

# RESOURCE REVIEW



## The Roots of Endurance

John Piper

Crossway Books; ©2002; 175 pages; hardcover

*The Roots of Endurance* is the third part of a trilogy by John Piper. This work focuses on the virtue of endurance in the Christian life. After reviewing the biblical basis of endurance, Piper selects three notable examples of endurance in 18th-century England.

John Newton, who composed more than 300 hymns, including "Amazing Grace," is examined first. After a period of debauchery as a sailor and slave-trader, Newton was ever aware of the grace of God in saving "a wretch like me," and he devoted his life to preaching the gospel of redemption. He came to be known for his sympathy, tenderness, and a loving spirit toward all.

Charles Simeon, a Cambridge University graduate, spent 54 years as minister of Trinity Church in Cambridge. Much of this time he encountered stiff opposition, as a leader in the evangelical wing of the church. For 12 of these years, the pew holders (people rented pews in his day) locked their pews and absented themselves. Simeon preached to empty pews as the crowds who came stood in the aisles and against the walls. Ridiculed by many of the faculty of the university, and struggling with ill health, he never gave up, counting it a privilege to suffer for Christ's sake.

William Wilberforce, a member of Parliament at 21, held office for 40-plus years. He was a social reformer and campaigned for 20 years to win legislation to abolish the slave trade. Twenty-six more years were needed before slavery itself was outlawed. He also labored to make dueling illegal. Wilberforce made a big difference in the quality of public life in England—through his leadership in public office.

Piper's book is valuable Christian biography. It is a source of encouragement for anybody who might become weary in his service to Christ.

—Henry E. Webb  
Johnson City, Tennessee

## How to Keep the Pastor You Love

Jane Rubietta

InterVarsity Press; ©2002; 190 pages; paperback

It often has been observed that the minister is the only one in the congregation who does not have a minister. Many books have been written and courses have been taught on "pastoral care," which always refer to how the pastor is to care for the congregation. This book explores

the other side—caring for the pastor. This book addresses the continuing and disturbing problem of ministers leaving the full-time ministry, the frequent relocation of pastorates, and the often unspoken distress that they and their families experience. The author is a pastor's wife who has done some excellent research among many different church groups. Her study provides evidence of the widespread nature of the difficulties faced in ministry. She has developed some wise and practical methods for a church to demonstrate care for her minister. There are some specific and useful appendices on such subjects as "How to Pray for Your Pastor," "The Pastor's Compensation Package," "Evaluating Burnout," "Housing Help," "Saying Farewell," and "Pastoral Care Resources."

I highly recommend this book for ministers, elders, personnel committees, and any church member who wants to know how to practice loving care to the pastor.

—Jack Allbee  
Unicoi, Tennessee

## Love In Hard Places

D. A. Carson

Crossway Books; ©2002; 207 pages; paperback

*Love In Hard Places* is another excellent work from D. A. Carson. With a background of sermons and lectures, the content of the book was triggered and challenged by the tragedies of September 11, 2001. The lengthy introduction reviewing some of the author's previous writings is highly beneficial and by itself would make the book of value.

The book's first major division cites statements in the Old Testament about love that, on the surface, seem to be at odds with Jesus, His Sermon on the Mount, and other portions of the New Testament. Those examples deal with love on both the horizontal (human) level and with the vertical (God) relationships.

In the four chapters that follow, the author very adequately accomplishes his stated desire to extend the views of the diverse ways in which the Bible speaks of love and forgiveness. Carson astutely maintains freedom from the intended influence of philosophers, psychologists, religionists, ecumenicals, pluralists, and theological liberals or legalists, and to note that the contemporary, sentimental appeals for love and forgiveness are highly inadequate. The work demonstrates the author's carefully reasoned logic, faith, and excellent hermeneutics of Bible content.

—Sherwood Smith  
Cincinnati, Ohio