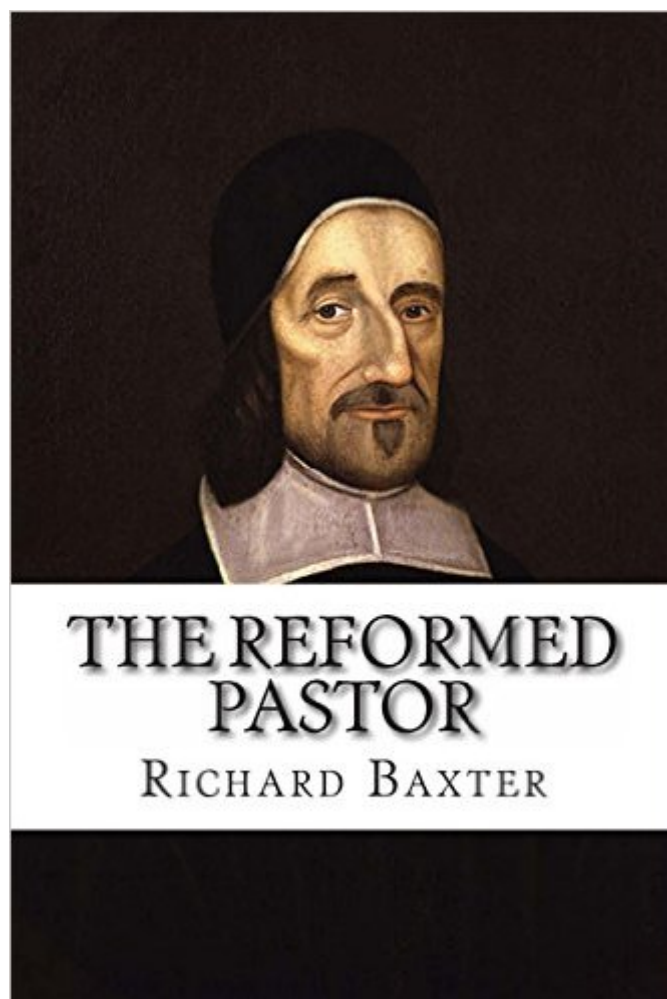


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The Reformed Pastor



Synopsis

This is a true and accurate reproduction of Baxter's work, 'The Reformed Pastor'. It is brand new without blemish or markings. Publisher's Note: This book was produced by a team of hard-working volunteers in an effort to keep books of antiquity alive and well among our modern day readers. We are grateful for the hard work and effort that went into the reproduction of these classics. We make a concerted effort to achieve a high quality product while at the same time offering these precious books at lower prices to reach the widest readership possible. Our prayer is that you will find them honoring to the name of Christ and share these rich Christians books with others.

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Customer Reviews

Reading through The Reformed Pastor again, I remember why I often struggle to read Puritans; every page is like ingesting a steak and reading Puritans simply takes a LONG time. Though there is much flavor and much substance, one does not speed through something like The Reformed Pastor; there's simply too much to swallow to attempt to do it hastily. The book is broken into 3 large chapters with several subsections to each. The first chapter examines the oversight of the self, presenting the case for the importance of the minister to be regenerate and mature in faith as well, and also examines the motivation behind the oversight of the self, presenting the case for the necessity and sobriety in dealing with the oversight of oneself. The second chapter examines the oversight of the church, presenting instruction regarding the nature, manner and motivations for the oversight of the church. The third chapter deals with the application of the first two chapters,

presenting in detail the need for humility in an overseer and also presenting the need for personal teaching and instruction from the overseer to the various members of the congregation. Once one starts reading *The Reformed Pastor*, it becomes clear why it is such a classic. The exhortations regarding humility, double-mindedness, discipline, purity and various other fruits of the spirit are as pertinent and necessary today as they were in Baxter's day. The problems that Baxter encountered sound eerily familiar: corrupt clergy abandoning their divine duty out of fear of men, the misunderstanding of the clergy regarding exactly what a minister does with his day (180), the lack of interest in many congregants regarding deep and doctrinal teaching, etc. The problems and temptations are neither new nor novel; what Baxter found to be the case in the church of the 17th century seems to still be the case in the church of the 21st century. Satan doesn't have a whole lot of new tricks up his sleeve, but the ones he has seem to be conditioned by experience to work quite well. Beyond timeless wisdom, Baxter has a way of articulating my thoughts in more profound and pithy ways than they appear in my head. In talking about the need for simplicity in preaching, Baxter states "truth loves the light, and is more beautiful when most naked". Another great quote from Baxter is where he comments on the efficient call of the pastor, saying, "The Holy Ghost makes men bishops or overseers of the Church in three several respects: By qualifying them for the office; by directing the ordainers to discern their qualifications, and know the fittest men; and by directing them, the people and themselves, for the affixing them to a particular charge". I rarely read one who is so "matter of fact" on such searching issues as effectual call. In the end, I enjoyed *The Reformed Pastor* immensely and will seek to read it in smaller chunks again and again. I find the call to humility to be constantly necessary and the admonition to examine myself is an admonition unfamiliar to so many of my ministry peers that I need someone to remind me of it. Baxter is like cough syrup for the soul; it's a hard swallow that heals what ails you.

Baxter's time was not too unlike our own. Despite there being a large theological agreement that there must be discipline within the Church, very few leaders in the church are willing to carry it out. Baxter reminds us, and convincingly so, that we must do so for not only the good of the soul of the individual, but for the rest of the Church, and even ourselves. Most of the book rotates around the subject of discipline in the pastoral ministry. It also contains many other details concerning the ministry that would be good for any aspiring, or current pastor to read. The only reason I give the book 4 stars instead of 5 is because this version is the abridged version of what Baxter wrote years ago. However, there is nothing that would tell you this unless you read the preface. I was a little disturbed upon originally reading the preface that this was the case, and that the original work is

closer to 700 pages (depending on margins and type settings). This book has a rather tiny font size, and very little margin, so even though it is only over 100 pages, if it were in the typical type setting you see in most books, it would probably be closer to 3-400 pages. Also, the ancient Elizabethan English has been revised for the modern reader, which probably accounts for the shorter number of pages. Don't let any of this distract you from getting this book though, there are still many redeeming qualities to it.

My pastor recommended this book to me (an aspiring pastor). After you get used to the flow, there's really a ton of great advice in here. I'm shocked at how many problems and scenarios are the same no matter where or when you minister. The Kindle version was great because I could skim some where I felt like it. Lots to highlight and review. Sharp, honest, and surprisingly relevant.

Having this book read aloud to me helps me to be more sure to read it, and what a treasure it is!! Very convicting and true and good, and important! Never forget these old books--there is a reason people are still reading them after 400 years! Jesus is Lord!

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