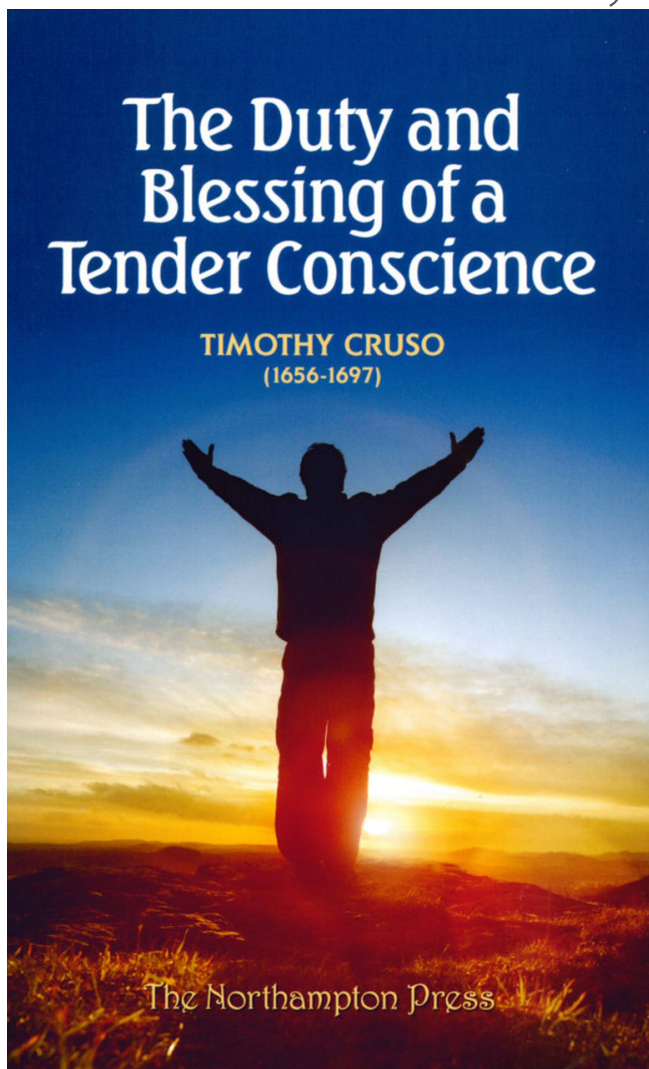


book of the month *The Duty and Blessing of a Tender Conscience* by Timothy Cruso



The Puritans were men who understood the connection between sound doctrine and holiness of life. This book and its author is no exception. Timothy Cruso (1656-1697), a less-known Puritan minister articulates the importance of keeping a good conscience in this aptly titled book. God obligates us to keep a good conscience and rewards us for obeying this requirement.

In just 60 pages, Cruso defines a tender conscience, lists ways of obtaining a tender conscience, informs readers how to discern when the conscience is healthy, and exposes the counterfeits of a tender conscience. This book will serve our church well by helping us to obey First Timothy 1:19 — “keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.” Like many Puritan works, this one might take some work to digest, but it is worth the effort!

— Omri Miles, **Pastor/Elder Intern and Deacon of the booktable**

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(about 2 pages per day, * does not include the five sermons in the appendix)

Week 1: Monday, the 3rd – Sunday, the 9th

Preface – 2 pages

Introduction – 3 pages

The Counterfeits of this Blessed Frame – 8 pages

Week 2: Monday, the 10th – Sunday, the 16th

The True Principle of a Tender Heart – 3 pages

The Proper Ingredients of a Tender Heart – 4 pages

How God Brings About this Frame of Heart – 4 pages

Week 3: Monday, the 17th – Sunday, the 23rd

The Evidences and Tokens of a Tender Conscience
– 19 pages

Week 4: Monday, the 24th – Sunday, the 30th

How this Holy Frame Evidences Itself to God
– 5 pages

Why this Frame of Heart Finds Acceptance with God
– 3 pages

The Application – 9 pages

The Conclusion - 2 pages

QUOTES

“Counterfeit tenderness looks no further than regulating and forming the outward actions according to the Word of God, while the inward thoughts and affections are permitted to take their own unbridled course.” (p. 8)

“When men fasten their own additions to the Word, and think to be religious above what is written, the devil has the greatest advantage of thrusting them down into profaneness. Duty is to be done with all our might, but the declared will of God is the measure and standard of duty.” (p. 9)

“He who is not brought to abhor that which is evil will not be as cautious of it as he should be... A heart that is tender in the Scripture sense must be filled with a holy indignation against everything that is contrary unto God.” (p. 15)

“If the heart by nature is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9), so that nothing in the world can parallel its treachery, a heart mollified by grace will, above all things, look to this so that it is not actually deceived.” (p. 17-18)

“They who walk most humbly will walk most circumspectly. Lowliness of mind is a great promoter of tenderness of heart.” (p. 55)