



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

One of my favorite “dead guys” is John Charles (J.C.) Ryle. John Charles Ryle (1816-1900) was a great evangelical bishop of England in the 19th century. In 1880, J.C. Ryle became the first bishop of Liverpool. His successor described him as “the man of granite with the heart of a child.” C.H. Spurgeon referred to Ryle as “an evangelical champion” and said that he was “one of the bravest and best of men.”

Personally, and pastorally, I have gained (and still gain) much from reading Ryle's commentaries, sermons, and books. He was a faithful man of God, who displayed a fierce loyalty to the truth of God's Word, and a resolute commitment to the church. Though deeply compassionate, Ryle was also unyieldingly courageous. Ryle was a prolific writer, vigorous preacher, and faithful pastor. Ryle's sermons and books are fiercely Biblical, and still vitally important for us today.

Here are some of my most favorite (short) quotes from J.C. Ryle:

“Happy indeed is that church whose members not only desire to reach heaven themselves, but desire also to take others with them” (*Practical Religion*).

“He that has union with Christ does well; but he that enjoys communion with Him does far better” (*Practical Religion*).

“And this I do boldly and confidently say, that true holiness is a great reality. It is something in a man that can be seen, and known, and marked, and felt by all around him” (*Holiness*).

“The believer is a soldier. There is no holiness without a warfare. Saved souls will always be found to have fought a fight” (*Holiness*).

“A holy man will follow after humility. ...
He will see more evil in his own heart than in any other in the world” (*Holiness*).

“Unity without the Gospel is a worthless unity; it is the very unity of hell” (*Warnings to Churches*).

“The saddest road to hell is the one that runs under the pulpit, past the Bible, and through the middle of warnings and invitations” (*Are You Asleep?*).

“Be very sure of this – people never reject the Bible because they cannot understand it. They understand it too well; they understand that it condemns their own behavior; they understand that it witnesses against their own sins, and summons them to judgment” (*Thoughts for Young Men*).

“No soldiers of Christ are ever lost, missing or left dead on the battlefield” (*Holiness*).

“Men fall in private long before they fall in public” (*Matthew 26:69-75*).

“Sin forsaken is one of the best evidences of sin forgiven” (*The Upper Room*).

“... neglect of prayer is one great cause of backsliding” (*A Call to Prayer*).

“Fear not because your prayer is stammering, your words feeble, and your language poor.
Jesus can understand you” (*A Call to Prayer*).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(9/15/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #37):

Numbers 17-20; 1 Chronicles 25-29; Psalm 108-110; Proverbs 23-24; Amos 1-4; John 16-18; Titus

Recommended Reading:

“Holiness” by J.C. Ryle