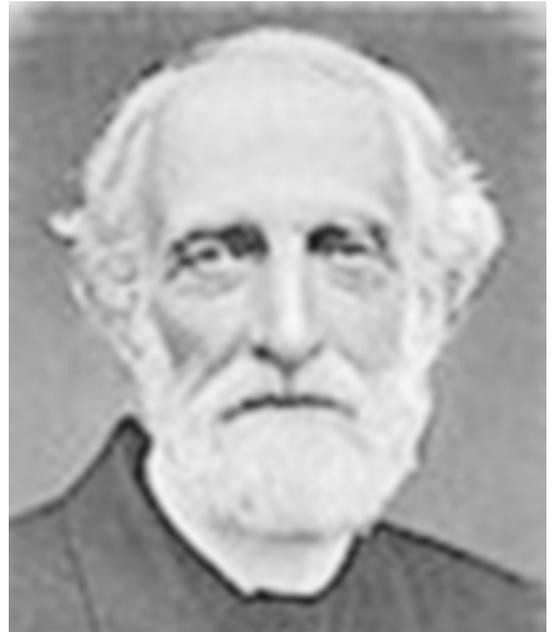


**Great Preachers 4**  
**A T PIERSON**  
David C F Wright, DD

Arthur Tappen Pierson was born in New York City on 6 March 1837, one of nine children born to Stephen and Sallie Pierson. At the age of 13, he was converted at a Methodist Revival Meeting in the days when Methodists preached the Gospel!

He attended Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, from where he graduated in 1857. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1860 the year he married Sarah Frances Benedict and they had seven children, all of whom became Christians by the time they were fifteen years old. He further his studies at the Union Theological seminary in 1869,

His first pastorate was during the summer months of 1859 to 1869 at Winsted Congregational Church in Connecticut and, from 1860 to 1863, at Binghamton, New York, then at Waterford, New York from 1863-1869 followed by Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit from 1869-1882. His last three pastorates were at Indianapolis (1882-1883), then he succeeded C H Spurgeon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London (1891-1893), but some of the congregation wanted Spurgeon's son to be the pastor, and so Pierson withdrew. Between 1902 and 1903, Pierson was pastor at Christchurch, London.



Spurgeon had invited Pierson to London in 1889 as his locum tenens.

An important event took place on 1 February 1896. From the study of the New Testament, Pierson discovered that baptism was for believers and that infant baptism, household baptism and christenings had no Scriptural foundation whatsoever. Of course, Pierson was right, and he was baptised at the age of 58 by C H Spurgeon's son, James.

Pierson always cared for the poor. He advocated faith missions and, before 1870, there were comparatively few missionaries in the USA, perhaps only two thousand. He raised this number considerably and was the elder statesman of student missionary work.

He was a godly man and among his friends were C I Scofield and, in fact, was an editor of the Scofield Bible of 1909. He was a friend of D L Moody, George Muller whose biography he wrote, Adoniram Judson Gordon and C H Spurgeon.

Scofield was an American who lived from 1843-1921. He was a soldier in the American Civil War. He was a fundamentalist and a dispensationalist and, unlike Pierson, he always had difficulties with his children. His interpretation of the Song of Solomon is wrong (See article on Song of Solomon on this site).

D L Moody was also an American and lived from 1837 to 1899. He was an amazing preacher and often worked with the hymn writer Ira Sankey. He founded the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. For details about George Muller see my article [The History of the Brethren](#).

Gordon lived from 1836 to 1895 and was a Calvinist, edited hymn books and formed the Gordon Bible College.

Spurgeon (1834- 1892) is well-known and his book are still widely read.

Graham Scroggie, the finest Bible teacher of the twentieth century, was profoundly impressed by Pierson's ministry at the Keswick Convention. He was to become the pastor at the Metropolitan Tabernacle during World War II, following in the footsteps of both Spurgeon and Pierson.

Pierson gave one Bible Reading at Keswick in 1898 and 1900. In 1902, he gave two and in 1904 four under the title The Work of Christ in the Believer.

He also gave four Bible Readings at the 1907 Convention.

For those who may not know a Bible Reading was a Bible Study.

It is said that he preached over 13,000 sermons in his life. He wrote about fifty books which, in today's liberal Christian society, would be regarded as old-fashioned and irrelevant. Among his books are the titles Many Infallible Proofs, God's Living Oracles and The Hope of the Gospel.

He also wrote hymns including With harps and with Vials and The Gospel of Thy Grace with its excellent chorus summing up salvation

That whosoever will believe,  
Shall everlasting life receive!

He was true servant of God, and died in New York City on 3 June 1911.

We need preachers like this today, in the 21st century!

---

COPYRIGHT David C F Wright 2007. No part of this article, however small, may be reproduced or stored in any system whatsoever. It must not be copied, altered or downloaded. Failure to comply is illegal being theft and contrary to International Copyright law and will render any offender liable to action at law.