



## TEACHERS JUDGED WITH GREATER JUDGMENT

In James 3:1 we read, “Brethren, be not many masters [or teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” This is one of those texts that ought to make anyone who is aspiring to be a preacher or teacher of God’s truth sit up and pay attention. As you read through James, you can easily read over the first verse of chapter 3 with little thought, especially if you do not understand that the word “master” is simply another word for “religious teacher.”

As we enter chapter 3, James highlights the use of our tongues as examples of obedience to God. If our tongues are not reigned in, even though we may seem to be religious, our religion is empty. If everyone of us had simply recorded every word we spoke in a day, who of us would desire this to be broadcast on a website? This has particular relevance to teachers.

This first verse is first and foremost written to preachers and teachers, yet the implications are for all people. I can say with Moses, “Would God that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them” (Num. 11:29); with Jesus I would say, “What a blessed day it would be when the fields that are white and ready for the harvest would be filled by the Lord of harvest who has sent forth reapers” (see John 4:35). Yet in light of this passage we realize that to be an ambassador of the King is no small matter.

It is no small task to be set apart for the task of teacher. Not only teachers at the seminary, but those who are trained as teachers of the Word and anyone who teaches in the name of Jesus must speak the things that Jesus would want said. The teaching that is heard must be just as if the Master Himself had come and spoken. This puts a great responsibility on the one who is called to be a teacher. Ultimately, he will give an account to God for what he taught and said.

But it also highlights the responsibility of the one who hears. When you hear the words of one whom God has sent,

you need to realize that he is not speaking his own words; you are not listening to the voice of a man ultimately, nor even the voice of your President or Prime Minister. You are hearing the words of God Himself. If the word calls you to obey, you must obey; if it calls you to repentance, you must repent; if it calls you to have faith and trust, you must do so.

With this in view, let us pause and consider what a weight lies on those who are called to be this teaching voice. They are not to make up their own wisdom and ideas, because they will give account to God. Therefore, as you pray for PRTS professors and future preachers, consider that this is no small matter, for we shall be judged by a higher standard than someone who is not a religious teacher. To have preached the gospel in an unbiblical manner so that it is misunderstood, to preach the gospel without a corresponding call to holiness that does not promote works salvation, will be met with severe consequences. But to be faithful and warn those who simply rest in an objective knowledge of salvation, and to encourage those who experience weak faith but are looking to Jesus, this will bring its reward. It is not a small responsibility to set before people who are listening to the matters that relate to life and death, the whole counsel of God, and how the Holy Spirit works salvation in our hearts.

Pray therefore that your pastor and religious teachers would live like Paul who kept his body under control, and brought “it into subjection: lest that by any means, when [he had] preached to others, [he himself] should be a castaway” (1 Cor. 9:27). Pray that religious teachers, while they continue to struggle against sin themselves, might still be examples to the flock and that, as they call you to repentance, they would live a life of repentance themselves. Our Lord has said, “By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matt. 12:37).

—REV. MARK KELDERMAN

# A Librarian's Joy



When my colleague Chris Hanna approached me asking if I was willing to write a reflective essay on working in the William Perkins Library, thoughts came flooding to mind and I knew it would be a pleasure to pass

along to *Update* readers the privilege it is to work here. As my fellow library staff member Kim Dykema reminds me, “People are the most important resource in any organization.” That statement summarizes the joy I experience as I connect people (whether they are faculty, students, visiting guests, or staff members) with books that reflect their research interest, side hobby, or current life experience. Building the collection within this unique seminary milieu, knowing the people who will “take up and read” the titles gives me great pleasure. Consequently, building a unique seminary collection that reflects the people here is an important part of my work. Having a president who loves books himself is an added benefit. While other institutions are withdrawing books and shrinking their collections, we continue to recognize the valuable resource books are as we ponder

their contents in research and writing. Making this resource as accessible as possible to our users is another enjoyable aspect of my work. Whether that is typing a table of contents, indexing Scripture references found within, or classifying works to fit perfectly within our collection, I take much pleasure in maintaining an orderly, attractive, and easily accessible collection.

There are aspects of my work that I find less appealing but, in the end, the satisfaction of a job well done and a person helped overrides the immediate frustration. It never fails to thrill me when I hear or see someone using the resources Kim and I have carefully purchased, compiled, catalogued, indexed, classified, and promoted.

For *Update* readers who are unable to use the William Perkins Library in person, I encourage you to check out the free online resources we have either built or actively promote. To learn more, visit us at [www.prts.edu/library-overview/](http://www.prts.edu/library-overview/). Feel free to contact me with your reference questions.

I close with a hearty “thank-you” to the *Update* readers who have donated money in the past to buy titles requested or needed by our faculty and students. You have an important part in this unique collection.

With gratitude and joy,

Laura Ladwig, *Library Director*

## JOIN US ON THE PRTS REFORMATION TOUR 2018

Have you been debating as to whether or not to register for the 2018 PRTS Rhine River Tour, July 9–23? If so, I want to encourage you to sign up soon. The tour is quickly filling up, but there are still openings available. On this once-in-a-life-time trip you will walk on the very streets and enter some of the very same buildings as Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Melancthon, and so many more Reformation forefathers. You will visit some of the most remarkably beautiful places in Europe; places in which God has worked powerfully in the hearts and minds of people throughout history, transforming not only individuals but entire cultures.

You will not only take in the sights and sounds of these exceptional places—while traveling first class on trains, deluxe coaches, and the most luxurious of cruise ships through Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands—you will hear moving stories and commentary from first class scholars of how God sovereignly worked in and through the lives of the Continental Reformers. Your tour guides for these two amazing weeks will be...

- Dr. Joel Beeke, President and Professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, a pastor of the Heritage Reformed Congregation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and editorial director of Reformation Heritage Books.
- Dr. Ian Hamilton, most recently the minister of Cambridge Presbyterian Church until his retirement in 2016, conference speaker, Banner of Truth Trust trustee, and theological instructor at Edinburgh Theological Seminary and Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
- Dr. Michael Haykin, world-renowned Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality and Director of The Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and
- Mr. David Woollin, Sales and Marketing Manager at Reformation Heritage Books and a conference speaker.

The trip will conclude with a unique four hundredth anniversary celebration of the Synod of Dordrecht (Dort) in the Netherlands. So, do everything you can to clear your calendar, because we promise you, this is a tour you will not want to miss.

Please visit <https://bookings.wittetravel.com/tour/5656> to learn more about this exceptional trip. For a printed brochure, please contact Kristina Choura at [KristinaC@wittetravel.com](mailto:KristinaC@wittetravel.com) or 616-954-7492.



## **MICHAEL BARRETT** | *Itinerary*

March 13–15: Greenville, S.C.: Greenville Presbyterian Seminary Bible Conference

March 14: Greenville, S.C.: Greenville Presbyterian Church (Free Church of Scotland–Continuing)

April 13–15: Calgary, Alberta : Calgary Reformed Conference

April 15: Calgary, Alberta: Calgary Free Presbyterian Church

May 18–21: Burgessville, Ontario: Heritage Spring Retreat

## **JOEL BEEKE** | *Itinerary*

March 2–4: Minden, Nev.: lectures for Reformed Baptist Seminary and conference for Pastor Brian Borgman

March 13–15: Greenville, S.C.: Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary conference

March 23–25: Cambridge, Ontario: Ontario Reformed Bible conference

April 7–8: Lakeland, Fla.: preaching and teaching for Rev. David B. McWilliams

April 13–15: Indianapolis, Ind.: Reformation Indy conference

April 20–21: Washington, D.C.: homeschool conference

May 7–19: Tanzania and Nigeria, Africa: preaching, seminary teaching, conference

### *Recent Publications*

General Editor, *The Works of William Perkins*, vol. 5 (RHB).

“Assurance,” *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry Stout, Ken Minkema, and Adriaan Neele (Eerdmans).

With Terry Johnson and Danny Hyde, *Por que Devemos Cantar os Salmos?* [on Psalmsinging in Portuguese] (Os Puritanos).

Editor, *Calvino para Hoje* [Portuguese translation of *Calvin for Today*] (Editora Cultura Crista).

Editor with Jon Payne, *Ephesians* by Ian Hamilton (RHB).

## **JERRY BILKES** | *Itinerary*

March 4: Free Reformed Church, St. George, Ontario

March 20–23: FRC Committee Meetings, Brantford, Ontario

April 15: Free Reformed Church, Dundas, Ontario

May 6: Free Reformed Church, St. Thomas, Ontario

### *Recent Publication*

*Reservoirs of Strength: Lessons from the Book of James.*

## **DAVID MURRAY** | *Itinerary*

March 23–26: Hampton, Va.: Conference at Grace Baptist Chapel

April 14–15: Byron Center, Mich.: PCRT

April 20–23: Chilliwack, British Columbia: Christian School address and preaching

May 18–19: R.I.: Conference

### *Recent Publications*

*Refresh: Embracing a Grace-Paced Life in a World of Overwhelming Demands*, with Shona Murray (Crossway).

*Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids* (Crossway).

## **ADRIAAN NEELE** | *Itinerary*

March 5–9: New Haven, Conn.: Yale University

May 7–18: Alexandria, Egypt: Alexandria School of Theology

### *Recent Publication*

*The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, co-editor (Yale University / Eerdmans Publishers).

## **GREG SALAZAR** | *Itinerary*

April 2–5: Jackson, Miss.: Twin Lakes Fellowship

April 11–13: Indianapolis, Ind.: Together for the Gospel

### *Recent Publications*

“Daniel Featley and Calvinist Conformity in Early Stuart England,” dissertation submitted to the University of Cambridge.

## **DANIEL TIMMER** | *Itinerary*

TBD: Montreal, Québec: Teaching at the Faculté de théologie évangélique

TBD: Québec: Participating in one or more synods of the Église réformée du Québec

### *Recent Publication*

Review of Else K. Holt, Hyun C. P. Kim, and Andrew Mein (eds.), *Concerning the Nations: Essays on the Oracles against the Nations in Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel*, London, Themelios 42.2 (2017): 361–63.

## **WILLIAM VANDOOEWAARD** | *Itinerary*

April 6–10: Los Angeles, Calif.: Reformed Presbyterian Church Planters Conference

April 12–13: Chatham, Ontario: ARP Presbytery Meetings

### *Recent Publication*

“If Ever a Monk Got to Heaven by His Monkery: The Life of Martin Luther,” *Reformed Presbyterian Theological Journal* 4 (Fall 2017) 1:4–14.

## **Brief update on the student housing project, December 12, 2017**

Two bids have come in for our housing project. Four companies were asked to bid but two declined. The Board requires a minimum of three so new bids are being explored and should be available by the end of this year. The costs appear to be closer to \$2,900,000.00 than our earlier estimate of \$2,400,000. There are various reasons for this including storage and food pantry space, a significantly high water table, and city requirements. The need for housing is increasing as new students are admitted and available rental units become scarcer. Local vacancy is currently the lowest in the USA. Thank you for making this a matter of prayer and financial support as we seek God’s will for our growing student body. —Henk Kleyn, VP for Operations

## **RECENT NEWS**

The Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary played host to two significant Reformed organizations in October and November of 2017.

On October 16–17, PRTS hosted both the annual Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries Board of Directors Meeting and the association’s Commission on Accreditation

Commissioners Meeting. Representatives from fourteen seminaries were on hand for the meetings.

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary hosted the 43rd annual meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) from November 14–16. Delegates and their guests from fifteen denominations associated with NAPARC were present for these meetings.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2017–12/15/2017

Income	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget	Variance	Percent of Annual Budget
Donations	586,727	2,269,404	(1,682,677)	26%
Tuition Income	256,723	520,000	(263,277)	49%
Scholarship Donations	94,870	285,000	(190,130)	33%
Other Income	<u>50,240</u>	<u>108,596</u>	<u>(58,356)</u>	<u>46%</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 988,560</b>	<b>\$ 3,183,000</b>	<b>\$(2,194,440)</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Instruction	\$ 564,626	1,440,057	(875,431)	39%
Scholarships	246,440	395,000	(148,560)	62%
Administrative	<u>542,575</u>	<u>1,347,943</u>	<u>(805,368)</u>	<u>40%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,353,641</b>	<b>\$ 3,183,000</b>	<b>\$(1,829,359)</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Net Income*</b>	<b>\$ (365,081)</b>			

\*Since this report was submitted to the printer in mid-December, it does not include year-end giving for the last two weeks of 2017. Also, we are grateful to report that more than \$1.4 million has been donated or pledged for the building of student dorms. We are now hoping that the building will be underway in March.

## YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE!

- I would like to financially support PRTS by giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_, designated for:
- Operational Needs    Scholarship Fund    PhD Scholarship Fund
- PRTS Foundation    Puritan Resource Center    Housing Project
- I would like to enroll in the monthly giving program and give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.
- I am enclosing \$20 for a 2018 subscription to *Puritan Reformed Journal*.
- Send a free copy of *Theology Made Practical: New Studies on John Calvin and His Legacy* by Joel R. Beeke, David W. Hall, and Michael A. G. Haykin

## PAYMENT METHOD

- Check/cash enclosed    Charge my credit/debit card:
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Please include this form with your check.

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Please prayerfully consider a gift of any size to PRTS today. Thank you for partnering with us.

— CHRIS HANNA

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