



NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

Our new mailing address is: 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037-7431. Please do not use the Box at Lake Stevens any longer.

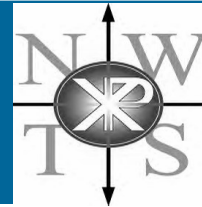
The Seminary phone and fax number is (425) 787-5144; website (www.nwts.edu).

All gifts to Northwest Theological Seminary are tax-deductible. Checks may be made payable to Northwest Theological Seminary and mailed to our address.

Northwest Theological Seminary
17711 Spruce Way
Lynnwood, WA 98037-7431
(425) 787-5144

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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NEWSLETTER



Our Story

Alan Wolfe's new book *Moral Freedom: The Search for Virtue in a World of Choice* is a sober reminder that we inhabit an era of few absolute values. Wolfe's survey of American moral instincts concludes that the 21st century will be the century of "moral freedom"—the century in which democratic values will reject any absolute moral authority which infringes personal pleasure. Yet our sensibilities still recoil in disbelief—at least at certain current outrages. And if biblical theology has a response to this cultural malaise, it is surely the vertical/horizontal interface in its realization in ethical transformation (see our NWTS logo—transectional arrows centered in Christ). Or is it not obvious that spiritual transformation (we call it regeneration/rebirth) produces ethical transformation? The writers of the New Testament emphasize this vertical (born from above) horizontal (walk/ behave as those born from above) relationship in perfectly symmetrical paradigms. As if the ethical/moral fruit (obedience to God's will) matches God's monergistic invasion of the soul to make it a heavenly citizen. A life hidden in union with Christ (vertical) gladly, joyfully behaves as if heaven were its environment (horizontal). This pattern is sometimes called the indicative-imperative relationship—that is, being translated into a state of grace (indicative) results in conformity to God's heavenly law (imperative). New Testament biblical theology is unique in the emphasis upon this pattern. Indeed, the ethics of first century Greco-Roman culture were purely horizontal—no vertical aspect existed. Christianity was (and is) different—antithetical to its culture in this (as in other) matter(s). Heaven

dominated the mind of the New Testament believer even as it dominated the teaching of Christ. Heaven-oriented ethics/morals—that is what characterized first century Christians. The loss of the sense of connection with heaven (even now) will inevitably lead to a sense of connection with the earth: transvaluation of values will rise no higher than the culture's horizon; loss of absolute (heavenly) values will be the dominant cultural pattern.

The eminently practical element of this discussion is that Christianity alone (and especially Christianity redemptive historically considered) provides the connection between heaven and earth—between heaven's will and its being done on earth. One may muse on the incarnation of heaven's Son as a son of the earth as a symmetrical embodiment of that which has been enjoined, revealed and fulfilled. Doing God's will (ethics) comes from being born of his will. Horizontal acts flow from vertical facts—Christ in us working what is well pleasing to his Father by the unction of the Spirit. Our ethical story turns out to be identified with the moral story of our Redeemer. We delight to do his will (horizontal/imperative) because he has joined us to himself (vertical/indicative).

Surely *that* is absolute and produces absolute ethical patterns. We delight to do his will, because he has made us willing.





CLASSES HAVE BEGUN!

Northwest Theological Seminary opened its doors to two eager students on September 4 at the Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Our class schedule meets Tuesday through Thursday and includes the following courses: Patristics, Homiletics, Greek, Old Testament Introduction, Westminster Confession of Faith, Vos Readings. Mr. Vosteen teaches Homiletics; Mrs. Ling Harrell (our Secretary/ Registrar) teaches Greek; and Mr. Dennison teaches the other subjects. We anticipate stimulating encounters with theologians from the early to modern centuries, emphasizing biblical theology as an evaluative grid and the Reformed confessions as the standards of orthodoxy. In May, students will be introduced to the apologetics of Cornelius Van Til under the tutelage of Dr. William Dennison.

Since the opening day of classes, one additional student has joined us part-time. We also have two regular auditors.



GOALS

Our primary goal is to train our students in the knowledge and love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. In this beginning year, we pray they will begin to be formed into the full measure of grace by the Spirit in order to build up the church of our Savior.

Our second goal is to expand our financial base

in order to expand our faculty for the academic year 2002-2003.

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Board of the Seminary met August 27 and extended an offer to Mr. John Lee for Director of Development. John, his wife, Sandy, and their young son, Preston, are members of the Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church. John brings years of sales experience to his new position. He is eager to reach out to the Reformed community in the Northwest and beyond. Please pray for him as he undertakes the important task of contacting individuals and churches on behalf of NWTS.

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

Received a Treasurer's report of \$96,000 on hand, \$15,000 of which is designated as Kerux, Inc. assets.

Elected elder David Winslow to the class of 2004.

Reelected Rev. Larry Semel, President; Scott Hunter, Secretary, and David Winslow, Treasurer.

Discussed shipping and storage of the library of Rev. Charles Dennison.

Noted the formal transfer of Kerux, Inc. to NWTS.

Set 2002 subscription rates for the journal, *Kerux*, at \$20 domestic (Canada and Mexico), \$25 elsewhere.

Instructed the Academic Dean and Business

Manager to formulate a budget for 2002-2003 and present it at the Spring Board meeting.

Approved a press release notifying various Christian publications of the opening of the Seminary.

Noted that the Summer Pastoral Institute at NWTS will feature Dr. Jeffrey Weima of Calvin Theological Seminary. Dr. Weima will speak on: "I Thessalonians: From Text to Sermon." The Institute is scheduled for August 19-23, 2002.

Set the next meeting of the Board for March 30, 2002.



KERUX CONFERENCE

NWTS was inaugurated by a week-long conference on Biblical Theology, jointly sponsored by the Seminary and Kerux, Inc. A stimulating and blessed series of lectures and sermons were enjoyed by up to 80 attendees. Complete tapes of all the presentations are available. The full set is \$25 postpaid (make checks payable to NWTS). Orders should be sent to:

Kerux Tapes
c/o Mary Vosteen
8526 13th Place NE
Everett, WA 98205

For details on the titles of the presentations, see Kerux.com on the web. And remember, Kerux.com has on-line text of numerous excellent biblical-theological sermons, articles and book reviews. Print-offs from the website are free.



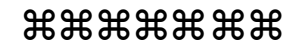
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray for the seminary, for Pete, Jim, Ling and John. Also remember our students, Jody Morris, Michial Brown and James La Belle.

Remember us in your giving for this year and the next.

Pray for new students for the next year.

Encourage men and women interested in seminary education to review our website (www.nwts.edu).



SEMINARY MORNING DEVOTIONS

SEPTEMBER 12

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Rev. Dennison led the seminary community in a reflection on Paul's comments on God's love in Christ from Romans 8:31-39. Paul's interrogatives crescendo around the death, resurrection and session of our Intercessor. "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."