THREE REMINDERS AS YOU ENTER THE NEW YEAR 2021

1. Don’t Worry About the Year 2021.
Don’t worry about what you will eat, drink, and wear this year. Your Father in heaven knows your needs. Instead of worrying, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” and all your needs will be given to you according to His will (Matt. 6:33).

After all, why worry about the unknown future of 2021 when you can pray? “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.” Yes, what will take place this year is not known to us, but for us believers in Christ, we know that God is causing all things to work together for His glory and for our good (Rom. 8:28–29). And the word good in this passage ultimately refers to our conformity to the image of Christ. The bitter events of 2021 will only make us better believers. Let us therefore welcome the New Year without fear.

2. Don’t Boast About the Year 2021.
Don’t brag about what you will do in 2021; you don’t know what will happen this year (Prov. 27:1). “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).

Don’t act as if you can control the future. You are not in control of everything. Don’t think that you can do and get whatever you want this year. You are not all-powerful. Don’t be overconfident about your future plans. You are not all-knowing. You don’t even know if you will still be alive tomorrow. Thus, learn to qualify your plans by saying, “If the Lord wills, I will live and do this or that” (James 4:15). Nevertheless, no matter what happens, God’s will is always best for us because He is all-wise and all-good.

3. Don’t Waste the Year 2021.
You waste this year when you use it only for your own pleasure. Remember the rich fool who said to his soul, “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” But God said to him, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be?” (Luke 12:19–20).

What a wasted life this rich fool had! He used his time, energy, and resources only for himself. With God’s help, let’s spend all the days of 2021 for God’s praise. Let’s also seize all God-given opportunities this year to “do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10). Remember, “Only one life, so soon it will pass; only what’s done for Christ will last.” A life spent in the service of Christ is the most meaningful life that anyone can live in this world.

—Rev. Brian G. Najapfour
Please share a little about your life (for example, about your family or ministry opportunities) since graduating from PRTS.

My name is Denis Boris, and I am a PRTS alumnus. I am married to my beautiful wife, Zhanara, and we have a nine-year-old daughter, Sophia. I graduated from PRTS in 2016. Upon my graduation, I returned to my home country, Kazakhstan. I have long felt called to be a pastor. So in September, 2016, by God’s grace, we started a church with a small group of believers. I have been pastoring our church, Maranatha, in Almaty city, Kazakhstan ever since. We are now a church of 21 members with around 30 to 35 people in attendance. I love our church. We strive to bring glory to God together as His body here in Central Asia.

How I am using my PRTS degree in my ministry? I would like to start with an important preface. No seminary can perfectly prepare a man for pastoral work in the church. But if I had not studied at PRTS, I probably would have thought that pastoral work was relatively easy. Training at PRTS taught me much, but first and foremost it taught me humility. The more I studied, the more I realized how little I know and how much I need to rely on God in everything I do, especially in serving as God’s under-shepherd.

With that major caveat aside, I now can tell you how my degree serves me in my ministry. First, I need to mention my struggle with embracing two seemingly contradictory doctrines in the Bible: God’s command to preach the gospel to every creature and the revelation about His sovereignty in salvation. The question I struggled with was how I could preach the gospel to everybody knowing that God had not elected everybody. Am I lying when I proclaim the good news without distinction? Some of the teachers were posing these questions to us as students. I am so grateful that I was pointed to the Marrow of Modern Divinity and Sinclair Ferguson’s recordings on the Marrow Controversy. That study liberated me, and I was free to preach the gospel to every creature under heaven.

Practice-preaching sessions shaped my preaching. I am grateful that professors were patient enough to suffer through the shouting of my sermons, gently correcting my fiery, yet not always intelligent, attitude.

Another helpful lesson I learned is that studying the Word of God is vital for the ministry. In pastoral ministry, the needs of people are always there, and they are never-ending. It is important to remember that the primary qualification for the pastor of God’s flock is love to God, which in turn is impossible without regular meditative time in the Word of God. I learned how to enjoy the study of the Word of God at PRTS. Greek, Hebrew, biblical theology, and exegesis classes were all geared toward equipping me to enjoy God’s Word and to be able to relate that to the people. I am very grateful for the strong emphasis on the importance of languages and exegesis at my alma mater.

Another helpful course was biblical counseling. Those classes laid the foundation for further studies. I loved how balanced the training was and how very practical it was. Some of the most memorable lessons in my life were heard during those classes. With no touch of reality from “biblical counseling,” pastors might run into the pitfall of being too harsh with their flock.

I am also grateful for the general attitude of the professors at the school. They were all available to us even though they maintain very busy schedules. They modeled the fact that I could be weak and still make it as a pastor. Observing them taught me a great lesson: our great God does not have great men of God but only weak and dependent servants.

Lastly, I would like to say that reading good theological books has become my habit because of my training at PRTS. Regular dialogues with the wisest of God’s servants are so enriching and stimulating. All good students never cease to study. Thank you, PRTS staff and faculty. I love you and am indebted to you for the rest of my life.

With much love and appreciation,
Denis Boris
A RADICAL, COMPREHENSIVE CALL TO HOLINESS
Joel R. Beeke and Michael P. V. Barrett
Published by Christian Focus; now available from Reformation Heritage Books (heritagebooks.org)

A profound biblical examination of the divine work of sanctification.

The mandate for holiness is based in the very character and person of God: we are to be holy because God is holy. His grace never leaves a man where it finds him. Grace always transforms the sinner into a saint—a holy man. God’s will is for His people to be holy, and the explanations of why and how we become holy are throughout the Bible.

Explaining the tension between positional and progressive holiness, Joel Beeke and Michael Barrett expound the doctrine of sanctification and show that it is the application of the gospel to our daily lives. If you’ve ever considered why, if we are saved by grace alone, holiness matters, this book is for you.

HC, 464 pp, Retail #39.99 | RHB price $20.00

CONTENTS

Introduction: Holiness Explained

Holiness Defined
1. Grappling with Positional and Progressive Holiness
2. Understanding Union with Christ
3. The Fear of the Lord

Holiness Exegeted
4. Possessing Our Possessions: Lessons from Joshua
5. Avoiding the Greatest Sin (Deuteronomy 6 and Mark 12)
6. The Crisis of Unbelief: Lessons from the Border (Numbers 13–14)
7. The Divine Order for Holiness (Romans 6:1–14)
8. Living for Jesus (Romans 12:1–2)
9. The "Dos" and "Whys" of the Transformed Life (1 Peter 1:13–21)

Holiness Practiced
10. Experiencing the New Birth
11. Cultivating Holiness
12. Dead and Alive: Killing the Old Man and Animating the New Man (Colossians 3:1–17)
13. Making Use of Law and Gospel
14. Living Christ and Dying in Christ

Holiness Promoted
15. Studying the Word
16. Putting on the Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:14–18)
17. Conducting Family Worship
18. Relishing the Love of God (1 John 4:8)
19. Highlighting the Puritan Contribution

Holiness Tested
20. Fighting the "Wretched Man" (Romans 7:22–25)
21. Handling Affliction Christ-centeredly
22. Overcoming the World by Faith (1 John 5:4–5)
23. Allowing Zero Tolerance for Lust (Ephesians 5:3–4)
24. Returning from Backsliding

Holiness Distorted
25. Erroneous Beliefs on Holiness in Bible History
26. Modern Controversies about Holiness

Holiness Consummated
27. Persevering in Christ to the End (Hebrews 12:1–2)
28. The Utopian Marriage of Christ and His Church (Revelation 19:7–9)
29. The Love of God in Heaven

MICHAEL BARRETT | Itinerary
January 4–8: London, UK: Issues in Exodus at the Pastor’s Academy
Recent Publication

JOE BEEKE | Itinerary
January 7–11: Los Angeles, California: preaching for Dr. John MacArthur and teaching a course in Reformed Experiential Preaching for his doctoral students
February 21: Bradenton, Florida: preaching
March 18–20: Nashville, Tennessee: Teach Them Diligently (homeschooling conference)
April 5–8: Florence, Mississippi: Twin Lakes Fellowship (ministers’ conference at First Presbyterian Church)
April 16–18: Kingsport, Tennessee: Westminster Presbyterian Church (conference)
April 30—May 2: Grand Blanc, Michigan: Berean Baptist Church (conference)

GREG SALAZAR | Itinerary
January 9: Lansing, Michigan: PCA Great Lakes Presbytery meeting, University Reformed Church
January 12–15: Houston, Texas: Teaching “Puritan Theology and History” course at Reformed Theological Seminary
February 7: Holland, Michigan: New Life Fellowship OPC
February 21: Holland, Michigan: New Life Fellowship OPC
March 21: Holland, Michigan: New Life Fellowship OPC

DANIEL TIMMER | Itinerary
January-April: Faculté de théologie évangélique, Montreal: “The Writings”
## PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### FINANCIAL REPORT

For period 8/1/2020–11/30/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Year to Date Actual</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Percent of Annual Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$1,085,294</td>
<td>$2,410,030</td>
<td>($1,324,736)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Income</td>
<td>141,514</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>(458,486)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Donations</td>
<td>46,769</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>(453,231)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>132,485</td>
<td>349,970</td>
<td>(217,485)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,406,061</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,860,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>($2,453,939)</strong></td>
<td><strong>36%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$ 605,790</td>
<td>$ 1,905,171</td>
<td>($1,299,381)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>202,207</td>
<td>505,000</td>
<td>(302,793)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>495,650</td>
<td>1,449,829</td>
<td>(954,179)</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,303,647</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,860,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>($2,556,353)</strong></td>
<td><strong>34%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Income</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$102,414</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DONATE!

- I would like to financially support PRTS by giving $_____, designated for:
  - Operational Needs
  - Scholarship Fund
  - PRTS Foundation
  - Puritan Resource Center

- I would like to enroll in the monthly giving program and give $____ per month.

- I am enclosing $20 for a 2021 subscription to Puritan Reformed Journal.

- Send a free copy of The Synod of Dort: Historical, Theological, and Experiential Perspectives edited by Joel R. Beeke and Martin I. Klauber

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Check/cash enclosed
- Charge my credit/debit card:
  - Card type (circle one): Visa  Mastercard  Discover  American Express
  - Card # ____________
  - Exp. Date _____ / _____
  - Security Code ____________

- Please send me a free copy of The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible — Genuine Leather (for donations over $150).

- Send me a copy of the PRTS 2019–2021 catalog

- Name ____________________________
- Address ____________________________
- City/State/Zip ____________________________
- Phone ____________________________
- e-mail ____________________________

*Please include this form with your check.

Canadian and US donors please send your check to:
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
2965 Leonard Street, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

For online gifts, please visit www.prts.edu/donate/overview.

**INTERNATIONAL BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION**

- Beneficiary Bank: Mercantile Bank of Michigan
- Beneficiary’s Bank Swift: MEMIUS33
- Beneficiary’s Bank Fedwire ABA: 072413829
- Mercantile Bank: 100061175
- Beneficiary Customer: Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

---

As we look forward to a new year might gratitude fill our hearts and govern our actions.

—CHRIS HANNA

---

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

Dr. Daniel Timmer, Professor of Biblical Studies
daniel.timmer@prts.edu

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

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

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

Dr. 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

Jeff Holcomb, Assistant Director of Development
Jeff.holcomb@prts.edu

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

Laura Ladwig, Librarian
laura.ladwig@prts.edu

Kim Dykema, Library Assistant
kim.dykema@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