

FBC, Fairdale

Ministry Apprenticeship Program

Reading List

Part of the MAP program includes reading and discussing a few books together. We know that people are very busy, and we do not want participants to be burdened by this reading list. We are not going to ask you to read some huge number of books. There will not be a book assigned for each of our meetings. We have decided that four books is a reasonable number to ask participants to read during the program. These are spread out over the course of the year to give everyone ample time to read each one. They are scheduled to be completed before the meetings in February, April, June, and August.

These specific books have been chosen because we think they will be beneficial to the participants and to the group in our discussions. A brief introduction to each one is below.

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*

Dr. Goldsworthy is a retired OT professor from Australia. In this book, he attempts to help the reader see how the whole Bible fits together to tell one unified story. He argues that the Bible is organized around the theme of the kingdom of God. He says that this kingdom has three components—God's people in God's place under God's rule.

He highlights the progressive nature of God's revelation which means that God reveals himself and what he is doing more and more fully and more and more clearly as the Bible progresses. We see the kingdom established in creation with Adam and Eve living in the garden under God's rule but not fully realized until on the new earth with all of the redeemed living under Jesus's kingship.

He argues that this framework helps us to understand the whole Bible and individual passages as we discover how they fit within this framework.

Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*

Dr. Dever pastors Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington D. C. In writing this book, he draws on his own experience and leadership in leading this church to become more and more healthy since he became the pastor in 1994.

The nine markers of health that he presents are:

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| 1. Expository Preaching | 4. Church Membership | 7. Church Leadership |
| 2. Gospel Doctrine | 5. Church Discipline | 8. Prayer |
| 3. Conversion/Evangelism | 6. Discipleship/Growth | 9. Missions |

As we discuss this book, we want to consider whether his marks are good/sufficient marks to determine church health and consider our own church. We want to think about how healthy our church is and where we need to continue growing healthier based on this standard.

J. C. Ryle, *Five English Reformers*

J. C. Ryle was an Anglican pastor and church leader in the mid to late 1800s. He wrote many books and may be best known for his *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*. In these four volumes, he goes through each of the gospels verse by verse explaining them and offering applications. In many places, they read more like devotionals than commentaries.

In *Five English Reformers*, he writes five short biographies about five evangelicals living in England in the 1500s under Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) and their attempts to reform the Church of England and serve Christ according to the Bible and their own convictions. In this small but packed volume, he tells the stories of Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, John Hooper, Rowland Taylor, and John Bradford and of their ultimate martyrdoms under Bloody Mary for refusing to compromise.

We hope that this book will help us to remember those who have come before us as well as help us to think through the strength of our own Christian convictions and our willingness to stand for those no matter what the cost.

John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions*

Dr. Piper is a retired pastor who previously served for 33 years as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis Minnesota. He has written many books. He is perhaps best known for his *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*.

In *Let the Nations be Glad!*, he lays out a biblical theology of missions—highlighting an all-encompassing desire for God's glory as the foundation that fuels missions and missionaries to endure hardships and keep serving. We hope that this book will ignite or strengthen a love for missions and a desire to be involved in God's missionary work throughout the world today.