

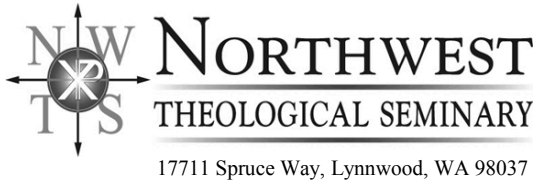
SUMMER 2009 SCHEDULE



Dr. Bill Dennison is presently teaching Introduction to Apologetics (7:00-9:00 pm) and Introduction to Systematic Theology (6:00-7:00 & 9:00-10:00 pm), Monday–Friday (May 26-June 11) with a Saturday session on May 30, 10 am-Noon. **Auditors and visitors are welcome to sit in on one or both classes for \$40 a course.**

WEBSITE RESOURCES

The NWTS website, www.nwts.edu, has two new features: an exposition of the Song of Solomon with downloadable outlines and definitions by James T. Dennison; and also, our Reformation Day 2008 address on the Overview of the Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation (Vol. 1:1523-1552) by the Editor, James T. Dennison. The address is an introduction to each of the 33 Confessions in the volume. You may obtain a copy of the book via the link to the publisher on the opening page of our website.



Volume 10, Issue 2
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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER

His story is...

Our Story

RABBONI

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turneth and saith unto him, Rabboni” (Jn. 20:16). It happened all in a moment, and by a simple word, and yet in this one moment Mary’s world was changed for her. She had in that instant made the transition from hopelessness because Jesus was absent, to fullness of joy because Christ was there...

“Rabboni” has a special untranslatable significance. It was the personal response to the personal “Mary,” to all intents a proper name no less than the other. By speaking it Mary consciously re-entered upon the possession of all that as Rabboni he had meant to her. Only one thing she had yet to learn, for teaching her which the Lord did not deem even this unique moment too joyful or sacred. In the sudden revulsion from her grief Mary would have given some external expression to the tumult within by grasping and holding him. But he restrained her saying: “Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended unto the Father; but go unto my brethren and say to them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and my God and your God” (Jn. 20:17).

At first sight these words may seem a contrast to those immediately preceding. And yet no mistake could be greater than to suppose that the Lord’s sole or chief purpose was to remind her of the restrictions which henceforth were to govern the intercourse between himself and her. His intention was much rather to show that the desire for a real communion of life would soon be met in a new



“Touch me not’ does not mean: Touch is too close a contact to be henceforth permissible; it means: the provision for the highest, the ideal kind of touch has not been completed yet: ‘I am not yet ascended to my Father.’”

—Geerhardus Vos (1862-1949)

and far higher way than was possible under the conditions of local earthly nearness. “Touch me not” does not mean: Touch is too close a contact to be henceforth permissible; it means: the provision for the highest, the ideal kind of touch has not been completed yet: “I am not yet ascended to my Father.” His words are a denial of the privilege she craved only as to the form and moment in which she craved it; in their larger sense they are a pledge, a giving, not a withholding of himself from her. The great event of which the resurrection is the first step has not yet fulfilled itself; it requires for its completion the ascent to the Father. But when once this is accomplished then all restrictions will fall away and the desire to touch that made Mary stretch forth her hand shall be gratified to its full capacity. The thought is not different from that expressed in the earlier saying to the disciples: “Ye shall see me because I go to the Father.” There is a seeing, a hearing, a touching, first made possible by Jesus’ entrance into heaven and by the gift of the Spirit dependent on the entrance.

An excerpt from the sermon “Rabboni” by Geerhardus Vos, the full text of which is available online at www.kerux.com.

FALL ENROLLMENT

To date, the Faculty has admitted three students for September. With one returning student, we have the potential of four students in September.

DONATIONS

Summer is a challenging time for us, so please don’t forget us in your giving. We also covet your prayers.

FACULTY NEWS

James T. Dennison, Jr., Academic Dean, gave an illustrated presentation in honor of Calvin’s 500th birthday at the Lynden Community Center, Lynden, WA, on April 17. The presentation focused on Calvin and the Genevan Confessions. On May 8th at NWTs, he gave an illustrated public lecture on the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C. with photos of the destruction layers at the Halzi Gate. The OT prophetic texts from Isaiah, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and especially Nahum were featured.

Rev. J. Peter Vosteen, Professor of Homiletics, taught Homiletics for the Ministerial Training Institute of the OPC from April 29 to May 3 at the Lynnwood OPC.

Scott F. Sanborn, Professor of Systematic Theology, is presently working on several book reviews. See his review of Richard A. Muller’s *Post Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*, Vol. 2 in the May issue of *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*.

LECTURES ON THE LIFE OF DAVID IN SEPTEMBER

Evening lectures on the Life of David for the public begin September 10th at 7 pm. Each Thursday of the 1st and 2nd semester, James T. Dennison will present the structural analysis, narrative theology, characterization and Christocentric biblical theology of 1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 2.



Last “Our Story”

THIS MAY BE YOUR FINAL COPY OF “OUR STORY”

In an effort to reduce unnecessary costs in these challenging economic times, we are trimming expenses where we can. Our mailing list is one place where we are able to cut some costs. Thus, in an effort to exercise good stewardship with the resources the Lord has graciously granted us, we are proposing the following.

- ◆ If you have sent a gift donation to NWTs since 2005, you will continue to receive “Our Story”. No action on your part is necessary. Thank you very much for your support of our program; your gifts are vital to our ministry.
- ◆ If you would like to receive “Our Story” by e-mail instead of via regular mail, please let us know. You will be able to view it in pdf (Adobe) when it is published. In order to sign up for this service, please send a note to registrar@nwts.edu. This will enable us to capture your e-mail address and add you to the list of those wishing to receive an electronic version. We assure you that we will not use your e-mail address for anything other than seminary contact.
- ◆ If you have NOT sent a gift donation BUT would still like to receive “Our Story”, you must write to us and specifically request to **remain on the mailing list**. Please remove your mailing label from this copy and insert it in the return envelope with a note “Keep me on the list”. You may also wish to enclose a small gift for the work of the seminary.

If you do not fall into one of the three categories above, we will remove your name and address from our mailing list before the mailing of the September issue.