



*Oecolampadius' Sermons on the First Epistle of John (A Handbook for the Christian Life) was preached 500 years ago in December/Advent 1523 and published in the Spring of 1524.*

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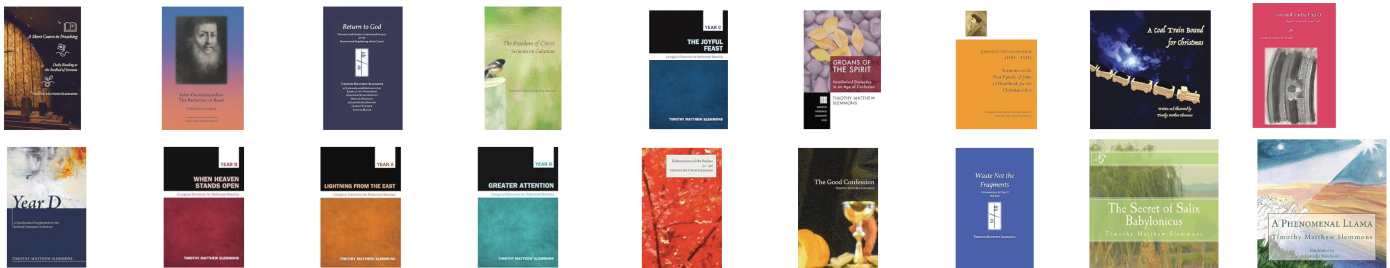
The Almighty prefers public to private worship. 'He loveth the gates of Zion ~ [more than all the dwellings of Jacob] (Psa 87:2).

— Gilbert Tennent, *De Modo Audiendi Verbum* ["On the Way to Hear the Word"] (1753) in *Return to God: Historical and Modern Confessional Sources for the Renewal and Regathering of the Church* (2020)

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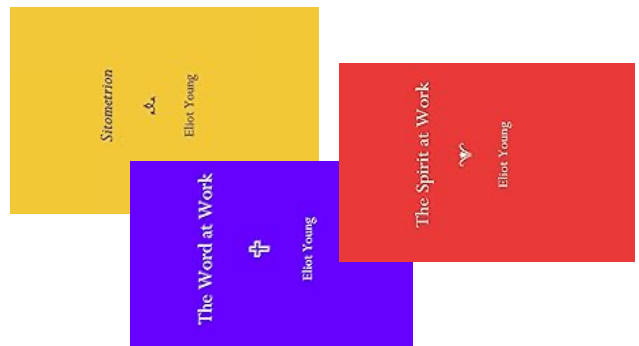


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We do not realize always how eager people are to hear preaching which makes the Bible wonderful by speaking from its very interior, as (people) do who live in it and wonder themselves. I do not believe in verbal inspiration. I am with the critics, in principle. But the true minister ought to find the words and phrases of the Bible so full of spiritual food and felicity that (s)he has some difficulty in not believing in verbal inspiration. The Bible is the one *enchiridion* [handbook] of the preacher still, the one manual of eternal life, the one page that glows as all life grows dark, and the one book who wealth rebukes us more the older we grow because we knew and loved it so late. — P. T. Forsyth, *Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind*

**Seven Bookmarks\***  
**OT 1:** Read **one chapter per day** of Genesis through 2Chron (3 chapters per day in that final book)  
**OT 2:** Proverbs through Malachi, then Ezra through Job (or vice versa: Ezra through Job, then Proverbs through Malachi). This is also done **one chapter per day**.  
**NT1:** Read a **pericope or up to a half of a chapter per day** of Matthew through Acts.  
**NT2:** Read a **pericope or up to a half of a chapter per day** of Romans through Revelation.  
**Psalms:** Read **three per day** in a skip-fifty cycle, starting at 1, 51, 101, and ending at 50, 100, 150. This will take you through the Psalters seven times per year. This is fitting, because the Psalms train us in the language and logic of prayer! \*(Explained on pp. 22-25 of *A Short Course on Preaching*.)



*"The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God."*  
 ~ Heinrich Bullinger, *The Second Helvetic Confession*