“Our Justification Consists in the Forgiveness of Sin and the Imputation of Christ’s Righteousness. We believe that our salvation consists in the remission of our sins for Jesus Christ’s sake, and that therein our righteousness before God is implied: as David and Paul teach us, declaring this to be the happiness of man, that God imputes righteousness to him without works.”

—Belgic Confession (1561)
Article XXIII

For an excellent discussion of the biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone, pick up a copy of Francis Turretin, Justification, edited by James T. Dennison, Jr. (P&R Publishing, 2004) and feast your soul on the riches of Christ’s grace.

Yet more good news!

Justification: Grace upon Grace—His Story Is Our Reality
by James T. Dennison, Jr., Academic Dean

The doctrine of justification by faith is back in the news. That is good news, because any time we renew our understanding of the glad tidings of justification by Christ alone, we are again focused on the heart of the gospel. Justification is the defining doctrine for the apostle Paul. After all, he had been trained in the bad news of justification by the works of the law (Gal. 2:21) and realized the futility of that method of salvation. If it is about me and my (sinful) works, justification is hopeless. Or, to paraphrase the sublime apostle: if we had hoped to be justified by our works, we are of all men most to be pitied. The pity of God Almighty—indeed his wondrous grace (Eph.

Marc Renkema is our new professor of pastoral theology and counseling. Marc brings even more ministerial and pastoral expertise to the NWTS faculty, and this helps the school realize its goal of “pastors mentoring pastors.”

Marc served as the pastor of Congregational Life and Outreach in the First United Reformed (Continued on page 4)

NWTS Library Opens!
The long awaited library will now be open and available for use beginning with the fall semester.

“Counseling from a biblical theological perspective requires that the starting point be our union with Christ and our unique position as citizens of the heavenly arena.”

-Rev. Marc Renkema

Every new fall semester seems to start off with a bigger bang than the last. This year we’ve seen the new library come together, new class offerings, two new students in the pastoral program, and the addition of a new faculty member.

(Continued on page 3)
FALL 2004 Class Schedule

Want to learn more about the Word of God? It’s not too late to audit any Fall 2004 class at NWTS for only $40!

visit your first class for free and register when you come again.

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>9:00-11:00</td>
<td>PT 730 (2 CR) Homiletics 3/Worship/Church Administration</td>
<td>9:00-11:30 CH 741 (2 CR) Ecclesiastical Latin</td>
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<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>CH 740 (2 CR) Modern Church History</td>
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<td>OT 701 (3 CR) Psalms and Wisdom</td>
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<td>NT 711 (3 CR) General Epistles &amp; Revelation</td>
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<td>3:30-4:00</td>
<td>NT 710 (1 CR) Greek Reading</td>
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<td>6:00-8:00</td>
<td>ST 720 (4 CR) Doctrine of the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 NT 510 (3 CR) Greek IA</td>
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<td>7:00-9:00 CH 542 (2 CR) Westminster Confession of Faith</td>
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<td>6:00-8:00 PT 530 (2 CR) Homiletics IA</td>
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All classes are held at the NWTS campus in the facilities of Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church located at 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037. Adult members of the community are welcome to audit courses at $40.00 per course (auditors are not required to purchase textbooks unless specified). Please contact Ling Harrell, Registrar, at (425) 787-9144 or at Registrar@nwts.edu for more information.

Faculty in Action: Recent Ministry, Preaching and Publishing

J. Peter Vosteen, M.Div.
Professor of Homiletics:
Pastor Vosteen continues pastoring the Lynnwood OPC, and preached at the Reformed Youth Services worship service at Warm Beach Conference Grounds on May 23rd, Covenant OPC, Tri-Cities, on July 11th, and in the Lynnwood OPC on July 18th and 25th.

James T. Dennison, Jr., Th.M.,
Professor of Church History and Biblical Theology; Academic Dean:
Francis Turretin, Justification,Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing. (Edited and abridged offprint of Turretin’s “A Review” and “A Dialogue.”)


Book review on Listening to the Text: Oral Patristics I (A. Knowles and P. Penkett)
Review of History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader (W. Yarchan)

Scott F. Sanborn, Th.M.,
Professor of Systematics:


Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary 19/1 (May 2004): 75-76.

Dr. William Dennison, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of Apologetics:
August 3, 2004: Presented three hours of lectures on “Apologetics in the Context Journalism” at the summer session of World Journalism Institute.

May 4-5, 2004: Presented lectures on “Presuppositional Apologetics” to finish an academic course on the said subject for MTIOPC (Ministerial Training Institute of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church).

Preached at Immanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church (Moon Township), Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (OPC) in Chattanooga, TN

Marcus J. Renkema, M.Div.,
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology:
Pastor Renkema continues pastoring the Bothell OPC and counseling as needs arise.
Church in Chino, CA from 1994 - 1997. Since 1997, he has been the pastor of Trinity OPC in Bothell, WA.

Asked about his philosophy of counseling, Marc responded, "Counseling is an important part of the Christian ministry. Counseling from a biblical theological perspective requires that the starting point be our union with Christ and our unique position as citizens of the heavenly arena. Much of what passes for Christian counseling today reduces counseling to pure legalistic moralism. Rather than encouraging parishioners to live their lives hidden in Christ, many pastors leave their parishioners beat up and discouraged. In teaching this subject, my desire will be to lay a proper theological foundation from which a pastor might encourage the saints through the various trials of life."

—Tony Hamstra

Prayer Requests

Our financial viability has changed dramatically for the better. Several estates have named NWTS as a beneficiary. Please praise God with us for his providence and grace to us in allowing us to continue to serve the church in this way. While this is excellent financial news for the long term, we continue to absorb thousands of dollars of monthly shortfalls in the short term. Please pray that God would provide the means to bridge these lean months.

We have several new students who are starting their seminary studies this fall in the M.Div. Program. Please lift them up before the throne of Grace as they take on this challenging commitment to service in the Kingdom.

Thank the Lord for His unusual provision of the resources that went into the new library. Pray that our Savior would be honored by the scholarship that will be promoted by its use and ask that He will edify the saints through it.

(Continued from page 1)

God has provided in many unusual and unexpected ways for the development of this resource.

It seems like just yesterday that we got the sad news that the city zoning would not allow us to set up a temporary prefabricated building to house the collection of over six thousand volumes. Over several months, and some discussion of all the possible options, the Lynnwood OPC was willing to offer the use of one of their classrooms for the construction of the NWTS library.

Over the summer months, much volunteer labor went into the project. Paint, drywall, removing and replacing fixtures— one thing led to another and the scope of the project seemed to grow and grow. In June, the decision was made to custom build shelves because it was the only way to get enough shelf space to make all the most important resources available for this fall.

With almost two-thirds of the materials being donated by Elstrom Manufacturing in Ballard, our volunteers got to work designing and building the custom shelves. Both King's Cabinets in Issaquah and Kenco cabinet shop in Lynnwood donated the use of their facilities, equipment and expertise to help finish the job.

While not all the books in the NWTS collection will fit in the space available, the most important and useful materials will now be readily at hand for students, auditors and for the continuing education of pastors and office bearers in the Pacific Northwest.

“Christ therefore came into the world in order to raise us to heaven. He bore the punishment of our sins from the moment of his conception to the moment of his resurrection in order that we might be free from them. He perfectly fulfilled all righteousness in order to cover our unrighteousness.”

—Hungarian (Reformed) Confession (1562), Chapter 3.24

(Translation from the original Latin by James T. Dennison, Jr.)

“Merely through his goodness, without any regard to our works, God is pleased to accept us freely in Jesus Christ, imputing his righteousness to us; and does not impute our sins to us (Titus 3:5-7).”

—John Calvin,
Geneva Catechism (1541), Question 118
2:8)—is that he had mercy on us and our sinful works, which had earned us an eternity of misery. He sent forth his own righteous, beloved Son to do for us what we were totally unable to do for ourselves. More good news!

And when that precious Son of the Father did the work of justification on our behalf, he did not stop at halfway measures. He provided his own perfect righteousness in obedience to the law (remember, we are all unrighteous) and, grace upon grace, granted that righteousness to us (imputed it to us is another way of saying this). Yet more good news!

And then this marvelous Son of God added a second benefit to his full and complete work of justifying the ungodly (Rom. 5:8). He died on the cross to take away the Hell-penalty that we had earned by our sinful unrighteousness. Even more good news! A double cure: from unrighteousness to righteousness (imputed); from condemnation to forgiveness (pardon).

Such good news should never be forgotten, especially in the context of the current discussion of justification. After all, our justification is by Christ—by Christ alone; by Christ’s life alone—not our life (for his life is perfectly righteous and the imputation of that righteousness is what we need to stand right with God, Job 9:2); by Christ’s death alone—not our penances or mortifications (for his atonement is alone sufficient to take away the guilt and Hell I have earned by my sin); by Christ’s resurrection alone—not our life, renewed or otherwise (for his resurrection is the declaration of his justification and our justification in him covenantally, Rom. 4:25).

So in the current discussion on justification, let us be renewed, let us rejoice, let us rehearse over and over again, the blessed good news that Christ Jesus’ work alone justifies us—not our works; that Christ Jesus’ life, death and resurrection alone justifies us—not our life, death or resurrection; that our Justifier is Jesus Christ, our precious Savior. There is good news for every sinner. Good news for eternity—and that makes justification an eschatological reality!!

—James T. Dennison, Jr., Academic Dean

“What is justification?

Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”

—Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647), Question 33

“Creation vs. Evolution: Darwin on Trial” was the theme, and Dr. Phillip E. Johnson was the speaker for the best attended conference in the history of NWTS. Over the span of the two-day lecture series (Aug 6-7), several hundred attendees enjoyed the winsome wit and scintillating scholarship of the father of the modern intelligent design movement. Johnson lectured on the philosophy of Darwinism, its weaknesses, and the state of the debate today. He also commented on the impossibility of modern theistic evolutionary theories. All the lectures and Q&A sessions are available on cassette or compact disk for a suggested donation of $10. Contact Ling at (425) 787-5144 or registrar@nwts.edu for more information.

Summer Conference 2004