

CALVINIST MYSTICS COMPARED

Taylor and Edwards were both great mystics, but whereas Edwards is remembered for his hellfire, Taylor is upbeat and heavenly. Contrary to the stereotype of the Calvinist, he emphasizes love rather than judgment and celebrates the joys of his faith, seeing the disciplined Christian life as a rich banquet with music, sugar cake and beer. Edwards wrote more powerful sermons than Taylor, but at his moments of greatest ecstasy in his "Personal Narrative," he finds the mystical experience ineffable and gropes for words. Taylor finds words.

Michael Hollister (2015)