

CHRISTIAN LIGHT PUBLICATIONS

JULY - AUGUST 2009

The Chocolate-Colored Purse

My wife lifted the chocolate brown purse from the table and examined it. The top flap brought memories of another purse she once used. “Awkward,” she murmured, and set it back.

“Just take it.” She looked up to see a lady approaching. “Just take it. I need to get rid of my stuff!” My wife hesitated. She didn’t want the purse, but neither did she want

Every good gift
and every perfect
gift is from above,
and cometh
down from the
Father of lights. . .
—James 1:17

to be rude, so she accepted the gift with a smile and left the yard sale. After looking at the purse again at home, she tossed it into a closet. Her old purse may be ragged, but she determined not to exchange it until she found the *right purse*.

For the next few months, my frugal wife kept watch for the *right purse*. But yard sales, bargain shops, and even some better stores couldn’t satisfy. She remembered the freebie in the closet, but dismissed it. *A little more time. That’s all*, she thought.

Eventually, time ran out. The old purse became more ragged until one day the strap broke. Reluctantly, she dug the chocolate-colored purse out of the closet and began filling it. She felt the discontent rising. “No,” she said to herself. “I can be content with this purse.” Her determination to find the *right purse* gave way to a new determination: being content with the purse God had already provided.

One day I spotted it on her desk. A gold label on the side said *Gloria Vanderbilt*. “Getting stylish, honey?” I teased.

She smiled. And then told me how she actually liked it. “The setup is so handy, and I even like the color. It’s surprising how this purse is actually a blessing. And just think. At first I didn’t want it.”

But God had another surprise waiting.

I was at my desk one evening when I heard her come in. I turned to see a bewildered look on her face. In her hand was money. “Look. Three hundred dollars!”

“From where?”

“The purse! It had another pocket.”

I quizzed her about the yard sale. But it happened almost a year ago in a city with over half a million people. She couldn’t even picture the neighborhood. I imagined us going from house to house, knocking on doors and holding up a purse.

“Never mind,” I said. “We can’t return the money.”

We prayed, and it became clear what to do. In our prayers that month was an elderly couple with health problems. Their finances were tight. This money was the answer.

Looking back, it’s easy to see that the *right purse* was right in our home. It makes me wonder, how many other *right things*, *right people*, or *right solutions* are waiting to be discovered today, simply by exercising contentment.



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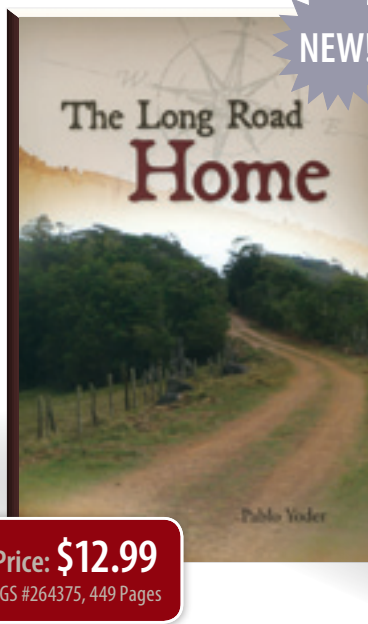
A CHANGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dean Taylor. How can Christians love their enemies and go to war? Are Christians obligated to defend their country? Dean Taylor and his wife were in the Army when they began grappling with these questions. They were startled to learn that the early church uniformly opposed going to war or joining the military. In this journey through the Scriptures, Christian history, and his own life's story, Taylor challenges his readers to consider where their allegiance really lies.



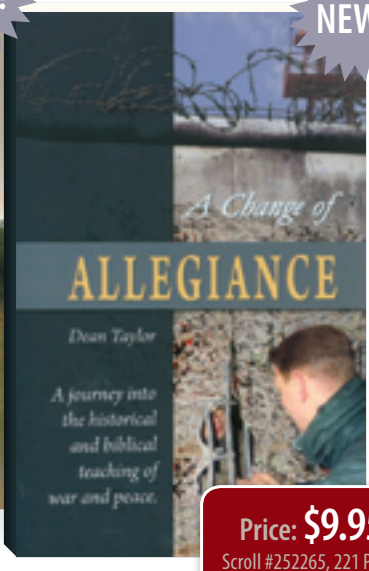
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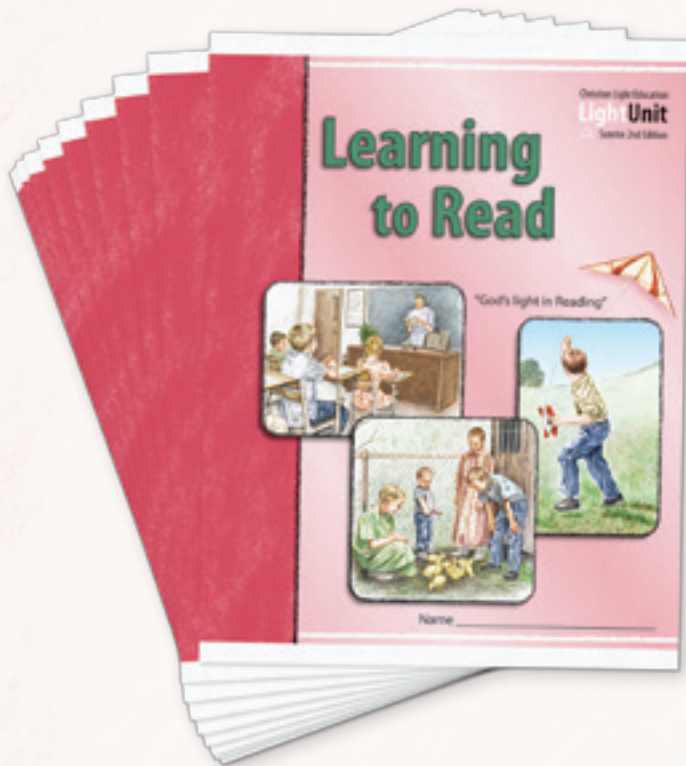
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Learning to Read



We're excited to tell you about *Sunrise Learning to Read*, second edition. This revision comes after listening to our customers and incorporating their ideas to make this program even better than before. It comes with improved artwork, more color, and a more manageable student workload. Additional review lessons allow students more time to master new material. Replacing the bulky primer are four smaller primers with beautiful, pencil-drawn illustrations. To see samples go to www.clp.org. New materials will not mix and match with older version of *Learning to Read*. Language Arts 100 is being revised and will be available October 2009.

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Teacher's Guides*

Two new Teacher's Guides (101-105 & 106-110). Clearer teaching outlines are the main improvement. Answers included.

Wall Cards

No changes. These 8½" x 11" color wall cards match the rhymes in *Learning to Read* with a letter and picture.

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We Discover Twenty-two stories. Use with LU 109-110.

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The *Learning to Read* Practice Sheets are two sets (101-105 & 106-110) of blackline masters to be photocopied as needed. They provide more practice for the struggling student and extra work for the one who needs something constructive to do. (Optional.)

*LightUnits 106-110 and corresponding materials: Teacher's Guide 2; Practice Sheets 2; Primers: *We Learn* & *We Discover* will be available October 2009.



To order call: 1-800-776-0478, or visit our website: www.clp.org.

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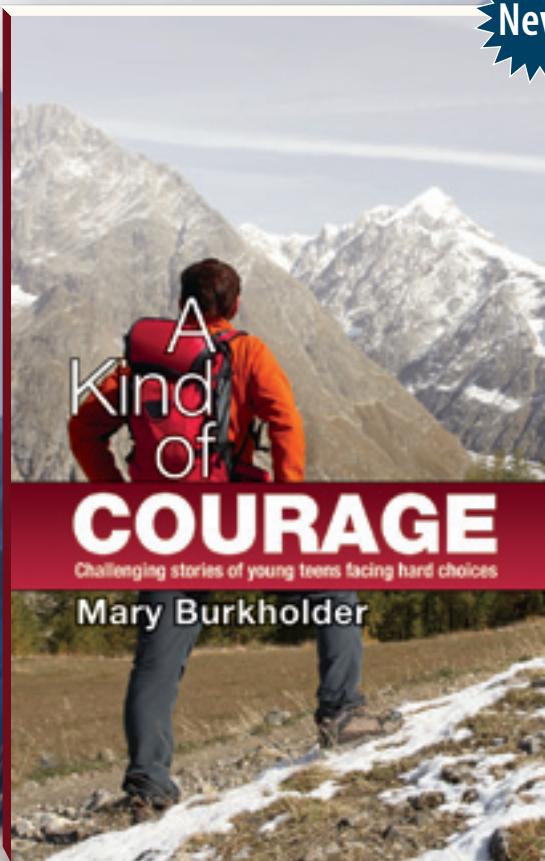
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New!

Travis tensed as he heard his cousins talking dirty. Again.

Kate stayed awkwardly in the background while her sister Amy laughed and flitted easily from person to person. *It just isn't fair*, Kate thought.

Dad's always on me about something, Nate thought, scowling.

"What you need is a boyfriend," Emily said. "And I can tell you how to get one..." She leaned in closer, smiling mischievously.

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