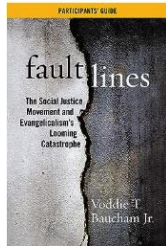
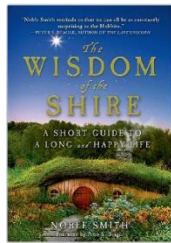


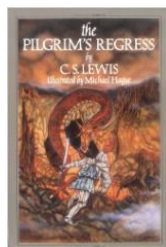
RPCB Book Club Reading List 2023-2024



Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe by Voddie Baucham, Jr. Audiobook is free with Audible membership. A famed preacher, professor, and cultural anthropologist reveals the cancer of woke theology that has permeated seminaries and that threatens the evangelical church itself. Plus a call to all Christian congregations to eschew the lure of critical theory and hold to the path of an individual relationship with God. Read in September '23 and discuss in October '23.



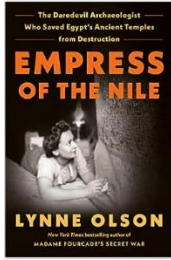
Wisdom of the Shire: A Short Guide to a Long and Happy Life by Noble Smith. Audio book is free with Audible Membership. In *The Wisdom of the Shire*, Noble Smith sheds light on the life-changing ideas tucked away inside the classic works of J. R. R. Tolkien and his most beloved creation—the stouthearted Hobbits. Drawing on *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and other tales of Middle-earth, Smith shows how a snug hobbit-hole is actually just a state of mind and how even the smallest person can have the valor of a Rider of Rohan. He explores subjects dear to a halfling's heart, such as beer, food, and friendship, as well as more serious concerns, such as courage, living in harmony with nature, and good versus evil. Read in October '23 and discuss in November '23



The Pilgrim's Regress by C.S. Lewis. Audio book is free with Audible Membership. PDF available for free on-line and at reasonable prices from used book sources. The first book written by C. S. Lewis after his conversion, *The Pilgrim's Regress* is, in a sense, a record of Lewis' own search for meaning and spiritual satisfaction that eventually led him to Christianity. It is the story of John and his odyssey to an enchanting island that has created in him an intense longing, a mysterious, sweet desire. John's pursuit of this desire takes him through adventures with such people as Mr. Enlightenment, Media Halfways, Mr. Mammon, Mother Kirk, Mr. Sensible, and Mr. Humanist and through such cities as Thrill and Eschropolis, as well as the Valley of Humiliation. Though the dragons and giants here are different from those in Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Lewis' allegory performs the same function of enabling the author to say in fable form what would otherwise have demanded a full-length philosophy of religion. Read in November '23 and discuss in December '23.



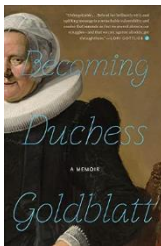
Christmas Playlist: Four Songs that Bring You to the Heart of Christmas by Alastair Begg. Free with an Audible subscription. Audio book is free with Audible Membership. Available at a low cost from Amy Ramsey while supplies last. Music is everywhere at Christmas - chart toppers, carols, children's tunes. Alastair Begg takes us to four songs that were sung by people at the very first Christmas (and his favorite carol). In this short, winsome book, a teenage girl, a respected priest, a group of angels, and an old man bring listeners to the heart of Christmas, showing them the joy and peace that comes from meeting a baby who lay in the food trough and changed eternity. Read in December '23 and discuss in January '24.



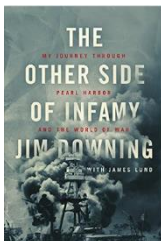
The Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction. The remarkable story of the intrepid French archaeologist who led the international effort to save ancient Egyptian temples from the floodwaters of the Aswan Dam. In the 1960s, the world's attention was focused on a nail-biting race against time: the international campaign to save a dozen ancient Egyptian temples from drowning in the floodwaters of the gigantic new Aswan High Dam. But the coverage of this unprecedented rescue effort completely overlooked the daring French archaeologist who made it all happen. Read in January '24 and discuss in February '24.



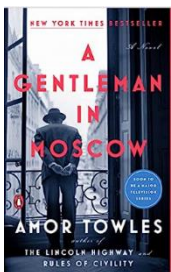
On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon-Reed. The essential, sweeping story of Juneteenth's integral importance to American history, as told by a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Texas native. Weaving together American history, dramatic family chronicle, and searing episodes of memoir, *On Juneteenth* provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since. Read in February '24 and discuss in March '24.



Becoming Duchess Goldblatt by Anonymous. Part memoir and part joyful romp through the fields of imagination, the story behind a beloved pseudonymous Twitter account reveals how a writer deep in grief rebuilt a life worth living. *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* is two stories: that of the reclusive real-life writer who created a fictional character out of loneliness and thin air, and that of the magical Duchess Goldblatt herself, a bright light in the darkness of social media. Fans around the world are drawn to Her Grace's voice, her wit, her life-affirming love for all humanity, and the fun and friendship of the community that's sprung up around her. Read in March '24 and discuss in April '24.



The Other Side of Infamy: My Journey through Pearl Harbor and the World of War by Jim Downing. Audio book is free with Audible Membership. War is uncomfortable for Christians, and worldwide war is unfamiliar for today's generations. Jim Downing reflects on his illustrious military career, including his experience during the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to show how we can be people of faith during troubled times. The natural human impulse is to run from attack. Jim Downing—along with countless other soldiers and sailors at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941—ran toward it, fighting to rescue his fellow navy men, to protect loved ones and civilians on the island, and to find the redemptive path forward from a devastating war. Read in April '24 and discuss in May '24



A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.