

THE COVENANT 100

Readings in Christian Worldview (70) & Spiritual Formation (30)

The Covenant 100 is a collection of books and art recognized as foundational material for informing Christian thought and practice. These works are noted for their special insight, transcending their time and tradition while informing the expansive outworking of faith. They are not meant to displace the singular authority and power of Christian Scripture, nor does the CCHS BTS department agree entirely with the content of each work. Rather, these works “stretch the imagination” and cultivate a true skepticism, revealing a faith that validates life and resonates with its varied experiences.

Within the collection (not including the creeds below) there are **three designations**:

- ∞ **CLASSIC (20)** works are highly original and illuminating. They have especially *shaped* understanding of evangelical faith within historical Christianity. Their significance demands universal engagement.
- ✦ **ESSENTIAL (40)** works are authoritative within their subject and have significantly *informed* a Christian consciousness for right living and right thinking.
- ◇ **ANCILLARY (40)** works uniquely and thoughtfully carry forward a faith-strengthening *dialogue*.

Level of Accessibility:

- ¹ Wide (i.e. Straightforward)
- ² Narrow (i.e. Challenging)
- ³ Limited (i.e. Demanding)

Though Covenant’s curriculum is distinctly shaped by the convictions of broad evangelicalism it recognizes the significance of the historical church and its contributions for working through the ideas essential to and related to faith. As supplemental, the following 6 texts are recommended for general and historical reference on Worldview and spiritual formation. For a closer look at the Christian creeds throughout the centuries see Jaroslav Pelikan’s book, *Credo*.

- ◇ The Creeds of Christendom (see esp. “The Apostle’s Creed,” “The Nicene Creed,” “The Athanasian Creed,” “The Chalcedonian Creed”) – Early Church
- ◇ The Book of Common Prayer (1549) – Anglican
- ◇ The Book of Concord (1580) – Lutheran
- ◇ Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) – Reformed/Presbyterian
- ◇ Catechism of the Orthodox Church (1830), Eastern Orthodox
- ◇ Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992) – Roman Catholic

*A note on Bible translations: We live in a unique time when our access to the Bible is truly astounding. Covenant celebrates the excellence of many English translations, including the NIV, ESV, NASB, NRSV, RSV, and NKJV. For the sake of continuity, Covenant’s BTS department primarily uses the NIV translation in each class.

The Personal World

KNOWLEDGE

What is my experience? (The Human Condition):

- ∞ Confessions ¹ Augustine
- ∞ Orthodoxy ² Chesterton
- ✦ Pensées ² Pascal
- ◇ The Idea of the Holy ² Otto

PURPOSE

Why do I exist? (Faith: Love and Obedience to Christ):

- ∞ The Imitation of Christ ² à Kempis
- ✦ The Cost of Discipleship ² Bonhoeffer
- ✦ Religious Affections ³ Edwards
- ✦ On Loving God ² Bernard of Clairvaux
- ◇ Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing ² Kierkegaard
- ◇ The Soul's Journey into God ² Bonaventure
- ◇ Rule of Benedict ¹ Benedict

IDENTITY

Who am I? (Liturgy and Leisure: Shaping Space and Time):

- ∞ Leisure: The Basis of Culture ² Pieper
- ✦ The Sabbath ² Heschel
- ◇ For the Life of the World ² Schmemmann
- ◇ Receiving the Day ¹ Bass

The Immediate World

SOCIETY

To whom do I belong? (Love and Friendship):

- ✦ Spiritual Friendship ² *Aelred*
- ✦ Life Together ² *Bonhoeffer*
- ◇ Introduction to a Devout Life ¹ *De Sales*
- ◇ The Four Loves ² *Lewis*

What is my responsibility to others? (Work and Civic Engagement):

- ∞ Ethics ² *Bonhoeffer*
- ✦ Creed or Chaos? ² *Sayers*
- ✦ The City of God ³ *Augustine*
- ✦ Moral Man and Immoral Society ² *Niebuhr*
- ◇ Let Your Life Speak ¹ *Palmer*
- ◇ The Prophetic Imagination ² *Bruggemann*

HISTORY

What is the significance of human history? (Divine Providence):

- ∞ Everlasting Man ² *Chesterton*
- ✦ Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture ² *Pelikan*
- ✦ Christianity and History ² *Butterfield*
- ✦ The Resurrection and the Son of God ² *Wright*
- ◇ The Descent of the Dove ² *Williams*
- ◇ The Gospel in a Pluralist Society ¹ *Newbigin*
- ◇ How Should We Then Live? ¹ *Schaeffer*

CREATION

What is the nature of the universe? (Science and Ecology):

- ✦ The Road of Science and the Ways of God ² *Jaki*
- ✦ The Unsettling of America ² *Berry*
- ◇ John of the Mountains ² *Muir*
- ◇ Pilgrim at Tinker Creek ² *Dillard*
- ◇ Science and Theology ² *Polkinghorne*

The Conceptual World

BEAUTY

What the meaning of beauty? (Aesthetics and Art):

- ∞ The Glory of the Lord, vol. 1³ *Balthasar*
- ✦ Walking on Water¹ *L'Engle*
- ✦ Sculpting in Time² *Tarkovsky*
- ✦ "Toward a Christian Esthetic,"¹ *Sayers*
- ◇ The Beauty of the Infinite² *Hart*
- ◇ Evidential Power of Beauty² *Dubay*

GOODNESS

What is a good life? (Ethics and Virtue):

- ∞ Mere Christianity¹ *Lewis*
- ✦ After Virtue² *MacIntyre*
- ✦ The Abolition of Man² *Lewis*
- ◇ The Moral Vision of the New Testament² *Hays*

How do we understand and respond to evil? (Pain and Suffering):

- ✦ The Problem of Pain¹ *Lewis*
- ✦ Wandering in Darkness² *Stump*
- ✦ God, Freedom, and Evil³ *Plantinga*
- ◇ The Consolation of Philosophy² *Boethius*
- ◇ Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God² *Adams*

TRUTH

How (and what) do we know? (Epistemology and Divine Revelation):

- ∞ Summa Theologica³ *Aquinas*
- ✦ Personal Knowledge³ *Polanyi*
- ✦ An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent³ *Newman*
- ◇ The Epistle to the Romans³ *Barth*
- ◇ The Glass Vision² *Farrer*
- ◇ Warranted Christian Belief³ *Plantinga*

The Transcendent World

ORIGINS

Where do we come from? (The Biblical Creation Account):

- ✧ The Lost World of Genesis One ² Walton
- ✧ The Beginning of Desire ² Zornberg

DESTINY

Where are we going? (Eschatology and Hope):

- ✦ The Nature and Destiny of Man ² Niebuhr
- ✧ Theology of Hope ² Moltmann
- ✧ On Hope ² Pieper

GOD

Is there a God? (The Incarnation):

- ∞ On the Incarnation ² Athanasius
- ✦ Readings in St. John's Gospel ² Temple
- ✧ The Incarnation ² Torrance

What is God like? (The Trinity and Divine Attributes):

- ∞ On the Trinity ³ Augustine
- ∞ Institutes of the Christian Religion ³ Protestant Reformer
- ✦ Proslogium ³ Anselm
- ✧ Knowledge of the Holy ¹ Tozer

THE SENIOR THIRTY:

Essential Works in Spiritual Formation

- ∞ The Practice of the Presence of God *Brother Lawrence*
- ∞ The Return of the Prodigal Son *Nouwen*
- ✦ The Spiritual Exercises *Ignatius*
- ✦ A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life *Law*
- ◇ The Sacrament of the Present Moment *de Caussade*
- ◇ On Living Simply *John Chrysostom*

PRAYER

- ∞ The Wesley Hymns *Wesley*
- ✦ Prayer *Hallesby*
- ✦ The Way of the Heart *Nouwen*
- ✦ The Valley of Vision *Bennett (ed.)*
- ◇ Prayer *Bathasar*
- ◇ With Christ in the School of Prayer *Murray*

POETRY & LITERATURE

- ∞ Divine Comedy *Dante*
- ∞ The Brothers Karamazov *Dostoevsky*
- ∞ Poems *Hopkins*
- ✦ Complete Poems *Donne*
- ✦ Paradise Lost *Milton*
- ✦ Pilgrim's Progress *Bunyan*
- ◇ Everything That Rises Must Converge *O'Connor*
- ◇ Gilead *Robinson*

VISUAL ART, FILM & MUSIC

- ∞ *Bach (Music)*: Mass in B Minor, St. John's Passion, St. Matthew's Passion
- ∞ *Michelangelo (Sculpture/Painting)*: Pieta, David, Sistine Ceiling
- ✦ *Rembrandt (Painting)*: Return of the Prodigal Son, The Head of Christ, Jacob Wrestling...
- ✦ *Handel (Music)*: The Messiah
- ✦ *Beethoven (Music)*: 9th Symphony, Missa Solemnis
- ✦ *Tarkovsky (Film)*: Andrei Rublev, Stalker, The Sacrifice
- ◇ *Dryer (Film)*: Ordet, The Passion of Joan of Arc
- ◇ *Caravaggio (Painting)*: The Taking of Christ, The Incredulity of St. Thomas, The Entombment of Christ
- ◇ *Axel (Film)*: Babette's Feast
- ◇ *Coltrane (Music)*: Love Supreme