

Communion With God (Puritan Paperbacks: Treasures of John Owen for Today's Readers)

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John Owen believed that communion with God lies at the heart of the Christian life. With Paul he recognized that through the Son we have access by the Spirit to the Father. He never lost the sense of amazement expressed by John: 'Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ'. In this outstanding book he explains the nature of this communion and describes the many privileges it brings.

Communion with God was written in a day, like our own, when the doctrine of the Trinity was under attack and the Christian faith was being reduced either to rationalism on the one hand or mysticism on the other. His exposition shows that nothing is more vital to spiritual well-being than a practical knowledge of what this doctrine means.

Until now, Communion With God has been read by only small numbers of Christians with access to the 275 closely-printed pages in The Works of John Owen. Now Dr. R.J.K. Law has produced a splendidly readable abridgment of one of the greatest Christian classics of all time, bringing Owen's rich teaching to a much wider readership.

John Owen was born in 1616 in Stadhampton, Oxfordshire and died in Ealing, West London, in 1683. During his sixty-seven years he lived out a life full of spiritual experience, literary accomplishment, and national influence so beyond most of his peers that he continues to merit the accolade of 'the greatest British theologian of all time.'

More information available at banneroftruth.org. I first read John Owen's 'Of Communion with God' while a theological student (in the middle 1960s). It made beautifully clear and confirmed the theological underpinnings of the atmosphere I had lived in within the family and local congregation from earliest days: that God is love, that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, to know Christ is to be near the heart of the Father; that to dwell in God is to dwell in love: God's love to us and our love back to God and to others. Owen, with skillful scriptural exegesis and warmest pastoral insight takes us to the very heart of Christianity in this treatise, and shows us that this, and this alone is worth living for; this alone makes sense of everything else, and irradiates every step of earthly life with strength, hope and joy. That is why, forty years later, I still delight to pick up this grand treatise and read from it as a sort of 'vade mecum'. We owe a debt of gratitude of Philip Ross for beautifully editing this long discourse, and making it far more accessible to another generation. He has skillfully and accurately divided up long 'Pauline sentences' into manageable portions; he has clarified some rather obscure vocabulary, and - perhaps best of all - he has inserted very lucid and helpful subheadings and other divisions, which make the otherwise demanding text much easier to follow. All through, he has remained eminently faithful to the original meaning. The beauty of John Owen's theology, and most of all, the beauty of the love of God in Christ to us needy souls shines through. I shall be enthusiastically recommending this new volume to my classes (Douglas F. Kelly ~ Professor of Theology Emeritus, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina)

"I owe an incalculable debt to these pages. For forty years now this has been a favourite volume to which I continue to return for more 'angel food'" (Sinclair B. Ferguson ~ Associate Preacher, St. Peter's Free Church, Dundee)

"Owen was by common consent the weightiest Puritan theologian, and many would bracket him with Jonathan Edwards as one of the greatest Reformed theologians of all time." (J. I. Packer ~ Well known author & Board of Governors' Professor of Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, Canada)

Other Books

The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary: Complete Text Reproduced Micrographically: P-Z, Supplement and bibliography, Micrographic reproduction of the 13 volume Oxford English dictionary published in 1933.

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