

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Baptist Quarterly* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_bq_01.php

A Student's Programme in 1744.

IN the Angus Library there are a number of small note-books containing the manuscript diary of John Collett Ryland (1723-1792) during his preparation for the ministry at Bristol Baptist College. From the first of these we print the programme of his first year's work, as throwing light on the character of a remarkable man, and also as illustrating the range of studies of his time.

July 6. m 5½.

A Brief Account of what I intend (God assisting) to Do in My Studies with Mr. Fosket from Feb. 20. 1743/4 To Feb. 20—1744/5.

1. In the Languages. Go thro' the English Grammar twice and Learn all the Latin Grammar intirely. Go intirely tho' Clarkes Corderius and his Introduction, Construing and Parsing the former, and making the other into Latin-intirely. The New Testament in Latin. Synopsis Poetarum. Pufendorf's Ethics. Grey's Dr. Book of Proverbs—incl. Heb. Gramr. Marks Meddulla. Johnsons or Buchannans Psalms. Note: as soon as I have learnt the 5 Languages (I intend God willing) and am perfect in the Grammar part of each, I'll give all my old Grammars to some Ingenious Youth of my Acquaintance and buy a Compleat Set of the Last Editions—and have 'em neatly bound.
2. In the Sciences. 1. Go thro' Dr. Watts's Logick twice. 2. Then thro' his Scheme of Ontology twice. 3. Then thro' with Gordon's Geography once. 4. Then thro' Martin's Philosophical Grammar Twice.—NB. Also read quite perfectly thro' Mr. Lock's Essay on Hum. Understanding, and sometimes when Mr. Fosket requires it give an account of it—2 vol. 8vo.
3. In Divinity. 1. Go thro' Vincents Explicatory Catechism or Short Body of Divinity twice, i.e. Part on Saturdays and Part on Lord's Day's. Also Dr. Ridgley's Body of Divinity 2 vols. in Folio—On Saturdays I intend, if God permit, to go thro' with it intirely—give an Account ev'ry Monday of the Sermon without Notes and as regular and full as Possibly I can.

July 6. M. 5½—1744.

A Short Account of what I intend to do and have Done this Year, viz. from Feb. 20—1743/4 To Feb. 20. 1744/5. All I intend to Do is in the Strength and Spirit of the Lord My God and My Redeemer—These are my more Private Studies at home.

1. In the Languages.—1. Make myself a Perfect Master of our English Tongue both in the Theory and Practice. 2. Endeavour to be a thorough Grammarian In the Latin in all its Beauties and Idioms and Endeavour to Read, Speak and Write it with the greatest Fluency and Propriety, Prose or Verse of all kinds. 3. Get a tolerable Acquaintance with the Greek Tongue, Especially the whole Grammr. of Mr. Holmes—and also the whole New Testament. 4. Get a tolerable Acquaintance with the French Tongue in ye Theory of it Particularly—i.e. Mr. Holmes's Grammar—and Boyers Dictionary and ye New Testament. 5. Make Some Progress in the Knowledge of the Hebrew Tongue—Especially all of Dr. Grey's Grammar, The whole Book of Proverbs—and the first Six Psalms—and the Prophecy of Obadiah.

2. In the Sciences. 1. Make my Self (i.e. In Gods Strength) a Perfect and Compleat Logician and Metaphysician—from Dr. Watts's 2 Treatises on those Subject—But if Possible I'll excell the Dr. Watts in both those Sciences—and Correct and improve and enlarge where he's Defective. 2. Read Correct and Explain and make Remarks on Mr. Locks Essay on Hum. Understanding and also Read Dr. Watts Philosophical Essays—and his last Essay or Remarks on Mr. Locks Treatise before Mentioned. 3. I'll endeavour this Year to get as thorough a Knowledge of Geography both in General and Particular as possibly I can, considering I shall have the use of no Globe or perhaps but one Large Map—4. I'll endeavour to get as Large Knowledge of Natural Philosophy in all its Branches—as my Circumstances and Time and want of making Mathematical Experimts. will admit. 5. Get an extensive Knowledge of Natural Religion, Confirmed by Scripture. Make a neat Body of, if possible in Latin. 6. Get a Large Knowledge of Moral Philosophy as founded on Reason and Scripture. 7. Be a Compleat Master of the Art of Rhetoric both in its Theory and Practice, Especially Scripture Rhetoric, viz. Job, Ps. and all ye Prophets. 8. Make a tolerable Progress in the Science of Arithmetick and Geometry, wch are the first Principles of the Mathematicks. 9. Get a Large Knowledge in Anatomy Especially My own Animal Structure. 10. Get an Extensive Knowledge in Biography—Especially all the Lives of ye Saints Recorded in ye Old and New Testament and the Best Lives of the Ancient and Modern Divines. 11. A good Knowledge of the Science of Chronology and Human History. 12. A Large Skill in Musick both in the Theoreck and Practick Part. 13. Some good Degree of Skill in Microcosmography. 14. Read all the Best Poets, Especially all Watts's, Milton, Young, Addison, Thompson, Erskine. 15. A Larger Knowledge of Pneumatology. 16. Learn the neatest and newest way of Writing Short hand Called Stenography. 17. Perfecting Self in the Arts of Reading

and Writing all Languages Especially English, French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. 18. If it please God to enlarge and Bless me Exceedingly—I'll Endeavour after a good share of Critical Learning. viz. Make Critical Remarks on all I read, Especially the peculiarities in the 5 Languages before mentioned also make Critical Notes on Parts of the Old and New Testament.

In Divinity. July 5 Ev. 3. 1. Read Genesis Twice thro' before February next—2. Read the Scripture History twice also—from Joshua to Job—especially the most Entertaining Parts—and those of most Consequence. 3. Read Job, Ps., Prov., Eccles., Sol. Song, All thrice thro' before February—4. Read from Isaiah to Malachi Once—It being too high at Present for my Understanding, i.e. yt. part of Scrip. 5. Go thro' the whole New Testam't thrice. Beginning at Matt. for ye Gospels and at Romans for ye Epistles at ye same time.

II. Human Composures in Conjunction with the Holy Scriptures. 1. The Baptist Catechism I intend to get Perfectly by heart, being the Answers—and Like wise Learn all the Proofs under each Ansr. Compeatly—to Repeat with the Greatest freedom and pleasure. 2. Mr. Vincents Catechism with all the Explication and Scriptures—only excepting the 94 & 95 Questions, because I can't see 'em agreeable to ye Scripture—at present. 3. Learn the Baptist Confession of Faith and all the Proofs there intirely. 4. Read and observe well Dr. Ridgleys Body of Divinity, 2 Vols. Folio. 5. Above all things Get a Large Unbounded and evergrowing Knowledge in that Best and noblest of all Human or Divine Sciences—the Science of CHRISTOLOGY—i.e. a Knowledge of Christ crucified—a knowledge of his Person, Natures, as God over all and yet very Man; a Knowledge of his Names—His offices His Perfections, His Laws, Ordinances, Works and Word—O! Let every thing in heaven Earth and Hell Lead thee Nearer and Nearer to Christ thy Lord—who is the Universal King of the Church and all Worlds Visible or Invisible. Surrender thy Spirit Soul and Body intirely to him.

July 18 Ev. 3. I wish I may Live to Compose and Preach over and afterwards publish an Excellent Compleat Body of Christology—with a Curious Hymn to each part or branch. 6. I'll Endeavour to form for myself An Exact and Curious Body of Divinity or System of Revealed Religion (If God will assist me) founded exactly on the Pure Word of God etc. 7. I'll endeavour to study as Many sound Curious and Judicious Sermons as I can,—and keep them by themselves—and at ye beginning of them make Critical Remarks on the Original and a Neat Explication of all the Difficulties that Occur in the Language or ye Sense. 8. I'll Endeavour above all things to be perfectly and thro'ly acquainted with the Two GREAT DOCTRINES OF FAITH AND RE-

PENTANCE—both in their Theory and more Especially in the Daily Practice of them to the Greatest Degree Possible—9. I intend God Willing to keep an Exact Account of the Publick and private Discourses I hear—more Especially the Texts—Writing 'em down orderly—and all in the New Testament in Eng. Lat. and Greek.—10. I Resolve in the Name & Strength of Christ To get a very Large Treasure of Divine and Human Expressions for Prayer, viz. from the whole Bible wch God Assisting me I'll Search throughly—Mr. Henry's Book Dr. Watts, Br. Wilkins and all the Ministers & Xtians Prayers I hear that have any peculiar Expressions in 'em—

And I beg Christ to give me a soul full of Grace—All Grace Faith Love, Repentance Meekness Hope Joy Patience Temperance Charity in a Large Degree for Fellow Xtians and fellow Creatures.

And O Lord fill me wth Every Gift and Grace and Comfort and Operation of thy Holy Spirit upon my Heart. O Fill me with thy own Spirit.

JOHN COLLETT RYLAND.