood. I am going to order that you march out upon the lake of ice, and I shall leave you there to the mercy of the elements."

The forty wrestlers were stripped and then, falling into columns of four, marched toward the center of the lake of ice. As they marched they broke into the chant of the arena: "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory and from Thee, the victor's crown!" Through the long hours of the night Vespasian stood by his campfire and watched. As he waited through the long night, there came to him fainter and fainter the wrestlers' song.

As morning drew near one figure, overcome by exposure, crept quietly toward the fire; in the extremity of his suffering he had renounced his Lord. Faintly but clearly from the darkness came the song: "Thirty-nine wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory and from Thee, the victor's crown!"

Vespasian looked at the figure drawing close to the fire. Perhaps he saw eternal light shining there toward the center of the lake. Who can say? But off came his helmet and clothing, and he sprang upon the ice, crying, "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory" and from Thee, the victor's crown! Forty Wrestlers For Christ

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The Builder Of Coliseum

Years ago, a Roman emperer said to a Greek architect: "Build me a Coliseum, and when it is done, I will crown you, and I will make your name famous through all the world." The work was done. The emperor said: "Now, we will crown that architect. We will have a grand celebration."

The Coliseum was crowded with a great host. The emperor was there and the Greek architect, who was to be crowned for putting up this building. And they brought out some Christians, who were ready to die for the truth and from the doors underneath were let out the hungry lions.

The emperor arose amid the shouting assemblage and said: "The Coliseum is done, and we have Christians at the mouth of these lions, and we have come here to honour the architect who has constructed this wonderful building. The time has come for me to honour him, and we further celebrate his triumph by the slaying of these Christians." Whereupon, the Greek architect sprang to his feet and shouted: "I also am a Christian." And they flung him to the wild beasts, and his body, bleeding and dead, was trampled into the dust of the amphitheatre.

Last Martyr Of Coliseum

After three centuries, notwithstanding the spread of Christianity, gladiatorial combats continued to be the favorite pastime of a large proportion of the Roman citizens. Constantine prohibited them. The populace persisted. To avoid an insurrection they were allowed to have their will. Honourous re-enacted the prohibition. It was also in vain.

One day, as the gladiatorial fight was about to commence, Telemachus rushed down into the arena and separated the combatants. Then the spectators, indignant at this interruption, tore up the marble benches and hurled them down upon him "from the amphitheatre, which seemed crowded with so many demons raging for human blood." But on his death the benevolent monk Telemachus was victorious—rage yielded to admiration—and gladiatorial combats ceased for ever. He became the last martyr of the Coliseum.

Christian History Magazine

- [The African Apostles - Christian History](#)
- [Anabaptists - Christian History](#)
- [Thomas Aquinas - Christian History](#)
- [The Gospel According to J.S. Bach - Christian History](#)
- [Richard Baxter and the English Puritans- Christian History](#)
- [Dietrich Bonhoeffer- Theologian in Nazi Germany - Christian History](#)
- [William and Catherine Booth - Christian History](#)
- [John Bunyan and Pilgrim's Progress - Christian History](#)
- [John Calvin - Christian History](#)
- [William Carey - Christian History](#)
- [John Chrysostom- Christian History](#)
- [Thomas Cranmer and the English Reformation - Christian History](#)
- [Jonathan Edwards- Christian History](#)
- [Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening - Christian History](#)
- [Jonathan Edwards - Christian History](#)
- [Huguenots and the Wars of Religion - Christian History](#)
- [Adoniram & Ann Judson - Christian History](#)
- [John Knox - Christian History](#)
- [David Livingstone - Christian History](#)
- [Martin Luther - Early Years - Christian History](#)
- [Martin Luther - Later Years - Christian History](#)
- [George MacDonald - Christian History](#)
- [Dwight L. Moody - Christian History](#)
- [John Newton- Christian History](#)

- [The Apostle Paul and His Times - Christian History](#)
- [Casper Schwenckfeld: Forgotten Reformer - Christian History](#)
- [Charles H. Spurgeon - Christian History](#)
- [Hudson Taylor & Missions to China - Christian History](#)
- [The Waldensians- Christian History](#)
- [The Wesleys-- Christian History](#)
- [The Wesleys: Founders of Methodism](#)
- [John Wesley - Christian History](#)
- [John Wesley- Leader of the Methodist Movement - Christian History](#)
- [George Whitefield - Christian History](#)
- [William Wilberforce and the Abolition of the Slave Trade- Christian History](#)
- [Zinzendorf and the Moravians - Christian History \(A Prayer Meeting that Lasted 100 Years\)](#)
- [Zwingli - Father of Swiss Reformation - Christian History](#)

Biographical Sketches of Bible Translators & Reformers

- [John Wycliffe](#)
- [William Tyndale](#)
- [Miles Coverdale](#)
- [Thomas Cranmer](#)
- [Venerable Bede](#)
- [John Huss](#)
- [Hugh Latimer](#)
- [Nicholas Ridley](#)
- [John Rogers](#)
- [Laurence Saunders](#)
- [A Brief Summary of the History of the Reformation](#)
- [Martin Luther](#)
- [The Burning of the Bibles](#)
- [Cardinal Wolsey](#)

DISCLAIMER: These links are listed for your convenience and their presence does not necessarily signify that I agree with everything written on each site. The best policy is to "Examine everything carefully. Hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from every form of evil." (See 1 Thes 5:21, 22-note Acts 17:11-note)