

Iain H. Murray, *Heroes* (Edinburgh, UK/Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009).

Unlike our American cousins, Canadians have a difficult time with heroes. Very rarely is our national history cast in terms of heroic figures. Moreover, as Iain Murray notes in this new series of studies, the modern world is also very much down on heroes. But rightly understood as inspiring, though not perfect, examples of Christian faith, heroes can be and should be part of the Christian world-view. In this new book from a veteran Reformed biographer and historian, Murray looks at the faith, lives, and thought of a number of well-known figures like Jonathan Edwards and Charles H. Spurgeon, as well as some lesser-known persons like Robert Kalley and William Hewitson (both of whom had a tremendous ministry on the island of Madeira among Portuguese Roman Catholics). Especially noteworthy is Murray's refusal to make these heroes plaster-cast saints and his emphasis on the importance that marriage played in the lives of many of them. My only notable difference with Murray has to do with his analysis of the slave-holding of Charles and Mary Colcock Jones. This godly Southern couple made the mistake that many in the ante-bellum South did by not seeing slavery as morally reprehensible and thinking it would eventually wither away. Murray, in part, appeals to the New Testament toleration of slavery to maintain that Southern slavery was not a clear-cut issue. But unlike slavery in the ancient world, slavery in the old American slavery was based on racism. This quibble aside, this is a very important and accessible book and one that I highly recommend.

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