# Table of Contents

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

**BIBLICAL STUDIES**

What’s in a Name: Illustrations of Old Testament Name Theology  
**MICHAEL BARRETT** ........................................ 5

Life Under God’s Knife: Philippians 3:3 as Strategy  
**GERALD M. BILKES** ........................................... 21

Seventeenth-Century Puritans and the Synoptic Problem  
**MICHAEL STRICKLAND** ........................................... 31

**SYSTEMATIC AND HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

Calvin’s Practical View of Adoption: Its Privileges and Duties  
**MAARTEN KUIVENHOVEN AND MICHAEL DEWALT** .......... 43

Reformed Orthodoxy in North America — **JOEL R. BEEKE** .... 63

Is God the Author of Sin? Jonathan Edwards’s Theodicy  
**B. HOON WOO** ......................................................... 98

The Full Brightness and Diffused Beams of Glory:  
Jonathan Edwards’s Concept of Beauty and Its  
Relevance for Apologetics — **DAVID VANBRUGGE** .......... 124

**EXPERIENTIAL THEOLOGY**

Easier for a Camel than Zaccheus — **MAARTEN KUIVENHOVEN** .... 145

Jeremiah Burroughs on the Excellency of Christ the Mediator  
**JIM DAVISON** .......................................................... 155

**PASTORAL THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS**

Ministerial Confessions — **HORATIUS BONAR** ............... 177

Unprofessional Puritans and Professional Pastors:  
What the Puritans Would Say to Modern Pastors  
**JOEL R. BEEKE** ....................................................... 183

Walter Lowrie (1784–1868): Champion of Presbyterian Missions  
**ROB HILL** ............................................................... 196
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
The Morality of the Sabbath — Michael Borg ................. 215
Dabney's Political Thought: Calvinian in an American Way
  Mark J. Larson ........................................ 234
John Gill on Resisting Sexual Temptation — Jonathan Boyd ... 254
Hermann Friedrich Kohlbrugge (1803–1875):
  A Comforter of Mourners — Pieter DeVries ............. 272

BOOK REVIEWS
Joel R. Beeke and Derek W. H. Thomas, eds., The Holy Spirit
  and Reformed Spirituality: A Tribute to Geoffrey Thomas
  Iain H. Murray ........................................ 287
David Alan Black, Why Four Gospels? The Historical Origins
  of the Gospels — Jeffrey T. Riddle ..................... 288
W. Gary Crampton, A Concise Theology of Karl Barth
  Jeffrey T. Riddle .................................... 291
Staci Eastin, The Organized Heart: A Woman's Guide to
  Conquering Chaos — Ryan M. McGraw .................... 292
Gilles Emery and Matthew Levering, The Oxford Handbook
  of the Trinity — Ryan M. McGraw ..................... 293
John Goris, Grappling with a Grief Engraved — Maurice Roberts ... 295
J. D. Greear, Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart:
  How to Know For Sure You Are Saved — Micah Everett ... 296
Thomas H. McCall, Forsaken: The Trinity and the Cross,
  and Why It Matters — Nathanael Y. Johnston ........... 299
Carl R. Trueman, The Creedal Imperative — Ryan M. McGraw ... 301

Contributors ............................................. 303
From the Editors

It is noteworthy that in the historical account of human origins we are told that God gave Adam the responsibility of naming the animals with whom he shared God’s flawless creation (Gen. 2:19–20). Modern men may demur, but from the standpoint of the divine Scriptures, names are important. Our first essay in this journal issue by our Academic Dean Michael Barrett looks at a small, but very important, facet of this biblical subject of names as it explores two of the names given to our Lord Jesus: “Branch” and “Wisdom.” The next article in biblical studies by Gerald Bilkes, Professor of Old Testament at our seminary, is a penetrating study of Philippians 3:3, in which he delineates Paul’s concern that Christians stay keen in their faith—“continuing on the knife edge of true religion without straying from God’s will,” as Dr. Bilkes puts it. Our third article in this part of the journal is an exploration of what has been a major subject of academic study, namely, the chronological relationship of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke to one another, or what is commonly known as the Synoptic problem. But Michael Strickland pursues this study down a unique path: seventeenth-century Puritan reflections on this area of Gospel studies. In particular, he looks at the thought of three lesser-known Puritans: Sidrach Simpson, Benjamin Needler, and Francis Roberts. This is a study that could easily be developed into a full-blown monograph. Incidentally, one of the book reviews, that on David Alan Black’s Why Four Gospels?, deals with the same subject from a modern perspective.

In systematic and historical theology we have four essays. The first is a fine study by Maarten Kuivenhoven and Michael Dewalt of Calvin’s practical reflections on the believer’s adoption, a subject of growing importance today to contemporary North American Christians, who, interestingly enough, are adopting children in ever-greater numbers. How then does this luminary of the Reformed faith lay out a theological framework for thinking about adoption in practical terms? In the next article, our President Joel Beeke provides both budding and knowledgeable students of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century American Christianity with an extremely helpful overview of the his-
tory and key events of the various groups of Reformed theology in the American colonies during this era, ranging from the earliest Puritans in New England through to such preachers as George Whitefield (whose bicentennial we celebrate this year) and Jonathan Edwards, both active in the Great Awakening. A couple of articles on Edwards—his perspective on God’s relationship to sin, by B. Hoon Woo, and the apologetic value of his concept of beauty, by David VanBrugge (both vital topics, though theological aesthetics has in recent years not received much attention—a great lacuna)—round out this section.

The section on Experiential Theology is comprised of two pieces. First, there is a sermon on Luke 19:1–10 by Maarten Kuivenhoven. It drives home powerfully what is entailed by the offer of salvation. Jim Davison, an expert on the writings of the Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs, then looks at the sermons of Burroughs on the excellence of our Savior. Both bear witness to the necessity of tying experience to biblical truth.

While some Christian journals only print new and recent material, the editors think it helpful from time to time to reprint quality older material. The first item in pastoral theology and missions is one such piece, a classic text on ministerial sins written by Horatius Bonar in his latter days—he died in 1889. Dr. Beeke then deals with the profound differences between a person who primarily sees the ministry as a profession, and one for whom preaching the Bible and shepherding God’s people are dearer to him than life itself. The final article in this section of the journal, by Rob Hill, looks at the life and ministry of Walter Lowrie, who, though largely forgotten today, was very “well known in his generation; in the nineteenth century, his name was synonymous with [American] Presbyterian foreign missions.”

The penultimate section of our journal deals with “Contemporary Issues,” though in this issue, all four of the essays in this section deal with issues in light of church history: Michael Borg examines Sabbath morality from the vantage-point of its earliest Puritan advocates and stresses that “Sabbath observance is at the root of [Puritan] spirituality”; Mark Larson looks at political philosophy through the lens of the “Calvinian” experience of American Presbyterian R.L. Dabney; Jonathan Boyd helps us listen to the wisdom of John Gill, the eighteenth-century Bible commentator, on how to resist sexual temptation; and Peter DeVries details the ongoing significance of the ministry of the nineteenth-century Dutch theologian Hermann Friedrich Kohlbrugge, especially as it relates to issues of sanctification.