

Now Available from P&R

From the back cover of *Justification*: Martin Luther contended that the church stands or falls on the doctrine of justification. With challenges to the Reformer's view coming from several directions today, R. C. Sproul finds the appearance of Francis Turretin's *Justification* "a welcome relief."

Is the ground of our justification "the righteousness of Christ in us or the righteousness of Christ for us?" In the introduction, Sproul finds Turretin (1623-1687) to be "at his best" when addressing these key issues.

"Perhaps Turretin's greatest strength was his acute intellect," writes Sproul. "He was the master of those fine distinctions that make for precision." Turretin's contemporaries celebrated not only his erudition, but also his eloquence and his ministries of mercy.

"If we hold sacred the notion that God has created us with minds for the purpose of seeking understanding," Sproul writes, "then we will delight in the clarity and precision of thought Turretin's work presents to us."

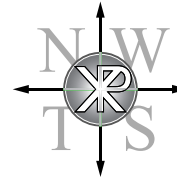
Turretin's work on justification originally appeared in his *Institutes of Elenctic Theology* (1688). This is the first time *Justification* has been printed separately.



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER

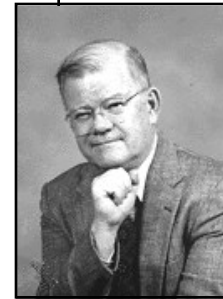


His story *is...*

OUR STORY

NWTS Summer Conference August 6-7

The Summer Conference 2004 is almost here! NWTS has invited WORLD Magazine's "Daniel of the Year 2003," Phillip E. Johnson to speak. He has stimulated an interesting debate in the scientific community by pointing out that



Darwinism is naturalistic philosophy, not science. In a 1997 interview with WORLD magazine writer Jay Grelen, Johnson is quoted as saying, "Ministers and Christians in science 'have been heavily influenced by indoctrination . . . Evolutionary science is based on naturalism and draws phi-

losophical conclusions to that base. That's why any theistic evolution is inherently superficial. It leads people into naturalistic thinking, and they don't realize it."

Lectures will be held on August 6-7, 2004 at the Lynnwood OPC. Tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$15 for either day, or \$25 for both days. Students and children are encouraged to attend with or without a donation. Call or e-mail us for detailed information at (425) 787-5144 or at Registrar@nwts.edu.

The Promised Day of New Things

A devotional by Scott Hunter,
Board member of NWTS

With all the gruesome news of late, it seems discouragement is always knocking at our door. We are bombarded by up-to-the-minute descriptions of stories displaying the depravity of man in ways that stretch the imagination. Thanks to technology, people from all over the world can even have video of such events delivered to their own home computers! The power of modern media—we can relive the lead story as if we were there.

The prophets of God saw long ago that this world is not a "fixer-upper." Second chances, better role models, pious policies and the like, though they have their place in society, will never be effective antidotes for the callous heart. The ailments of this world are not merely the result of improper techniques. When the Apostle Paul stared deeply into the human heart in Romans 3,

Through the proclamation of the Gospel, sinners are being united to Jesus. Their hopeless story in this world was His story on the cross and His resurrection story is now their eternal story of hope!

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FALL CLASS SCHEDULE - PAGE 5!

Many NWTS Classes Appeal to Students and Auditors!

This fall term will be the first time that NWTS has been able to offer classes for first, second and third year students simultaneously. With the largest and most diverse student body ever, this 2004-2005 academic year promises to be filled with many notable landmarks. Early indicators suggest that NWTS will have at least 6 and possibly as many as 8 students enrolled in degree programs, in addition to about a dozen auditors by September. Praise God for the continued growth of the student body!

Our commitment of service to the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ goes beyond just training pastoral and degree program students. It is also part of our goal to be a resource and help to local reformed churches, counsels and sessions. We do this by providing an academic environment that facilitates familiarity with our Reformed Standards and heritage for anyone who is interested in auditing a class.

This Fall, potential officer candidates and new office bearers will especially benefit from the **Westminster Confession** class. It includes coverage of the English Reformation, the rise of Puritanism, the English Civil War, the original Directory of Worship, and Form of Government (classic New Testament exegesis in defense of Presbyterianism). The bulk of the course consists in a chapter by chapter exposition and dis-

cussion of the Westminster Confession using A. A. Hodge's commentary entitled *The Confession of Faith*.

Also stimulating familiarity with our Reformed Standards is the **Three Forms of Unity** class, which will serve as an introduction for potential officers or as a possible "refresher" course and renewal time for current officers. Taught by Mr. Scott Sanborn, it will examine the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort in light of their historical background, including sixteenth and early seventeenth century continental Reformed theology. Included will be a study of their influence on the life of the church.

Ecclesiastical Latin will be taught by Mr. Denison this Fall, and will assume NO previous knowledge of Latin. The course will meet two and a half hours per week September through April; and on completion, the student will have the equivalent of two years of the language. Students will interface with Latin texts from the church fathers, medieval theologians, Reformation theologians, and more. Homework and study outside of class will require about 4-6 hours per week. Whether you are an interested layperson, or a veteran office holder looking for renewal, register your interest now! Call the Registrar at (425)-787-5144.

"... the time I was in class was possibly the most nurturing, challenging, and heart-opening time I've had, spiritually, in quite a while. I believe this is a direct result of the seminary's unique ability to train and equip individuals for the work of the gospel -- and for that I'm extremely thankful. I continue to recommend NWTS to all of my friends. Thanks and many blessings for all of your hard work, I'm sure it's paying eternal dividends, or at least in my life it has."

— David Richmon, youth pastor and NWTS student

(Continued from page 1)

he did not find residing there the celebrated potential for selfless love, kindness and lasting peace; but rather death, deception, destruction and misery. The Lord said that the human heart was the source of "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders" (Matthew 15:19).

The prophets, therefore, proclaimed a remedy of *new things*. They found no hope in Israel's abilities to reinvent herself. The old theocracy must be thrown away and a new one remade in her place. The Immanuel promise will not be consummated with stone temples or sheep's blood or an earthly king or a Palestinian land. A new Israel is required with a new heart. A new temple is needed, a new king, a new priesthood, a new sacrifice, a new heavens and a new earth secured in the saving work of the only begotten Son of God.

In the coming of Jesus the promised day of new things has come. The Lord himself is the promised new gift, a gift given to *whoever* believes in him. Jew and Gentile receive the gift of the Lord. This gift is theirs because they have called upon the Lord; and they have called upon the Lord because they have believed; and they have believed because they have heard; and they have heard because a preacher was sent. In this new age of fulfillment, the floodgates have broken wide open and heralds of Christian hope are proclaiming the Easter story from one corner of the world to the other!

By the grace of God, hard hearts of stone are being recreated into new hearts of flesh. The poison of depravity is being replaced with the incomprehensible peace of God. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, sinners are being united to Jesus. Their hopeless story in this world was his story on the cross and his resurrec-

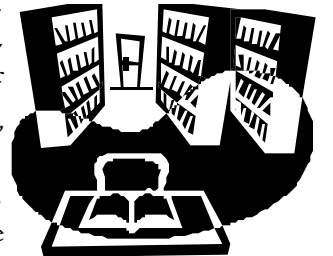
tion story is now their eternal story of hope!

During these distressing days we may need a reminder to find our encouragement in the Lord. God is working all things together for good to those who love him. In a masterfully orchestrated symphony of his sovereign good pleasure not one note is missed—he does indeed do all things well! By the power of the Gospel, our King of Kings is even now saving men from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. The Gospel is our encouragement; Jesus is our story.

Scott Hunter is a ruling elder at Emmanuel OPC in Kent, WA. He is a charter member of the NWTS board of directors.

Library News

The NWTS library is currently under construction. The former classroom, the use of which is donated by the Lynnwood OPC, has already been both cleared of furniture and fixtures, and repainted. After the door is relocated, the shelving will be erected that will be custom designed to maximize shelf space. Thank you to everyone who has donated space, expertise, time and effort to help make this valuable resource available for the benefit of Christ's Kingdom!



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in my own study of the Word. Over the course of many years, I've developed a good sense of the message that scripture contains, and the relationship of Old Testament prophecy to New Testament fulfillment. But now I sensed a subtle difference in Pastor Vosteen's preaching from what I had heard before. What connected scripture to scripture, also connected *me* to scripture—Christ!

Today, after two years of class work, I am only six credits away from beginning the second year of the degree program. At the rate of one or two classes per term, it may take a while for me to finish the degree, but it isn't the degree that is significant. I see now that the important thing is how these classes have drawn me ever closer to my Savior.

I now have a good foundation in Greek. The language study is opening new vistas of understanding through grammatical, structural and narrative devices that illuminate and elucidate the message. I am now beginning to understand that the connectedness I had noticed in the sermons has to do with Christ, who is the focal point of all Revelation.

In both the Old Testament Introduction and New Testament Introduction classes it has become evident to me that the Bible demands this hermeneutic as its very own. Every part of Scripture is an intrusion of the consummate realm that is connected to the rest of Scripture in three ways: it looks back to previous revelation, it makes its own unique contribution to the unfolding of redemptive history, and it connects forward to that which is to come. Old Testament writers looked back to the past and forward to both the Incarnation and the Second Coming. New Testament writers, anchored in Old Testament history, recognized the estab-

lishment of the Kingdom of the Resurrected Christ in which all true Israel lives and anticipated the consummation which is the secured hope of all true Israel. In my union with Christ, I am united to believers of every age. I read my own history in Christ as I read the Word. The way I live my life from day to day is being changed as I learn what it is to be in Christ and a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for helping us develop NWTS as a resource and witness of reformed theology in the "wilderness" of the Pacific Northwest. I am grateful for each class and every lecture. I have made a serious commitment to this program. I am pleased to find myself drawing on what I have learned, whether I'm teaching my grandchildren, or a Sunday School class, or interacting with business associates and friends. Your support is affecting lives beyond those of us who sit in the classroom. Your support helps make this ministry possible, and I thank you.

-Alice Hamstra, NWTS student

Prayer Requests

We rejoice with Adam King in his excellent performance on his licensure exams.

Please continue to lift the financial needs of NWTS before God. Our monthly support is well ahead of previous years, but still significantly trailing our budgetary needs on a month to month basis.

We have several new students looking for living arrangements and dealing with the tasks of relocating to the area. Pray that the Lord would provide for their needs.

Thank the Lord for His provision of the new library, and ask that He will use it for the edification of the saints.

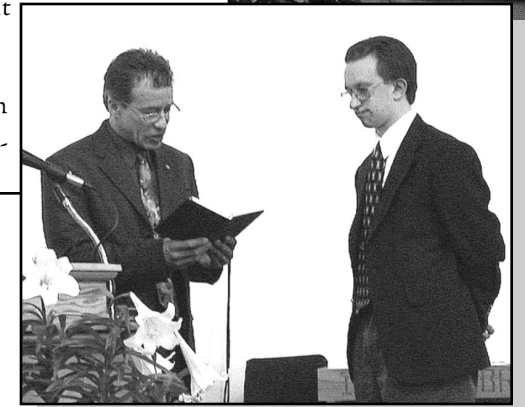
Congratulations Adam King!

Third year student Adam King successfully sustained his examination for licensure in the OPC Presbytery of the Northwest on April 24.

When recommending Adam for examination on the floor, the Candidates and Credentials Committee commented that his written tests were completed "exceptionally well."

Adam delivered a sermon on Acts 2:40-47. NWTS is making this sermon available free of charge to anyone who requests it on audio CD.

Following the exhortation, Adam sat comfortably for the oral exami-



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Tim 2:15



nation. Over forty questions were directed to him, and every one was answered in a direct and well composed fashion. Some long standing members of the presbytery commented that it was among the most competent examinations they have seen.

Thank you, Adam, for all your hard work and thank you to all the supporters of NWTS who have helped make this educational opportunity possible. May Christ be honored by your service!

A Student's Perspective

Most of the students enrolled at NWT S are younger men looking toward a career as a pastor or a teacher. I am a student, but I am neither a young man, nor am I following an apparent career track. These facts lead most people to ask the question, "What are you doing in the Master of Religious Studies program?"

-by Alice Hamstra, student in the M.R.S. program

There are two main reasons why I enrolled in the M.R.S. program at NWT S. The first reason is that for many years I have wanted to be able to read God's Word in the original languages. While studying at Westminster Theological Seminary in 1962-63, my late husband was persuaded of the value of understanding scripture in the light of the original languages by his professor Ed Palmer. When my husband continued his studies at Calvin Seminary, Dr. Palmer coincidentally accepted a call to Grandville Ave. CRC. As a result, I had enough exposure to his preaching to develop my own sense of that value. I could see for myself the benefits of working with the original languages to perceive nuances in the text, which translations cannot effectively convey. From that time on, it has been a dream of mine to master the biblical languages, and NWT S was the obvious choice due to its fervent commitment to biblical language study.

The second reason I'm now a student at NWT S involves my recent exposure to the preaching of Pastor Peter Vosteen. His preaching was familiar to me in the sense that, like Dr. Palmer, his sermons had a kind of "connectedness" that made sense when you heard it, but I couldn't put my finger on how to identify these connections

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Huldrych Zwingli Writes on the Imputed Work of Christ

"We believe that according to his human nature the very Son of God truly died to give us assurance of expiation of our sins. But we also believe that he truly rose again from the dead, to give us the assurance of eternal life. For all that Christ is is ours and all that he does is ours. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that he might give us life. If he rose again, he rose again for us, thereby initiating our resurrection. Hence Paul describes him as the first-fruits of them that slept, that is, of the dead. . . . Notice . . . that the force of the affirmation is in the fact that Christ and all his work is ours."

-Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531)



Zwingli, the renowned Protestant Reformer of Zurich, Switzerland, wrote these words to Francis I, the King of France in the summer of 1531. They are part of his

"Exposition of the Christian Faith", first published in 1536 by Heinrich Bullinger, his successor in the Zurich Reformation. Zwingli's "Exposition" is required reading at NWT S, part of several primary Reformation documents assigned in the Reformation and Post-Reformation course taught by Prof. James T. Dennison, Jr.

James T. Dennison, Jr., ACADEMIC DEAN:
French Translators, Apollinaris, Philadelphia, PA: P&R Publishing. (Edited and abridged Chapter of Topic 16 of Institutes of Christian Theology, Vol. 2 (1994) edited by James T. Dennison, Jr.)

Book review on Bible and Peoples in Early Christianity: The World of the Acts of the Apostles by Hans-Joachim Meuch. News: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 1911 (May 2004): 69-73

"Catholiconary 19: Orama and Cassa." News: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 1911 (May 2004): 60-66.

Translator/Contributor. "Medieval Recognition of the Mass: Saint Nicholas of Lyra and the Cistercians on Psalm 20 (1270-1249 C.E.)", in William Yarchin, History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2004) 97-108.

Dr. William Dennison, PROFESSOR OF APOLOGETICS:
Book review on Van Til's Apologetic Reading and Logic (Craig L. Bahnsen). Calvin Theological Journal 39 (April 2004): 188-191.

Peter Vosteen, PROFESSOR OF HOMILETICS:
Pastor Vosteen continues pastoring the Lynnwood OPC, and preached at the Reformed Youth Services worship service at West Beach Conference Grounds on May 23rd. He will be preaching at Covenant OPC, Tacoma, on July 11th and in the Lynnwood OPC on July 18th.

Scott Sanborn, PROFESSOR OF SYSTEMATICS:
"The Old and New Covenants and the Law: Was the Mosaic Covenant a Preceptive Covenant of Grace? A Dialogue." News: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 1911 (May 2004): 3-08.

*Book review on Untergang der Welt: Ein Apokalyptischer Brief * a Letter by John P. Marver. News: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 1911 (May 2004): 70-74.*

Book review on Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics: The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy ca. 1600 to ca. 1713: Vol. I. Prolegomena to Theology, Vol. 2. Holy Scripture, Vol. 3. The Church Sacraments and Ministries, Vol. 4. The Theology of God by Michael A. Muller. News: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 1911 (May 2004): 76-78.

Northwest Theological Seminary Fall 2004 Class Schedule

Classes begin September 7, 2004. Classes end December 6, 2004. Reading Week is December 7-10, 2004. Exam Week is December 13-17, 2004. All classes are held at the NWT S campus in the facilities of Lynnwood OPC. Members of the community are encour-

aged to audit at \$40.00 per course. Please contact Ling Harrell, Registrar, at (425) 787-5144 or at Registrar@nwt.s.edu for more information. Schedule updates, book lists and the current academic catalog may be found on our website www.nwt.s.edu.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		9:00-11:00: Homiletics 3/Worship/Church Administration			9:30-11:30 Westminster Confession OR Ecclesiastical Latin (TBA)
11:00-12:00 Modern Church History (LUNCH) 12:30-2:00 Psalms and Wisdom		11:00-12:00 Modern Church History (LUNCH) 12:30-2:00 Psalms and Wisdom			
2:00-3:30 General Epistles & Revelation	2:15-3:45 Old Testament Introduction	2:00-3:30 General Epistles & Revelation	2:15-3:45 Old Testament Introduction		
3:30-4:00 Greek Reading 4:00-4:30 Doctrine of the Holy Spirit	4:00-5:30 Greek IA	3:30-4:00 Greek Reading 4:00-5:00 Doctrine of the Holy Spirit	4:00-5:30 Greek IA		
DINNER BREAK	DINNER BREAK	DINNER BREAK	DINNER BREAK		
7:00-9:30 Ecclesiastical Latin OR Westminster Confession (TBA)	8:00-9:00 Homiletics IA 8:00-9:00 Patristics I	7:00-9:00 Medieval Church History	8:00-9:00 Vox Readings 8:00-9:00 Patristics I		