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From the Editors

This issue of the *Puritan Reformed Journal* provides a medley of topics for spiritual growth and enjoyment, opening with two essays in biblical studies. “Rightly dividing the Word of truth” in proclamation is a high calling; Timothy Decker’s call to Word shaped preaching from Psalm 2 provides a helpful example for those preaching or studying the Psalms. Michael Barrett brings us the Lord’s assessment of Israel (and the church) in response to His call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before Him (Micah 6:8).

What does it mean that the Lord Jesus Christ has fulfilled all righteousness? Michael Seal’s essay on Calvin and the imputation of the obedience of Christ provides a fitting transition from our biblical studies section, pointing us to Calvin’s understanding of the complete sufficiency of Christ for sinners. The theme of Calvin studies continues as Daniel Wiley leads us to consider the believer’s responsibility to the civil magistrate, a topic we do well to reflect on within a growing cultural and civic hostility towards biblical morality. There is also a series of papers on Puritan studies, each rich for personal and pastoral soul care. David Hall offers a comparative assessment of two English Puritans, Anthony Burgess and Thomas Goodwin, on the Holy Spirit and assurance of salvation. David Whitla shares his insightful study of the Puritan experience of melancholy as expressed in the life of Archibald Johnston of Wariston. Cory Higdon concludes our historical theology section with the fitting reflection from William Gurnall that “Puritan piety cannot be understood apart from spiritual warfare.” Josef Urban’s essay on Bunyan’s heart application of the doctrine of justification is placed in our experiential studies section, providing a fine segue between historical and practical theology. In the latter, Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley glean from Puritan challenges to live as a public witness of Christ.

Regular headlines illuminating failures of response to sex crimes and sexual immorality within churches press the need to consider our own patterns. Eric Moerdyk's essay on 2 Samuel 13 for the abused and their families gives us an excellent starting point. Already in the Old Testament the Lord gives us clear analysis of factors leading to failure, along with the corresponding call to faithful, just, and loving care for those who have suffered evil within the church. Pablo Landázuri engages with a very different issue, this one missiological: how should the issue and impacts of foreign funding on mission fields be navigated? John Livingston Nevius argued for an approach which sought from the outset to apply "principles of independence and self-reliance," warning of the dangers of foreign funding of indigenous believers, churches, and ministries. Landázuri thoughtfully engages the strengths and weaknesses of the Nevius approach.

The review sections of the journal are comprised of a stimulating mix of review articles, interview, and a complement of more academic biblical and theological reviews. There is plenty here to engage heart and mind as you take up and read—with our prayer that it will deepen and increase us all in our life in Christ.