



The Mighty Weakness of

John Knox

DOUGLAS BOND



A Long Line of Godly Men Profile

ENDORSEMENTS

“In the compass of this small volume, Douglas Bond somehow manages to corral all the mysterious paradoxes of John Knox: the thunderous pulpit and the closet intercessions, the soaring intellect and the humble home life, the boldness and the meekness, the might and the weakness. In other words, Bond has captured the very essence of this remarkable model for reformational ministry.”

—DR. GEORGE GRANT
Pastor, Parish Presbyterian Church
Franklin, Tenn.

“I am delighted to recommend Douglas Bond’s latest book, *The Mighty Weakness of John Knox*. Bond has written many, mainly children’s, books on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Scottish church history. He writes with the passion of a man who believes that the church today needs, for its spiritual good and sanity, to learn about the church of yesterday. In choosing to write a book on John Knox, Bond has done the church today a great service. Knox was the towering figure of the Scottish Reformation. In many ways, he was a reluctant hero, conscious as he was of his own weaknesses. However, as the title of the book makes plain, Knox’s sense of weakness was overwhelmed by his sense of God’s greatness. Indeed, as Bond shows us throughout his book, it was Knox’s constant sense of his own weakness that enabled the Lord to use him so mightily in His service. When Knox was asked to account for the wonderful success of the Scottish Reformation, he replied, ‘God gave his Holy Spirit in great abundance to

simple men.’ Read this book. Learn from this book. Thank God for men like John Knox. Above all, pray that God would raise up like-minded and like-hearted men in our own day, and once again give His Holy Spirit in great abundance to men who are deeply conscious of their own weakness.”

—DR. IAN HAMILTON

President and professor of historical theology
Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Newcastle, England

“Though I love John Knox, I rarely enjoy reading about John Knox. Most biographers leave me feeling like a pathetic worm beside this mighty lion of Scotland. But to my great surprise, this book lifted my spirits and even inspired me. Why? Because Douglas Bond has captured and communicated the secret of John Knox’s power—a genuinely felt and openly confessed weakness that depended daily and completely on the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Mighty weakness—what an encouraging message for all worms who want to be lions.”

—DR. DAVID P. MURRAY

Professor of Old Testament and practical theology
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich.

“Another volume appears in the Long Line of Godly Men Profiles series, this time a profile of John Knox by Douglas Bond. To this very interesting book about a very interesting man, Bond brings his compelling narrative style, honed in his previously written novels. The preface (‘John Knox: A Weak Man Made Mighty’) sets the tone for the volume, as Bond demonstrates in a variety of ways how God took Knox’s several weaknesses to make him one of the Reformation’s strongest figures. Citing Knox’s

greatest strength in his submission to Christ, Bond then traces 'power' in Knox's life, whether it be power of prayer, pen, or predestination, or power in Knox's preaching. For those wondering whether the Pauline mystery of strength in weakness can become true for them, Bond's portrait of Knox will prove as edifying as it is instructive."

—DR. T. DAVID GORDON
Professor of religion and Greek (retired)
Grove City College, Grove City, Penn.

The Long Line of Godly Men Profiles

Series editor, Steven J. Lawson

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A **Long Line of Godly Men** Profile

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DOUGLAS BOND



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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To my wife

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Followers Worthy to Be Followed

Down through the centuries, God has raised up a long line of godly men whom He has mightily used at critical junctures of church history. These valiant individuals have come from all walks of life—from the ivy-covered halls of elite schools to the dusty back rooms of tradesmen’s shops. They have arisen from all points of this world—from highly visible venues in densely populated cities to obscure hamlets in remote places. Yet despite these differences, these pivotal figures, trophies of God’s grace, have had much in common.

Certainly each man possessed stalwart faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but more can be said. Each of them held deep convictions as to the God-exalting truths known as the doctrines of grace. Though they differed in secondary matters of theology, they stood shoulder to shoulder in championing the doctrines that magnify the sovereign grace of God in His saving purposes in the world. To a man, they

upheld the essential truth that “salvation is of the Lord” (Ps. 3:8; Jonah 2:9).

How did these truths affect their lives? Far from paralyzing them, the doctrines of grace inflamed their hearts with reverential awe for God and humbled their souls before His throne. Moreover, the truths of sovereign grace emboldened these men to further the cause of Christ on the earth. This fact should not surprise us, as history reveals that those who embrace these truths are granted extraordinary confidence in their God. With an enlarged vision of Him, they step forward and accomplish the work of many men, leaving a godly influence on generations to come. They arise with wings like eagles and soar over their times in history. Experientially, the doctrines of grace renew their spirits and empower them to serve God in their divinely appointed hours.

The Long Line of Godly Men Profiles aim to highlight key figures from this procession of sovereign-grace men. It is the purpose of this series to explore how these figures used their God-given gifts and abilities to further the kingdom of heaven. Because they were stalwart followers of Christ, their examples are worthy of emulation today.

In this volume, Douglas Bond introduces to us the Scottish Reformer John Knox. Knox’s voice thundered throughout Scotland in a day when the church stood in great need of revival. Despite personal weakness and timidity, Knox was marked by stout faith in Christ. As the Lord empowered Knox’s leadership, the Scottish “kirk” became one of the

FOLLOWERS WORTHY TO BE FOLLOWED

strongest expressions of the kingdom of God the world has ever witnessed. To this day, Knox remains the greatest of all Scots, eminently worthy to be profiled in this series.

As you read this book, may the Lord use it greatly to shape you like Knox, that you too might be one who leaves an indelible influence on this world. May you be strengthened to walk in a manner worthy of your calling.

Soli Deo gloria!

—*Steven J. Lawson*
Series editor

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