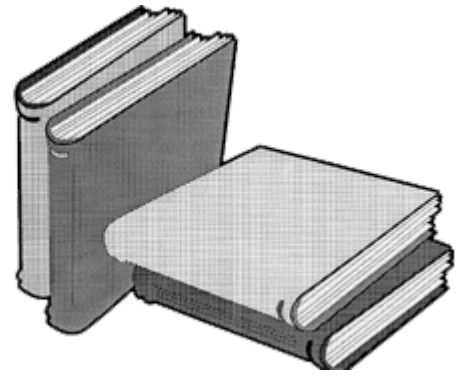


# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,  
Collected by Dean Brown



Issue 949

## **Robert Murray M'Cheyne; Wild Wind and Rain All Day Long.**

While a student at Divinity Hall [at the University of Edinburgh], M'Cheyne also became fluent in Hebrew. ... Alexander Smellie writes, "He could consult the Hebrew of the Old Testament ... as easily as many ministers consult the Greek of the New. It was not merely the student's enthusiasm for the mastery of his textbook. It was the child's craving for the bread from the Father's table. ...

A diary entry: ... "March 5. Wild wind and rain all day long. Hebrew class—Psalms. New beauty in the original every time I read."

The professor who had the greatest influence on M'Cheyne was Dr. Thomas Chalmers.<sup>1</sup> [Chalmers was influential in the Scottish revival of 1843 and the foundation of the Free Church of Scotland.] ... In earlier years, Chalmers had been a professing Christian without a true devotion to Jesus Christ. ... Gradually the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ became clear to him. ... Former religious associates mocked his newfound faith and nicknamed him "mad Chalmers," but he found a new home among those of evangelical faith.

M'Cheyne soon joined the "Visiting Society," twelve to twenty students who would meet on Saturday mornings for prayer and visitation. The students traveled in pairs to visit the poorest districts of the city, and he was shocked by the needs of the mass of poor people in the city. But these experiences in visitation would prepare him well for his future pastoral ministry.

David Beaty, *An All Surpassing Fellowship: Learning from Robert Murray M'Cheyne's Communion with God*, Reformation Heritage Books 2014, (\$11.00), p 11-14.

<sup>1</sup> See Murray, *A Scottish Christian Heritage*, Banner of Truth 2006. (Reformation Heritage Books \$19.50) and in the church library. Chapter 3.