



The Puritans

FIRSTSF 10.1.23

The English Reformation

- ▶ King Henry VIII led the Church of England to separate from the Roman Catholic Church.
- ▶ Queen Elizabeth I reigned from 1558-1603 and established the formal doctrine of the Church of England by releasing the 39 Articles.

'Puritan' = an insult

- ▶ During Elizabeth's reign, there was a movement of nonconformist clergy who did not believe the Church of England had not been fully reformed.
- ▶ These clergy became known as 'Puritans', a negative term signifying the desire to purify the church.

Reform or Remove?

- ▶ Some Puritans chose to remain in the Anglican Church and reform it from within.
- ▶ Others chose to leave the Anglican Church and begin their own churches. This group is known as separatists.

Who were the Puritans?

- ▶ Doctrinally – very Calvinistic
- ▶ Experientially – concerned about the glory of God and the holiness of his people, yet also very warm and contagious
- ▶ Evangelistically – both tender and aggressive
- ▶ Ecclesiastically – concerned with the purity of the church; desired to move away from empty religion to true worship



William Perkins (1558-1602)

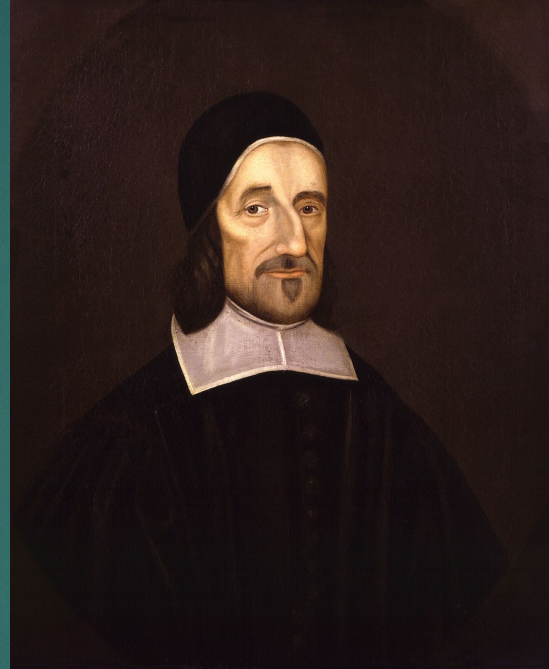
- ▶ Considered one of the fathers of Puritanism
- ▶ Influential in Puritan preaching – promoted preaching the Word in a manner that was deep theologically but also in a “plain style”
- ▶ Notable works include *A Golden Chain* and *The Art of Prophecy*

Richard Sibbes
(1577-1635)



*The Bruised
Reed*

Richard Baxter
(1615-1691)



*The Reformed
Pastor*

John Owen
(1616-1683)



*The Death of
Death in the
Death of Christ*

Owen's Instructions for Killing Sin

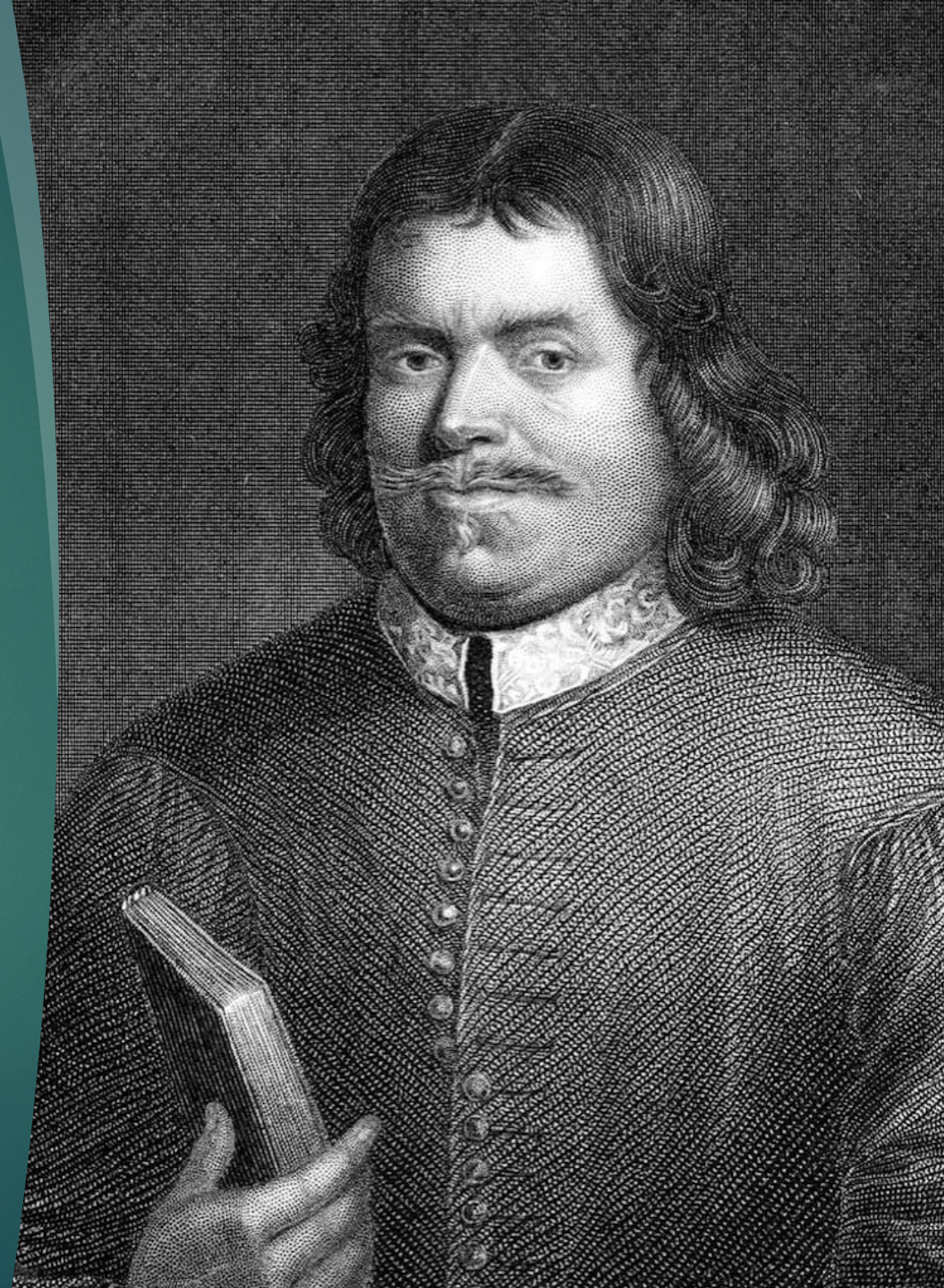
- ▶ Diagnose sin's severity
- ▶ Grasp sin's serious consequences
- ▶ Be convinced of your guilt
- ▶ Earnestly desire deliverance
- ▶ Consider the relationship between your sins and your natural temperament
- ▶ Avoid occasions that invite sin
- ▶ Address sin's first signs
- ▶ Meditate on God's glory
- ▶ Don't rush to comfort yourself

The Act of Uniformity (1662)

- ▶ This act required total adherence to the Book of Common Prayer for all who served in government or the church.
- ▶ Many Puritans refused to take this oath and about 2,000 were expelled from the Church of England (the Great Ejection of 1662).

John Bunyan (1628-1688)

- ▶ Imprisoned in 1660 for over 12 years. Imprisoned again in 1675 for 2 years.
- ▶ Wrote many books while in prison, including *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

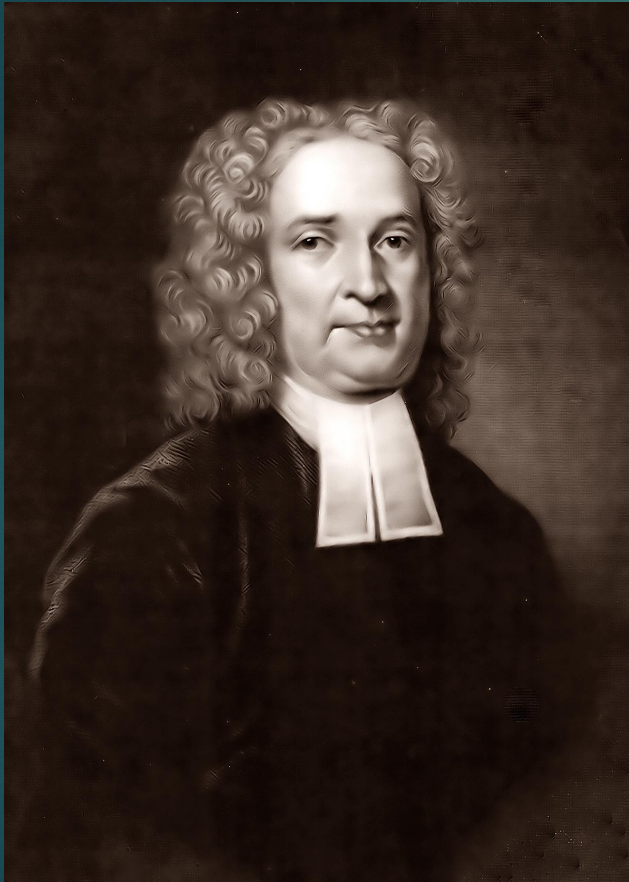


Puritans in the New World

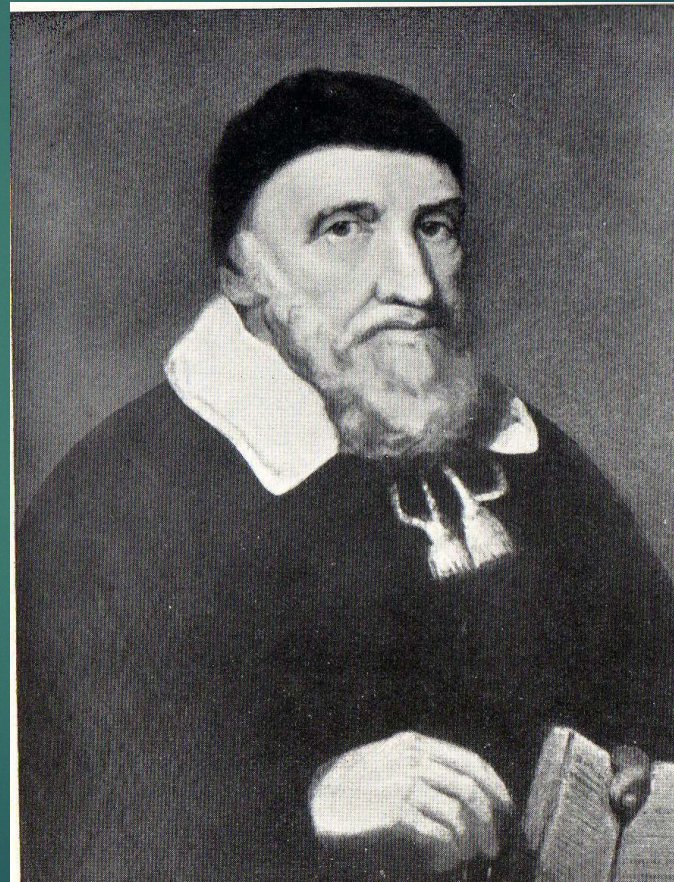
- ▶ In the 1630, the Great Puritan Migration began as many set sail for America.
- ▶ They were led by John Winthrop who served as governor of the Massachusetts Bays Colony.



John Cotton
(1585-1652)



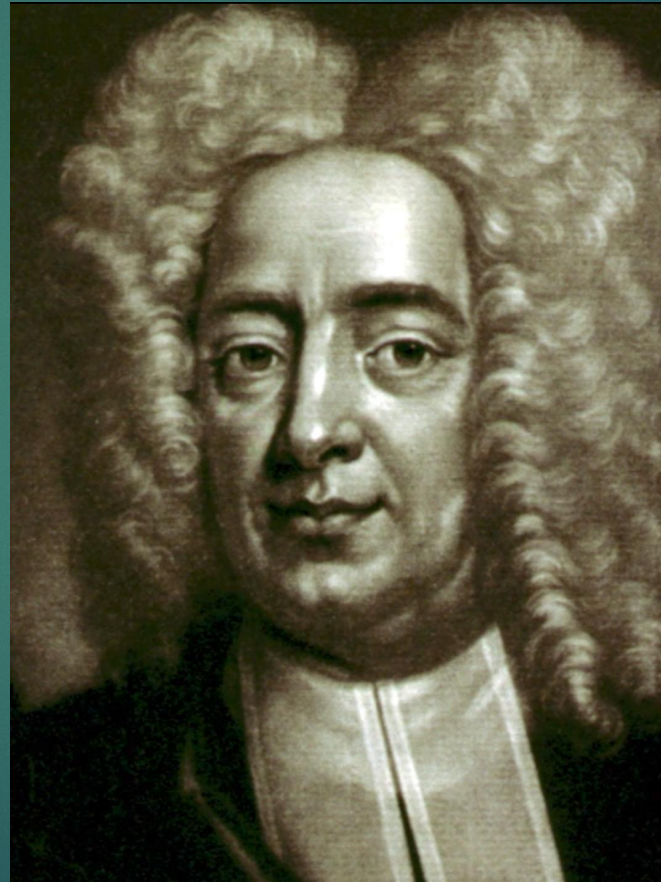
Richard Mather
(1596-1669)



Increase Mather (1639-1723)



Cotton Mather (1663-1728)



What can we learn from the Puritans?

- ▶ They loved the Bible and incorporated it into every aspect of life
- ▶ They preached Christ
- ▶ They took sin seriously and sought conviction over sin
- ▶ They knew how to deal with affliction and suffering
- ▶ They hated pride and sought to walk in genuine humility
- ▶ They loved people and sacrificed to serve others
- ▶ They lived for eternity each day; they were heavenly minded and earthly good