PURITAN REFORMED JOURNAL
Edited for Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Joel R. Beeke, Editor
Michael Barrett, Associate Editor of Old Testament
Jerry Bilkes, Associate Editor of New Testament
Stephen Myers, Associate Editor of Missions and Contemporary and Cultural Issues
David Murray, Associate Editor of Pastoral Theology
William VanDoodewaard, Associate Editor of Historical Theology
Michael Haykin, Associate Editor
Jonathon Beeke, Book Review Editor
Ryan McGraw, Assistant Book Review Editor
Misty Bourne, Copy Editor
Gary and Linda den Hollander, Typesetter/Proofreader

Puritan Reformed Journal is published semi-annually. The subscription price per year for individuals and institutions is $20.00 in the United States, $30.00 in Canada (payable in U.S. funds), $35.00 in foreign countries (surface mail). Back issues may be purchased at $10.00 per copy.

Please address all PRJ communication as follows:

Business, subscriptions: Mrs. Ann Dykema, PRJ Administrative Assistant, 2965 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525; telephone 616-977-0599, x135; e-mail: ann.dykema@prts.edu

Editorial, manuscripts (preferred length: 3,000–6,000 words): Dr. Joel R. Beeke, 2965 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525; telephone 616-977-0599, x123; e-mail: joel.beeke@prts.edu

Book reviews: Jonathon Beeke, 2965 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525; telephone 616-432-3408; email: jonathon.beeke@prts.edu

© Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.

For a free seminary catalog and DVD, write: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Attn.: Mrs. Ann Dykema, 2965 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525; ann.dykema@prts.edu; web: www.puritanseminary.org

ISSN #: 1946-8652
## Table of Contents

From the Editors ....................................................... 1

**BIBLICAL STUDIES**

The Man of Sin: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
   **Joel R. Beeke/Paul Smalley** .......................... 5

The Ending of Mark as a Canonical Crisis — **Jeffrey T. Riddle** ... 31

**SYSTEMATIC AND HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

The Free Offer of the Gospel — **David B. McWilliams** ............ 57

Mighty in the Word: Athanasius’s Doctrine of Scripture in His War on Arianism — **Nicholas J. Thompson** .......... 91

Ulrich Zwingli on *Sola Scriptura*: The Clarity and Certainty of the Scripture in Zwingli’s Theology
   **William Boekestein** .............................................. 106

Reformed Theodicy: Calvin’s View of the Problem of Evil
   **Timothy E. Miller** ................................................ 119

Did Women Have a Reformation? The Case of Katherine Zell
   **Mark Sidwell** .................................................... 140

Scripture as Revelation in Herman Bavinck’s Theology
   **Thiago Machado Silva** ............................................ 154

**EXPERIENTIAL THEOLOGY**

The Beauty and Glory of Suffering in the Image of Christ
   **Marjolein de Blois** .............................................. 175

**PRACTICAL THEOLOGY**

Happiness: Science versus Scripture — **David P. Murray** ........ 205

**PASTORAL THEOLOGY**

Sinclair Ferguson: A Plain Preacher — **David VanBrugge** ...... 227
# Table of Contents

## MISSIONS

A Culture of Evangelism — Mark Wagenaar .......................... 247

## CONTEMPORARY AND CULTURAL ISSUES

Pornography and Ministerial Candidacy — Bruce Baugus .......... 261

## BOOK REVIEWS

Matthew Barrett, ed. Reformation Theology: A Systematic Summary

  Ryan M. McGraw ......................................................... 281

Nicholas Bownd. The True Doctrine of the Sabbath — A Critical Edition
  with Introduction and Analysis — D. Scott Meadows .......... 283

John D. Currid. Ecclesiastes: A Quest for Meaning

  Jeffrey T. Riddle ..................................................... 286

Peter H. Davids. A Theology of James, Peter and Jude:
  Living in the Light of the Coming King — Pieter de Vries ... 287

James A. Dickson. Ministers and Congregations of the Reformed
  Presbyterian Church of Scotland 1688–2016.

  Blake I. Campbell .................................................... 289

E. Di Pede and D. Scaiola, eds. The Book of the Twelve—
  One Book or Many? — Daniel C. Timmer .......................... 291

James E. Dolezal. All That Is in God: Evangelical Theology and the
  Challenge of Classical Theism — Robert D. McCurley ....... 296

Susan E. Humble. A Divine Round Trip: The Literary and
  Christological Function of the Descent/Ascent Leitmotif
  in the Gospel of John — L. Michael Morales ...................... 299

W. Bradford Littlejohn and Scott N. Kindred-Barnes, eds.
  Richard Hooker and Reformed Orthodoxy — Allen Stanton ... 300

Philip McCosker and Denys Turner, eds. The Cambridge
  Companion to the Summa Theologiae

  Ryan M. McGraw ......................................................... 304

B. S. Poh. The Fundamentals of Our Faith: Studies on the 1689
  Baptist Confession of Faith — Jeffrey T. Riddle ................. 306

Robert Davis Smart, Michael A. G. Haykin, and Ian Hugh Clary,
  eds. Pentecostal Outpourings: Revival and the Reformed Tradition

  Blake I. Campbell .................................................... 307

Kirk M. Summers. Morality after Calvin: Theodore Beza’s
  Christian Censor and Reformed Ethics — Michael Spangler .... 310

Contributors ............................................................... 313
What a rich well the Scriptures are! Well has it been said that they are deep enough for an elephant to swim in to his heart’s content, yet shallow enough for a wee lamb to bathe and drink. The first essay in our biblical studies section certainly reveals this glorious paradox. Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley discuss the difficult interpretative text of 2 Thessalonians 2, expertly probing the various perspectives on the identity of the Antichrist and the great apostasy at the close of history, neither subject admitting of an easy solution. Along the way, though, they show how the text, despite its interpretative knots, can be applied to the lives of all of God’s saints. Our second essay in this section deals with textual criticism. It is a surprising fact how few of those devoted to the Lord Jesus and its natural corollary, devotion to His Word, are interested in what is called textual criticism, namely, the determination to discover, as much as is humanly possible, the exact text of the inerrant originals of the Bible. Jeffrey Riddle, though, shows why textual criticism is indeed vital to Reformed Evangelicalism as he presents a powerful and cogent argument that the traditional longer ending of Mark should be accepted as original to the Gospel.

In this issue we have six papers dealing with systematic and historical theology, ranging from essays on Athanasius’s Word-centeredness in his battle against the fourth-century Arians (Nicholas J. Thompson) to the nature of Scripture as revelation in the thought of Herman Bavinck (Thiago Silva). David McWilliams opens with a robust defense of the centrality of the free offer of the gospel to preaching from both the Bible and church history. Nicholas Thompson then explores the remarkable ability that the Patristic author Athanasius had to faithfully exegete Scriptures in light of the apostasy of Arianism. Scripture forms the central motif of the next essay as well: William Boekestein’s treatment of Ulrich Zwingli’s grounding of the Swiss German Reformation in Holy Scripture. As he rightly notes: the engine driving Zwingli’s Reformed thought was the Bible. The response of Zwingli’s Reformed heir, John Calvin, to the reality of evil is not a topic heavily discussed in Calvin studies. Tim Miller’s
fine introduction of this theme in Calvin’s corpus is thus a welcome one, especially in view of the prominence of this question in contemporary apologetics.

“Did women have a Reformation?” At first glance, this might seem a strange question. But answering it is a very necessary one in this world awash with feminism. Mark Sidwell does an excellent job of orienting us to the question and exploring one answer through the life and witness of Katherine Zell of Strasbourg in what was a new role for women in the sixteenth century, namely, being a pastor’s wife. The final essay in this section, by Thiago Machado Silva, looks at the way Scripture functions in relation to divine revelation in the thinking of the twentieth-century divine Herman Bavinck.

Our remaining sections have one essay apiece. For experiential theology, Marjorlein de Blois explores the way in which Christ gives meaning, even beauty and glory, to the nature of suffering in this world as a Christian. In the practical theology section, David Murray shows that science confirms, and yet can never match, the Bible in what the latter has to say about that perennial quest of humanity, namely, the longing for happiness. Under the rubric of pastoral theology, David VanBrugge looks at the way in which the renowned Reformed preacher Sinclair Ferguson, to whom many of us owe a great indebtedness, reflects William Perkins’s model of a biblical preacher, one who speaks in a “plain style” and with “open, dignified, and clear communication.” For missions, Mark Wagenaar reminds us of the necessity of nurturing “A Culture of Evangelism” in our churches, for as the great missionary theologian Andrew Fuller said, God wants local churches to ever be “armies of the Lamb,” pressing forward against the fortress of hell that holds captive fallen humanity. Our final paper, dealing with a pressing contemporary issue, is by Bruce Baugus on the plague of pornography and the way it can be dealt with, especially with regard to the lives of candidates for vocational ministry. This is an excellent study and one that needs careful reflection and implementation.

And as always, there is a bevy of excellent book reviews that help readers know what is worth reading and why.