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* Notorious Pyrate
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* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

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* Old Twillian
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* Moderator
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* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
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"*When one of them dies they chant a psalm or canticle while escorting the body, but that is rather a custom left over from their earliest education than a sign of their submission to God*"

Bear in mind that while du Bucquoy is generally quite kind in his descriptions of the pirates, he was their captive and was writing for a European readership who may not have shared his good opinions. Whether the pirates were religious or whether it really was just habit is therefore debateable.

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There are various references to religion in some of the printed "Dying Words" pamphlets. These were not always composed by the pirates themselves, and even if they were, were not necessarily an accurate reflection of what they thought *before* they were sentenced to hang. Just for kicks though, here's an example:

"*He was Mightily concern'd and troubl'd, that he was to leave a poor Wife and five young children without any Susistence or provision. He was told, that God who is a father to the Fatherless, and an husband to the Widow, would not suffer them to want, if they put their trust in him; But his great concern was to secure to himself a portion in that heavenly inheritence, which should never be taken from him.*" (William Ingram)

Faced with a more natural death, some of Bellamy's men aboard the prize *Mary-Anne* turned to God during the storm that wrecked the Whydah:

"*And in their distress the [pirates] ask'd the Deponent to Read to the the Common Prayer Book, which he did about an hour*"

On the other hand, an un-named pirate crew the following year attacked Benjamin Gatchel's vessel and,

"*In ravaging the Vessel they met with two or three Bibles, at the sight whereof some started and said, They had nothing to do with them, nor with God, nor any thing Above*"

In John Taylor's company the articles were sworn to and "*signed by the interested parties who intend to uphold them by placing, in the English fashion, two fingers on a Bible*". Du Bucquoy reckoned that the pirates' singing of Psalms was more habit than conviction, but there mut have been some conviction because,

"*In order to preserve the peace and union necessary between members of the brotherhood, quarrels and insults are forbidden, likewise religious disputes*"

Perhaps the most interesting piece of evidence records that amongst the goods sent to Adam Baldridge to trade with the pirates of St Mary's Island there were "*some books, Catechisms, primers and horne books, two Bibles...*"

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Here's some stuff on religion from the 1741 Quartermaster's account of the Rhode Island-based privateer *Revenge*.

"*Sunday [July] 16th.* All hands att Rest. few Godly inclin'd, it being the Lords day." (Peter Vezian, “145. Journal of the Sloop Revenge. June 5-October 5, 1741.”, *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period,* John Franklin Jameson, ed., 1923, p. 338)

"*Sunday [August] 6.* ...Gott Clear of the Reefs and Hurricane which was terrible. Very few Godly Enough to Return God thanks for their deliverance." (Vezian, p. 347)

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Shooting pirates.

[Posted May 27, 2011](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18066-religion-on-pirate-ships/&do=findComment&comment=400526) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/18066-religion-on-pirate-ships/&do=reportComment&comment=400526)

There are various references to religion in some of the printed "Dying Words" pamphlets. These were not always composed by the pirates themselves, and even if they were, were not necessarily an accurate reflection of what they thought *before* they were sentenced to hang. Just for kicks though, here's an example:

"*He was Mightily concern'd and troubl'd, that he was to leave a poor Wife and five young children without any Susistence or provision. He was told, that God who is a father to the Fatherless, and an husband to the Widow, would not suffer them to want, if they put their trust in him; But his great concern was to secure to himself a portion in that heavenly inheritence, which should never be taken from him.*" (William Ingram)

Faced with a more natural death, some of Bellamy's men aboard the prize *Mary-Anne* turned to God during the storm that wrecked the Whydah:

"*And in their distress the [pirates] ask'd the Deponent to Read to the the Common Prayer Book, which he did about an hour*"

On the other hand, an un-named pirate crew the following year attacked Benjamin Gatchel's vessel and,

"*In ravaging the Vessel they met with two or three Bibles, at the sight whereof some started and said, They had nothing to do with them, nor with God, nor any thing Above*"

In John Taylor's company the articles were sworn to and "*signed by the interested parties who intend to uphold them by placing, in the English fashion, two fingers on a Bible*". Du Bucquoy reckoned that the pirates' singing of Psalms was more habit than conviction, but there mut have been some conviction because,

"*In order to preserve the peace and union necessary between members of the brotherhood, quarrels and insults are forbidden, likewise religious disputes*"

Perhaps the most interesting piece of evidence records that amongst the goods sent to Adam Baldridge to trade with the pirates of St Mary's Island there were "*some books, Catechisms, primers and horne books, two Bibles...*"

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

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* 
* 
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Here's some stuff on religion from the 1741 Quartermaster's account of the Rhode Island-based privateer *Revenge*.

"*Sunday [July] 16th.* All hands att Rest. few Godly inclin'd, it being the Lords day." (Peter Vezian, “145. Journal of the Sloop Revenge. June 5-October 5, 1741.”, *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period,* John Franklin Jameson, ed., 1923, p. 338)

"*Sunday [August] 6.* ...Gott Clear of the Reefs and Hurricane which was terrible. Very few Godly Enough to Return God thanks for their deliverance." (Vezian, p. 347)