



The Inseparability of God's Love

ROMANS 8:38–39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul declares that nothing can separate him—or any believer—from the love of God. He makes this declaration in answer to the question he posed in verse 35: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” The answer: nothing.

This is quite a statement. Experience teaches us that there are all kinds of things that can separate us from what we love. Paul lists some of them here: death, life, angels, principalities and powers, things present and things to come, height and depth, and—as if to close any potential loophole—any other creature. But absolutely nothing can separate him from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is a great comfort. The fact that nothing can separate the believer from the love of God means that he can never lose his salvation. There are some sincere and well-meaning Christians who deny this by teaching that it is possible for a Christian to fall from grace and to perish in

the end. But that contradicts the words of our text (as well as other passages of Scripture). If nothing can separate the believer from the love of God, then the believer will most certainly be saved.

How is this possible? Only because of Christ. When Christ hung on the cross, He was separated from the love of God. He cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” He was forsaken so that we sinners could be accepted. He was cut off so that we sinners could draw near. He descended into hell so that we sinners could ascend up into heaven. He became the object of God's wrath so that we sinners could become the objects of His love.

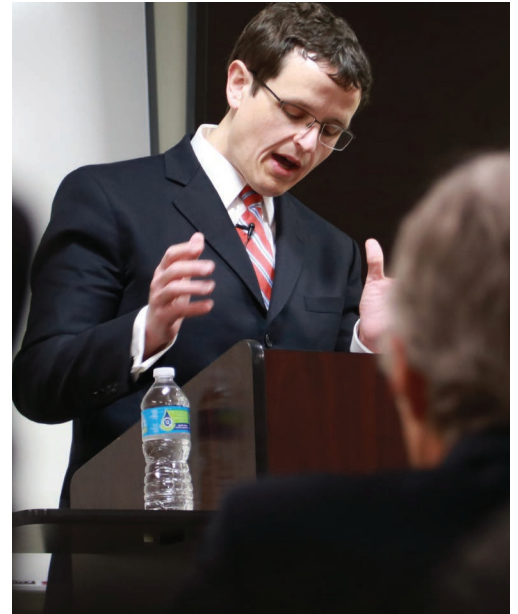
Paul acknowledges this when he writes that this love is “in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The reason why the believer can never be separated from the love of God is because he is united to Christ, the supreme object of God's love. How necessary it is, therefore, to be in Christ! Apart from Christ, we are not the object of His love, but of His wrath; but in Christ, we become the objects of His inseparable love.

—REV. JACK SCHOEMAN

INTERVIEW *with Dr. Stephen Myers*

I was born and reared in a Christian family in Concord, North Carolina. When I was a student at the University of North Carolina, the Lord called me to seminary and, while at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, I realized that He was calling me specifically to the pastoral ministry. While I was certain that the Lord intended me for the pastorate, I was encouraged by a few of my seminary professors to pursue a doctorate once I completed my M.Div, so in September 2004, my wife, Lisa, and I (we had gotten married that July) headed to Edinburgh, Scotland, to begin my studies. Three years later, we returned to the United States with a daughter and another child on the way.

Shortly after, I was called to serve as pastor of Pressly Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Statesville, North Carolina. A few years later, the Lord began giving me opportunities to teach three courses a year at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, and one course a year at International Biblical Seminary in Kiev, Ukraine. Throughout both my preaching and my teaching, I found myself drawn to issues of Christology, the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of Scripture, and Covenant Theology.



I now realize that these pastoral and academic experiences were used by the Lord to prepare me to serve Him here at PRTS. As I begin my work here, I have a controlling desire to see biblical doctrine taught in a way that strengthens the church worldwide. Because of that desire, I find the new PhD program here at PRTS enormously exciting. Lord willing, PRTS can become an international center for Reformed scholarship as well as a training ground to equip men to teach the Reformed faith to others all over the world. It is my hope that the combination of academic rigor and spirituality that drew me to PRTS in the first place will be replicated in many nations. I am praying the Lord will do marvelous things through this new program, and I look forward to seeing what the coming years hold.

In the Spring 2017 semester, I will be teaching a course on Reformed Covenant Theology; in the Fall 2017 semester, I will be teaching on Reformed Spirituality and Piety. Outside of these and other teaching duties, I will be working on a few writing projects. I will be writing the chapter on “The Theology of the *Marrow* Controversy” for the upcoming *History of Scottish Theology* project by Oxford University Press, and I also hope to write a book-length account of piety in the midst of persecution and suffering. My prayer is that the Lord will use both of these projects to bless His church in various ways!

Presently, Lisa and I have four children ranging in age from 10 years to 5 months. All of us are excited in different ways about what the Lord is doing here at PRTS, and we look forward to finding our place in the seminary community.

THE WILLIAM PERKINS LIBRARY COULD USE YOUR HELP!

We have a (short!) list of more expensive books on our wish list. If you can help purchase one or more of these titles, please contact Laura Ladwig (laura.ladwig@prts.edu). She would love to hear from you!

The Reception of Erasmus in the Early Modern Period / Enenkel, Karl A. E. (Brill, 2013) \$180

The Early Reformation in Germany: Between Secular Impact and Radical Vision / Scott, Tom (Ashgate, 2013) \$120

Richard Hooker, of the Laws of ecclesiastical Polity: A critical edition with modern spelling / Hooker, Richard (Oxford, 2013) \$350

Treaty, Law and Covenant in the Ancient Near East / Kitchen, Kenneth and Paul J. N. Lawrence (3 volumes; Verlag, 2012) \$425

The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine / Pollmann, Karla (3 volumes; Oxford, 2013) \$900

Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology / Masters, Daniel M. (Oxford, 2013) \$200

Oxford Handbook of Jewish Daily Life in Roman Palestine / Hazser, Catherine (Oxford, 2010) \$150

DR. MICHAEL BARRETT | Itinerary

February 26: Pittsburgh: Bible Baptist
 February 27–28: Pittsburgh: ATS Conference
 March 26: Jordan, Ontario: HRC

Writing Projects

A Radical, Comprehensive Call to Holiness, with Dr. Beeke
Here's Life: The Message of Ecclesiastes
 Revision of *Beginning at Moses*

DR. JOEL BEEKE | Itinerary

February 17: Grand Rapids: HRC Conference for Teachers
 March 3–4: Norfolk, Virginia: Conference on Spiritual Disciplines
 March 14–15: Greenville, South Carolina: Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Conference
 March 28–30: Bogota, Columbia: Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders—“Celebrating 500 Years of the Glorious Reformation”
 March 31–April 2: Stuart, Florida: Conference for Grace Presbyterian Church
 April 21: Lansing, Michigan: Conference on Biblical Preaching
 April 28: Orlando, Florida: Speaker on 500th Anniversary of the Reformation for Gospel to Colombia Annual Banquet

Recent Publications:

Revelation. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary of the NT. Grand Rapids: RHB.
Puritan Evangelism: A Biblical Approach (in Indonesian). Penerjemah: Paulus Sulaeman.
 “The Puritans on Marital Love.” *The Banner of Truth* (U.K.), no. 635–636 (Aug–Sept).
 Edit, Octavius Winslow, *Morning Thoughts*. Grand Rapids: RHB.
Living for the Glory of God: An Introduction to Calvinism (in Russian). Evangelical Press.
How Can I Practice Christian Meditation? Grand Rapids: RHB.
Teologia Puritana: Doutrina Para a Vida (A Puritan Theology in Portuguese.) With Mark Jones. Brazil: Vida Nova.
 “Teach All Nations: The Use of the Heidelberg Catechism in North America and Throughout the Non-European World,” with Eric D. Bristley. *Westminster Theological Journal* 78 (2016).
 “John Owen: His Writings and Views on Assurance of Faith.” *Reformation Today* (Sept–Oct).

DR. JERRY BILKES | Itinerary

March 14–17, 2017: FRC Spring Committee Meetings
 April 2, 2017: Bradenton, Florida: Bradenton Reformed Fellowship
 April 30, 2017: Mitchell, Ontario: Bethel FRC

Research/Writing projects:

Hermeneutics of Hope
Christ's Discourses in Matthew

REV. MARK KELDERMAN | Itinerary

February 16–17: Teachers conference for Plymouth Christian Schools.
 Preaching at various PRTS supporting churches.
 Working on an HRC church plant in Grand Rapids area.

Writing Project:

DMin in counseling from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

DR. DAVID MURRAY

Projects

PhD on Matthew Henry with Free University of Amsterdam
 Three books with Crossway

DR. ADRIAAN NEELE | Itinerary

January 23–24: Phoenix, Arizona: Grand Canyon University
 March 6–10: Netherlands (TUA, VU)
 March 20–24: Yale University
 April 21–28: Poland: Jagiellonian University
 June 12–16: Yale University

Projects: (Books & Article)

Before Edwards: Sources of New England Theology (Oxford University Press)
Jonathan Edwards: The Sermons on Galatians (Yale University Press)
 The Dutch Translator of Petrus van Mastricht *Theoretico-practica theologia*

GREG SALAZAR | Itinerary

May 19–20: Cambridge, UK: “Conviction, Conformity, and Conscience: William Perkins’s Dual Allegiance and the Dilemma of the Moderate Puritan Tradition in Elizabethan Cambridge,” for the William Perkins Conference

Writing projects:

“Daniel Featley and Calvinist Conformity in Early Stuart England,” PhD Dissertation, The University of Cambridge.
 Co-Editor, *The Works of William Perkins—Volume Six: Doctrinal Works on Predestination*. Grand Rapids: RHB.

DR. WILLIAM VANDOOEWAARD | Itinerary

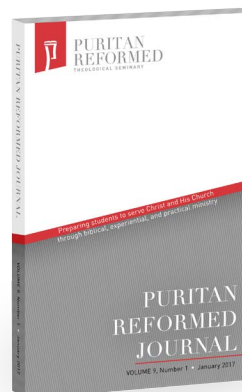
January 14–16: Cambridge, Nova Scotia: Covenanters ARP Church

Writing project:

1 & 2 Peter, Evangelical Press

Research projects:

The History and Theology of Seceder Presbyterians in Ireland
 Divine Revelation and the Discovery of Ancient Worlds: Genesis Interpretation and Ancient Historical Contexts



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For period 8/1/2016–12/31/2016

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Tuition Income	229,890	520,000	(290,110)	44%
Scholarship Donations	202,120	285,000	(82,880)	71%
Other Income	71,902	152,500	(80,598)	47%
Total Income	\$ 1,682,126	\$ 3,081,000	\$(1,398,874)	55%
Expenses				
Instruction	\$ 202,293	586,775	(384,482)	34%
Scholarships	159,650	310,000	(150,350)	51%
Administrative	967,145	2,179,225	(1,212,080)	44%
Total Expenses	\$ 1,329,087	\$ 3,076,000	\$(1,746,913)	43%
Net Income	\$ 353,039			

On behalf of the PRTS faculty, staff, and student body, I want to thank our partners for praying and for helping us to end 2016 strong.

—CHRIS HANNA

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Dr. Joel R. Beeke, *President & Professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics*
joel.beeke@prts.edu

Dr. Michael Barrett, *Vice President of Academic Affairs, Academic Dean, and Professor of Old Testament*
michael.barrett@prts.edu

Dr. Gerald M. Bilkes, *Professor of Old and New Testament*
jerry.bilkes@prts.edu

Dr. Adriaan Neele, *Director of the Doctoral Program & Professor of Historical Theology*
adriaan.neele@prts.edu

Dr. Stephen Myers, *Associate Professor of Historical Theology*
stephen.myers@prts.edu

Dr. David P. Murray, *Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology*
david.murray@prts.edu

Greg Salazar, *Professor of Historical Theology*
greg.salazar@prts.edu

Dr. William VanDoodewaard, *Professor of Church History*
william.vandoodewaard@prts.edu

Rev. Mark Kelderman, *Dean of Students and Spiritual Formation*
mark.kelderman@prts.edu

Henk Kleyn, *Vice President of Operations*
henk.kleyn@prts.edu

Jonathon Beeke, *Admissions Director and Registrar* – jonathon.beeke@prts.edu

Chris Engelsma, *Distance Learning Director*
chris.engelsma@prts.edu

Chris Hanna, *Development & Marketing*
chris.hanna@prts.edu

Laura Ladwig, *Librarian*
laura.ladwig@prts.edu

Kim Dykema, *Library Assistant*
kim.dykema@prts.edu

Dr. Fred Sweet, *Theological Librarian*
fred.sweet@prts.edu

Ann Dykema, *Faculty Administrative Assistant*
ann.dykema@prts.edu

Seth Huckstead, *Director of Technology*
Seth.huckstead@prts.edu

Darryl Bradford, *Video Producer/Editor*
darryl.bradford@prts.edu

Kim Postma, *ESL Tutor*
kim.postma@prts.edu

Corney Les, *Development Coordinator (CAN)*
cles@shaw.ca

PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2965 Leonard Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Tel: 616-977-0599 • Fax: 616-855-5740

Email: info@prts.edu • Web: www.prts.edu
Seminary EIN: 20-2394341
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