

**CHARLES  
WESLEY: A STUDY**

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Charles Wesley: a study by D. M. Jones

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**D. M. JONES**

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WESLEY: A STUDY**



# CHARLES WESLEY

A STUDY

BY

D. M. JONES

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PUBLISHERS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF  
MY FATHER  
WILLIAM RODWELL JONES  
FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS A WESLEYAN MINISTER

## PREFATORY NOTE

"If ever there was a human being who disliked power, avoided prominence, and shrank from praise, it was Charles Wesley." This was the judgment passed after his death by one who knew him intimately, and it seems indeed that posterity has served him according to his wish. To the majority he remains, as he loved all his life to be, hidden in the "amazing shadow" of his brother. Yet the man who has been styled with reason "the greatest hymn-writer who ever lived," the author of poems which will never die so long as the praises of God are sung in the English tongue, might seem to deserve more than a secondary and reflected recognition. In the great hall of Christ Church, Oxford, hung with scores of portraits of people of importance in their day and of no significance to ours, one looks in vain for any memento of Charles Wesley, "Student of Christ Church." Biographies of John Wesley and studies of him have been multiplied past counting, and most people are content to obtain their notions of Charles Wesley from scattered notices in books devoted to his brother. Yet both his personality and his career are fully worthy of independent attention.

This short sketch claims to be no more than an introduction and (if it may be so) a stimulus to more elaborate and detailed study. The main authorities are of course Charles Wesley's own *Journal* and *Letters*, and the complete edition of the

*Poetical Works of John and Charles Wesley*, edited by Dr. Osborn. The *Journal* was originally written in shorthand, and was purchased by the Wesleyan authorities from the poet's son. It was published (not in its entirety) by the Rev. Thomas Jackson, in 1849, with a selection of letters. In 1909, the Rev. John Telford published the *Early Journals*.

Jackson's *Life*, which first appeared in 1840, remained the standard biography till the appearance of the Rev. John Telford's excellent work, the latest edition of which (in 1900) embodies the most recent research. Every student of Charles Wesley's life and work must express his obligation to this book, to the late Rev. Nehemiah Curnock's monumental edition of John Wesley's *Journals*, and to the publications of the Wesley Historical Society.

A list of the principal authorities consulted is given on page xi.



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## LIST OF BOOKS CONSULTED

- Letters and Journals of Charles Wesley*, edited by the Rev. Thomas Jackson. 1849.
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