

The Forgotten Spurgeon

by Iain Murray

As Brad has frequently reminded us, every Baptist pastor preaching a sermon seems to have their own anecdote from Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the “Prince of Preachers.” We in the congregations hear his name and his wise words, but do we know the man, his theology, and the majesty of the God that he worshiped?

The Forgotten Spurgeon is a superb reminder who this consummate preacher was, what the basis was for the power of his preaching, and the impact he still has on the Christian church today. Iain Murray clarifies all these points by focusing on the three most challenging periods of Spurgeon’s life, his response, and the providential hand of God throughout his life.

Considered by many to be the last of the Puritans (except for perhaps Martyn Lloyd-Jones), Spurgeon is undoubtedly the most quotable preacher since the canonization of Scripture. But when today’s preachers and teachers of the Word invoke the name of C.H. Spurgeon, they have little understanding of his strict Particular (Calvinistic) Baptist theology. “Modern” (Arminian) Baptists have been relentless in attempting to convince their hearers that Spurgeon’s reformed beliefs were limited and that toward the end of his life he rejected Calvinism. Once you read The Forgotten Spurgeon, you will be convinced that such attempts have no foundation in fact and have been fraudulently conceived. From the time he started preaching in England in 1853 till his death in 1892, Spurgeon’s belief in the work of the Reformers and the pre-eminent, monergistic sovereignty of God never wavered. Here’s a sample of Spurgeon’s comments on the subject:

- “The old truth that Calvin preached, that Augustine preached, that Paul preached, is the truth that I must preach today, or else be false to my conscience and my God. I cannot shape the truth; I know of no such thing as paring off the rough edges of a doctrine. John Knox’s gospel is my gospel. That which thundered across Scotland must thunder through England again.”

- “My position, as pastor of one of the most influential churches, enables me to make myself heard, and my daily labor is to revive the old doctrines of Gill, Owen, Calvin, Augustine, and Christ.”

- “There has been no single church of God existing in England for these fifty years which has had to pass through more trials than we have done.....not because of me, but because of that gospel that I preach; not because there was anything in me, but because I came out as the exponent of plain, straight-forward, honest Calvinism, and because I seek to speak the Word simply.”

- “Be it never forgotten by us that the salvation of a soul is a creation. Now, no man has ever been able to create a fly....Jehovah alone creates....No human or angelic power can intrude upon this glorious province of divine power. Creation is God’s own domain. Now, in every Christian there is an absolute creation -- created anew in Christ Jesus.”

- “Arminian perversions, in particular, will sink back to their birthplace in the pit.”

Spurgeon has not been forgotten. By those who hold dear the doctrines of grace and gratefully bow the knee to their sovereign God, his preaching lives on. Let me encourage you to read The Forgotten Spurgeon--the truth about the “Prince of Preachers.”

(You can read The Forgotten Spurgeon through the church library or order your own by going to: http://www.banneroftruth.org/pages/item_detail.php?4433 \$9.99)

Mike Thompson