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From the Editors

It is a joy and privilege to benefit from the hard work of fellow believers who have studied, reflected, and engaged in writing on diverse biblical and theological themes for us. The present issue of the *Puritan Reformed Journal* continues a fine tradition of bringing us into a study, reflection, and engagement with treasures drawn from the riches of the Word of God. Under the theme of biblical studies, Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley begin with an address on delighting in God in Sabbath-keeping. The address reminds us of both the necessity and wonderful reality of a Christ-centered, rather than a self-centered, Sabbath and life. Nicholas Thompson follows with a biblical-theological essay bringing us to think carefully through Jeremiah 31 in the light and context of the book of Hebrews, deepening our understanding of scriptural covenant theology.

How are we to rightly handle the Word? Ben Franks opens our systematic and historical theological studies section engaging Peter Leithart's proposal for a recovery of the medieval Quadriga in biblical interpretation. Franks's comparison and contrast of medieval and Puritan approaches to the interpretation of Scripture, reminds us that older is not necessarily better in historical theology. Aaron Matherly also takes us back to the medieval era. While the English monk Bede (c. 700 AD) lived in what we think of as the dark ages, Matherly's essay displays the beautiful reality that Christ preserves His church, despite the fact that our understanding of His Word is never as complete as it could be or ought to be. There is much to be grateful for in the themes of sin and grace in Bede's sermons, even as we give thanks for the greater recovery of biblical clarity in the Reformation. Perhaps fittingly in light of the previous essays on Puritan and medieval doctrine, our third article in the section, by Ottavio Palombaro, provides a ground-breaking exploration and recovery of post-Reformation Waldensian history and its connections with English and American

Puritanism. Daniel Scheiderer closes out our historical theological studies by considering B. B. Warfield's approach to the relationship between historical and systematic theology with application to the present.

In the areas of practical and pastoral theology we present two papers. The first, by Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley, is an expanded form of a conference address on plain preaching demonstrating the Spirit and His power. Both preachers and hearers will benefit from this reflection on scriptural resolutions for, and the blessed results of, faithful proclamation. With a pastor's heart Jared Olivetti gives us good counsel through the practices of friendship and cooperation among English Puritan and Scottish Presbyterian ministers, challenging us not to lose the communion of the saints in the midst of church life and ministry. Our final article, under the category of missions, brings us to an outward, evangelistic orientation. Peter Beck ably guides us through Jonathan Edwards's reflections on the anatomy of the fallen soul met by the evangelistic ministry of the Word.

An autobiographically framed review article of Petrus van Maastricht's *Theoretical-Practical Theology: Prolegomena*, by Michael Spangler, one of two Latin editors of this new translation, provides a warm and insightful preface to our complement of book reviews. A delightfully diverse range of shorter reviews rounds out the issue. 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.