

FORERUNNERS
... — OF THE — ...
FAITH



“The study of Church history, when evaluated through the lens of Scripture, is a faith-affirming exercise. I have experienced that reality firsthand. The deeper I have investigated the history of the church, the more I have grown to appreciate the power and authority of God’s Word – because I’ve seen that power vividly illustrated in the testimonies of past generations of believers.”

Dr. Nathan Busenitz



Introduction to Series: Why Forerunners of the Faith?

June 10, 2026

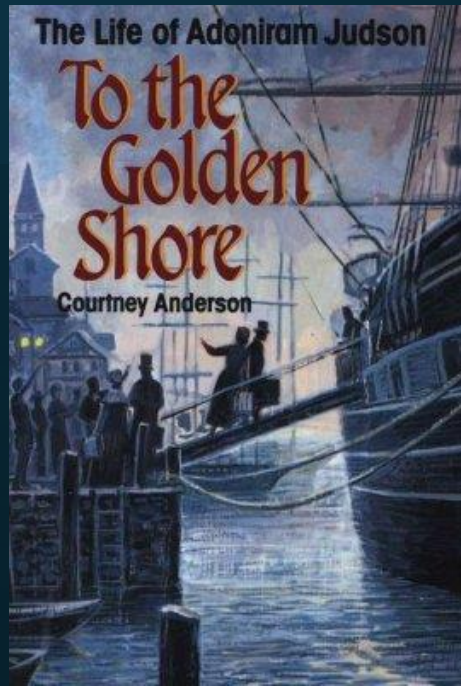


Introduction to Series

3 Overall Reasons for Studying Church History

1. A is for **Apologetics**

2. B is for **Biography**



Adoniram Judson (1788-1850)

Introduction to Series

3 Overall Reasons for Studying Church History

1. A is for **Apologetics**
2. B is for **Biography**
3. C is for **Curiosity**

10 Reasons to Study Church History 1/2

1. To Correct Our Blind Spots

“Christians are blessed to have wonderful resources that detail the history of the church from the first century to the present. Those who ignore the profound riches of their own spiritual heritage don’t know what they are missing—namely, the life-changing opportunity to be challenged, instructed, and encouraged in the faith by those who’ve gone before us.”

Dr. Nathan Busenitz



10 Reasons to Study Church History 1/2

1. To Correct Our Blind Spots
2. To See God's Providence
3. To Watch Christ Build His Church

“..when Arianism threatened to overrun the Roman Empire and Athanasius stood, seemingly alone, against the world; or when the sacramental system of the late-medieval church threatened to eclipse the gospel of grace; or when liberal theology infiltrated the universities of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Western society...These and countless other examples embolden us to face today’s challenges and persecutions with the confidence of knowing that we belong to a cause that cannot fail ”

Dr. Nathan Busenitz



10 Reasons to Study Church History 1/2

1. To Correct Our Blind Spots
2. To See God's Providence
3. To Watch Christ Build His Church
4. To Remember Our Spiritual Heritage

“When we study church history, we come to see who we are, where we’ve come from, and how we fit into the flow of God’s kingdom work in the world. We are studying our spiritual family tree. The Lord Jesus Himself cares deeply about His bride (see Rev. 1–3), and we should, too.

Dr. Nathan Busenitz



10 Reasons to Study Church History 1/2

1. To Correct Our Blind Spots
2. To See God's Providence
3. To Watch Christ Build His Church
4. To Remember Our Spiritual Heritage
5. To Receive Faithful Doctrine

“The halls of history are filled with accounts of those who loved the truth and fought valiantly to preserve it. Thus, while we recognize that church history is not authoritative (only Scripture is), we are wise to glean from the wisdom of past church leaders, theologians, and pastors. Their creeds, commentaries, and sermons represent lifetimes of meditating on the text and walking with God. We would be unwise to ignore their voices and their insights—as we similarly seek to rightly divide the Word.”

Dr. Nathan Busenitz



10 Reasons to Study Church History 2/2

6. To Discern Truth From Error



"If we don't know our own history, we will simply have to endure all the same mistakes, sacrifices, and absurdities all over again."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

(1918-2008)



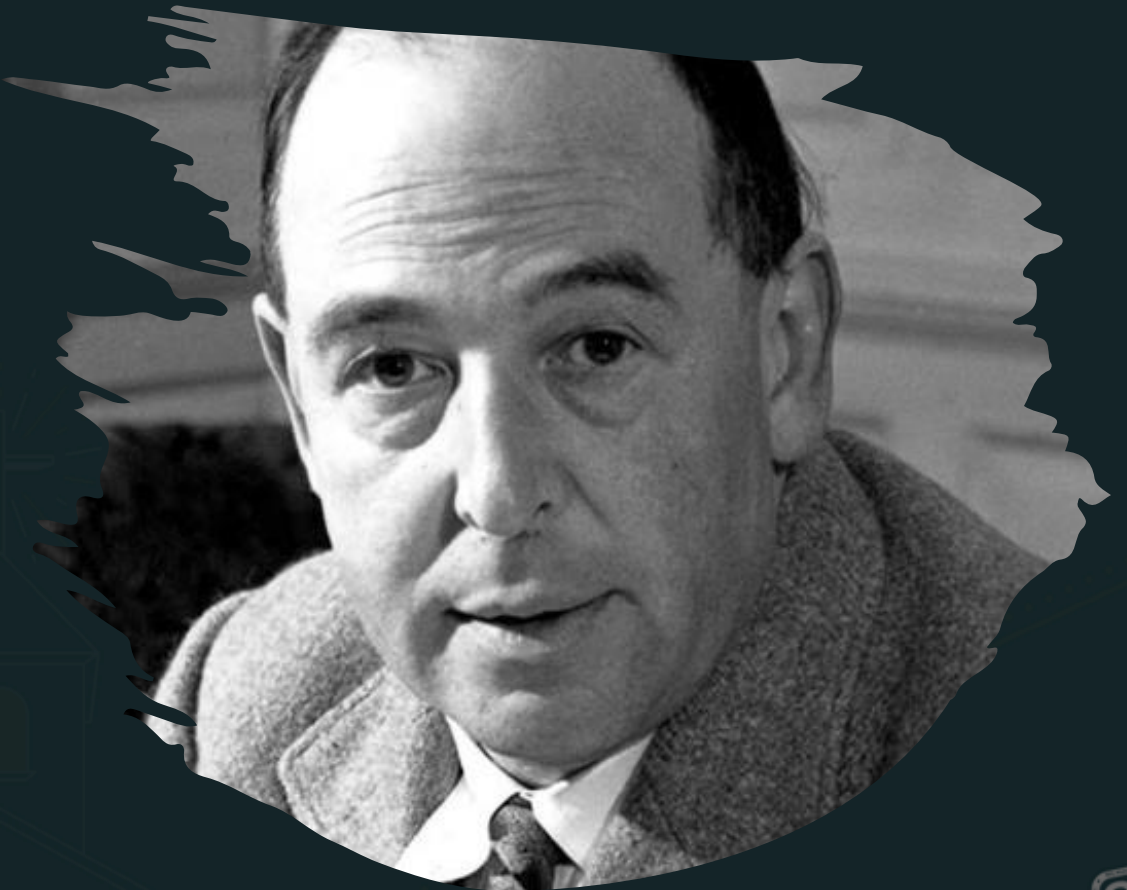
10 Reasons to Study Church History 2/2

6. To Discern Truth From Error

7. To Learn from the Godly

“If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the NEXT.”

C.S. Lewis
(1898-1963)



10 Reasons to Study Church History 2/2

6. To Discern Truth From Error

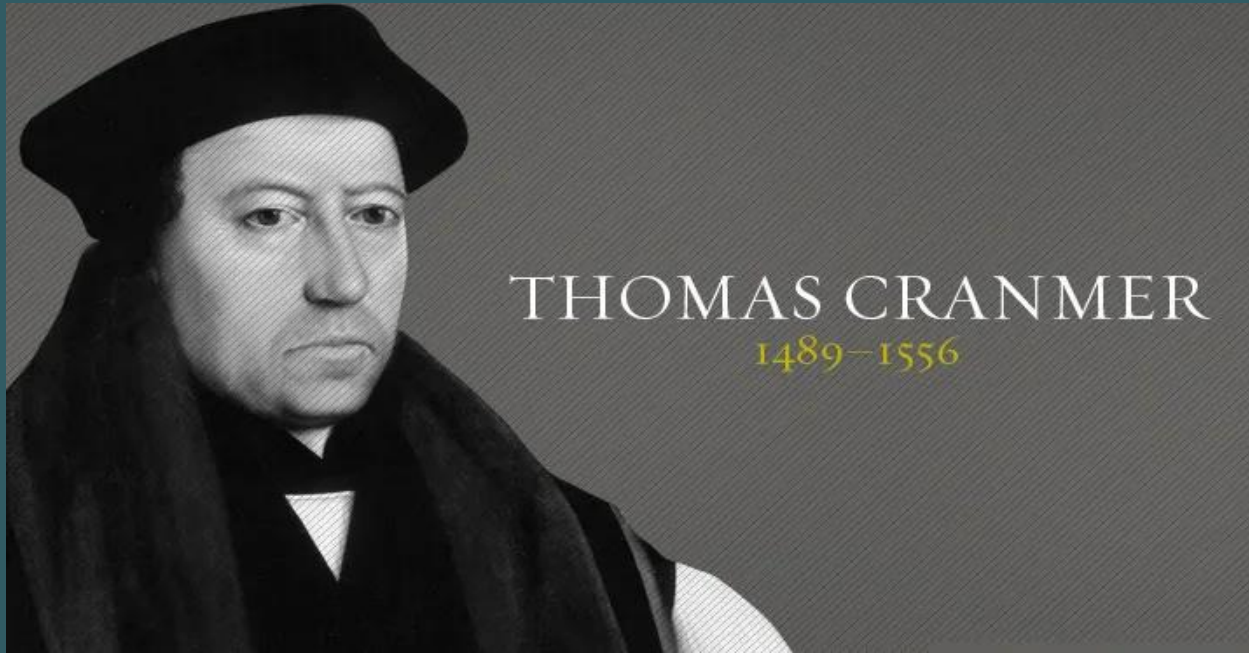
7. To Learn from the Godly

8. To Learn from Failure

“We can learn powerful lessons about what to avoid from things like the influx of paganism into Roman Christianity, the corruption of the papacy, the Crusades, the development of liberalism, and so on. Learning from past failures helps guard us from repeating those same errors.”

Dr. Nathan Busenitz





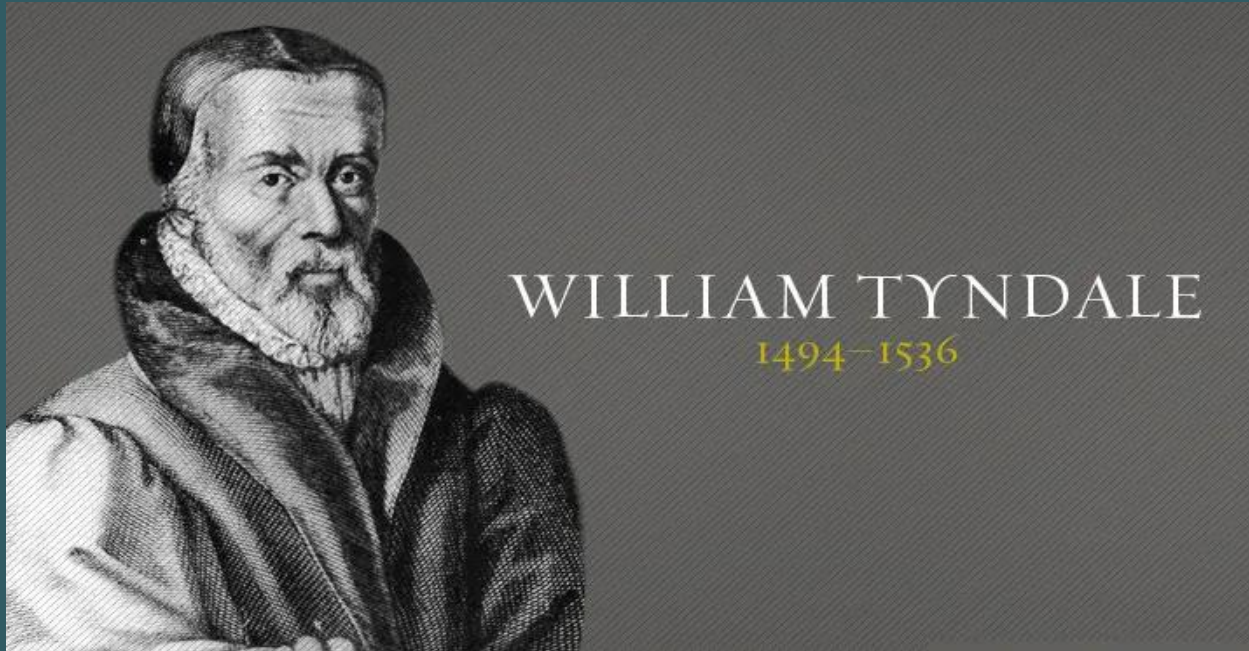
10 Reasons to Study Church History 2/2

6. To Discern Truth From Error

7. To Learn from the Godly

8. To Learn from Failure

9. To Appreciate Present Blessings



“I defy the Pope and all his laws [...] If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plow, shall know more of the Scripture than thou dost.”

10 Reasons to Study Church History 2/2

6. To Discern Truth From Error

7. To Learn from the Godly

8. To Learn from Failure

9. To Appreciate Present Blessings

10. To Gain Eternal Perspective

Introduction to Series

Application

1. Cultivate Humility by Learning from Those Who Came Before Us
2. Commit to Faithful Stewardship in Your Generation

Small Group

1. Why do you think it is important for Christians today to study church history? Amongst the reasons shared tonight, which ones appealed to you the most and why?
2. What are you hoping God will teach or strengthen in your life through this study of church history?