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The Essential Edwards Collection

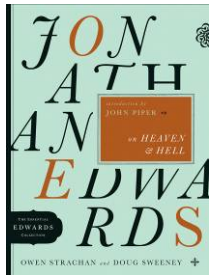
by Owen Strachan and Doug Sweeney

Author Information

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Jonathan Edwards on Heaven & Hell



This volume explains Edwards' strong sense of pastoral responsibility to warn his people of the reality and dangers of judgment and hell. But it also shows his equally vivid and compelling views of heaven and eternal life.

The question of the afterlife is, for many today, one of preference. Christians trained to evangelize unsaved people with the query, "If you were to die today, do you know where you would go – heaven or hell?" have grown befuddled when met with the response, "I don't believe in heaven or hell." Something in our culture has changed. The ground has shifted beneath our feet. We did not feel it. But change has come, just the same.

We must reacquaint modern Christians with the eschatological driven preaching and teaching of Edwards. This word "eschatological" may trip some readers up at first encounter, but it refers simply to "last things", things of eternity and ultimate significance. We exhume Edwards scripturally fired material on the reality of the afterlife, the terror of hell, the glories of heaven, and the shape life must take in light of these realities.

If we accept the Word as our authority, and if we will allow Edwards to serve as our faithful and imaginative guide, we will find that God is alive. He is Lord of heaven and earth, the sovereign ruler of all Creation. He is not small. He can be found. He is not silent on the afterlife, and His testimony calls for our attention, our concern, and our whole-hearted worship and trust.

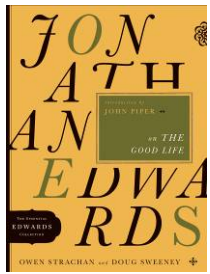
Chapters include *The Disappearance of the Afterlife*, *The Frightening Prospect of Hell*, *The Glorious Prospect of Heaven* and *The Transforming Power of an Eternity- Focused Mind-Set*. ISBN: 13 Digit: 978-0-8024-2461-7

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Jonathan Edwards on The Good Life



This volume focuses on how Edwards found joy and fulfillment by encouraging others to know and worship God. For Edwards, the good life was one lived in accordance with God's will, a life of worshipful participation in, and magnification of, God's glory and beauty.

What is the good life that we so often hear talk of in our modern age?

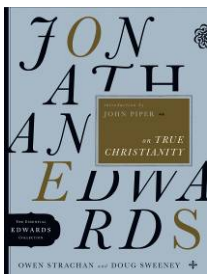
Is it cars that drive fast, houses that resemble castles? Is it unbounded sexual pleasure, unrestrained personal gratification of all one's desires? Is it quiet and solitude, individual removal from the storm and thunder of modern society? Or is it obedient Christian faith that causes spiritual corpses to burst forth with godly passion and holy worship that transforms one's own life, one's environment, and one's eternal destiny?

This other way of life proceeds from an ancient book that lifts life in this age and all mothers to another plane. This is the truly good life, the path plotted for the steps of mankind by almighty God. It involves sacrifice, and hardship, and hard work. It means self-denial, self-abasement, and an others-centered mindset. It is radically God-centered and deeply rooted in Scripture. This, and no other path, offers the souls of humanity lasting happiness.

For Jonathan Edwards, submission to God and His will was the path to true fulfillment and the good life. Chapters include *The Nearness of the Good Life*, *The Distance of the Good Life*, *The Taste for Goodness Given in Conversion*, *The Pleasures of the Good Life* and *The Shape of the Good Life*.

ISBN: 13 Digit: 978-0-8024-2459-4

Jonathan Edwards on True Christianity



This volume focuses on Edwards' view of the nature of true religion, true conversion, and supernatural regeneration. Going from the problem of human sin, and the inadequacy of head knowledge, to God using our biblical knowledge to give us new hearts filled with Him, Edwards believed God wants to unite us to Christ by the indwelling presence of His Spirit.

What is a true Christian? What is the church? Though these are fundamental questions they often go unanswered in our current evangelical context. Far too many pastors and thinkers celebrate the trappings of faith and the mere benefits of Christianity, ignoring the biblical testimony on true conversion that shouts from countless texts from Scripture.

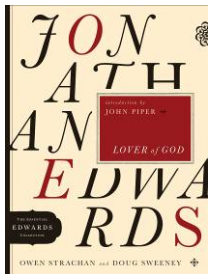
This has fed an age-old problem: nominal Christianity. Though Edwards is sometimes presented as a scourge, a mean-hearted parson who lived to belt out thunderous damnations, a careful study of the historical record and of Edwards' writings shows that he was in fact a Christian man devoted to the cultivation of true and saving faith in a spiritually fickle people he tenaciously loved.

The problem of noncommittal Christianity did not end with Edwards. It not only survives but thrives in the current day. In studying it, then, we are studying ourselves. We see that nominal Christianity, a considerable challenge today, has historic roots. We need not face this problem alone, growing more discouraged by the day, flailing as we try method after method to address the problem, but can find solace, instruction, and encouragement from the biblically saturated life and ministry of Jonathan Edwards. Chapters include *The Contemporary Problem of Nominal Christianity*, *The Problem of Nominal Christianity in Edwards Day*, *Edwards' Answer to Nominal Christianity*, *Powerful Examples of True Christianity* and *Edwards Dismissal and Contemporary Call to True Christianity*. ISBN: 13 Digit: 978-0-8024-2460-0

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Jonathan Edwards on Lover of God



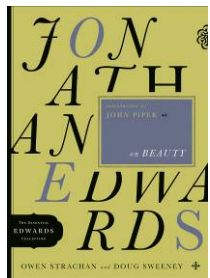
This volume of the *Essential Edwards Collection* tells the story of Jonathan's life and the important events that shaped his faith and views on God and salvation. It is a biographical and contextual look at the man credited for starting the First Great Awakening.

Jonathan Edwards stands tall in America's historical memory. A great philosopher, a great preacher, a great theologian. Edwards was a complex and gifted person, one who defies easy characterization. He intimidates us, and we distance ourselves from him, because at the most fundamental level, he's just not like us.

It is of course true that Jonathan Edwards was a combination of many rare things: an exceptional intellectual, a masterly preacher, a cavernous theologian, a devoted husband and father, a college president, and much more. But all of these roles flowed out of one simple and essential reality: Jonathan Edwards was a Christian. He was a believer who followed Jesus Christ in repentant faith. He loved God, and he sought to live for Him.

This book celebrates the unique life and ministry of Jonathan Edwards. It peels back the cover of his life, to show us what a life devoted to our sovereign Lord can look like. It causes us to use our own God-given gifts for the salvation of sinners, the strengthening of God's church, and the glory of God. Chapters include *The Happiness of a Christian Home, The Joys of New Birth, Meditation, and Action, The Trials and Joys of Young Adulthood, The God of Grace and Word of Light, The Extraordinary Work of the Spirit of God, Discovering the Unseen Realm, The Loss of One Work and Beginning of Another, Crafting a Legacy of Faith*. ISBN: 13 Digit: 978-0-8024-2457-0

Jonathan Edwards on Beauty



This volume focuses on Edwards' view of God, God's communication of beauty, and God's desire that Christians recognize His beauty both in Scripture and the world. Edwards is presented as a "God-intoxicated" man, captivated by God's glory and beauty, and committed to sharing that beauty with others.

Beauty is hard to describe, but easy to identify. It resides in expected and unexpected places in our world. Beauty is present in our world in a variety of forms. Yet while the average person might think about the reality of beauty from time to time, few people would think about the source of beauty. Where does beauty come from? Why is it here?

Several hundred years ago Jonathan Edwards did some thinking of his own on this difficult subject. This volume explores his meditation on the subject and lays out a Christian framework for understanding and experiencing the beauty God has planted in His world.

Edwards found in the study of beauty the person of God. Where Edwards saw beautiful images and acts, he saw a representation, a small picture, of a reality too great to comprehend, a God too majestic to adequately adore. He sets in motion a path of glory that begins with the Lord, moves to creation, continues to the incarnation of Christ, moves to the church, and ascends to the glory of heaven, where the Holy Trinity dwells. Chapters include *The Beauty of God, The Beauty of Nature, The Beauty of Christ, The Beauty of the Church and The Beauty of the Trinitarian Afterlife*. ISBN: 13 Digit: 978-0-8024-2458-7

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Suggested Interview Question:

1. What is the vision for The Essential Edwards Collection?
2. What are some of the topics covered in The Essential Edwards Collection?
3. What are the main points that you are trying to make with this series?
4. Why is Jonathan Edwards and his teachings relevant for today?
5. Edwards is perceived as mean-hearted and judgmental. What has created this perception for some and is this an accurate perception?
6. How can Christians use Edwards teachings to share their faith with non-believers?
7. Do people still adhere to Edwards beliefs?
8. What can we learn from his life?
9. What are some of the theological challenges Christians face today?
10. What interested you in the teaching of Jonathan Edwards? Why did you decide to release this series?
11. Edwards is considered a deep thinker - is this series easier to understand and apply to modern-day readers?