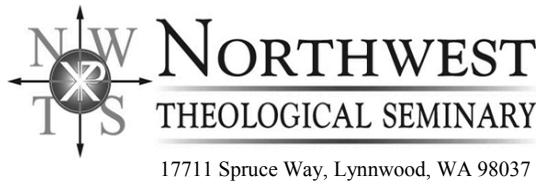


Class Schedule—Spring Semester: Classes begin Monday, January 6, 2014
Please see nwts.edu for details.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

There are also a number of audio resources available at www.nwts.edu. We are currently featuring the Thursday evening lectures by James T. Dennison on the Epistle of Jude. This Thursday evening series can be downloaded to your home computer or MP3 player. Both the Kerux articles and the NWTS audio resources are available to the public at no cost.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.NWTS.EDU FOR UPDATES, CLASS SCHEDULES, DOWNLOADABLE LECTURES AND MORE!



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

Our Story

Offspring of God

In Luke 1:35, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that the child she will bear is “the holy offspring who shall be called the Son of God.”

When we have children, part of the joy over the new arrival is the discussion, “Whom does he or she look like?” We are interested in noticing how they resemble others in the family—how it can be seen that they are our offspring.

Mary’s child will be called the “Son of God”. Jesus is also referred to in Scripture as Mary’s son. From Mary, Jesus receives his human nature. And in his human nature, he resembles her. He also resembles all of mankind, but with one exception—he does not have our sinful nature. Jesus is like us so that he can represent us, die in our place and lead us to heaven in eternal life.

Jesus is God’s “holy offspring”. As such, he resembles God the Father. To resemble God is to be righteous like he is. Now indeed, God’s righteousness is revealed in his law. God is certainly the law-giver and his commandments are to be obeyed. Jesus will show himself to be the likeness of God in his own regard for the keeping of the commandments. But Jesus makes it clear that righteousness is more than law-keeping. As Geerhardus Vos states in his sermon “Hungering and Thirsting After Righteousness”: “Righteousness is in Scripture an idea saturated with the thought of God . . . to have the thought of God’s presence and supervision constantly in mind, and to shape one’s conduct accordingly” (*Grace and Glory* [1994] 31-32).

Jesus does not resemble Joseph. It is Joseph who resembles Jesus in righteousness. When Joseph finds that Mary is pregnant before their marriage, “. . . not wanting to disgrace her, he desires to put her away secretly.” The thought of God, the God of grace and mercy and forgiveness of sinners, determines his conduct so that he deals kindly and graciously with Mary. And the text bestows the divine approval upon Joseph’s action declaring him to be “a righteous man” (Matt. 1:19).

All of us who desire to be the sons and daughters of God in Christ are called upon to resemble God. We are called to “be imitators of God as beloved children; and walk in love just as Christ also loved (us) and gave himself up for us” (Eph. 5:1-2). We imitate God and are God-like when we imitate Christ and are Christ-like.

(Continued on page 2)

Jesus, born in Bethlehem is the holy offspring. He is the Son of God and he is the perfect resemblance of his heavenly Father. By God's grace, be like him! Resemble Him! Be Christ-like! Righteousness is not mere law-likeness. Righteousness is Christ-likeness. Be righteous like Christ! For in resembling him, you and I also, in creaturely fashion, resemble God, and will be called the sons and daughters of God, the offspring of God in him.

— Lawrence Semel

KERUX: If you are a regular visitor to our online journal website (www.kerux.com), you have undoubtedly noticed "the transformation" earlier in the year! Our web guru, George Young, gave the site an overhaul and the result is quite impressive. All issues of Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Seminary are available here. These online archives provide a variety of theological articles, sermons, and book reviews. For your convenience, the website allows you to search the archives by book of the Bible, author, issue, or you can enter a key word. In the December issue of *Kerux* you will find messages by Scott Hunter on the subject of Ecclesiastes (he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of NWTS) and Rev. Marc Renkema on the Sermon on the Mount (he is the adjunct professor of Practical Theology at NWTS). The issue also contains the second installment of Jim Dennison's "Biblical Theological Catechism" in which he provides a BT overview of the book of Genesis in question and answer style.



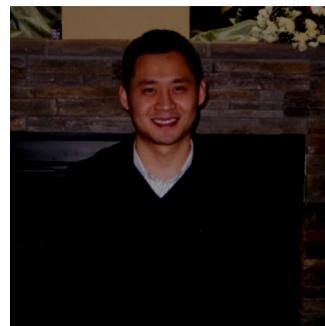
Excerpt from: A Carol [III]

Awake dull soul, and from thy fold of clay
Receive the blessed tidings of the day:
For in the house of bread, this Bread of Life,
For us is come to Joseph and his wife,
And though the city David's were, therein
His Son no throne possesses, but an inn.

Giving

Please remember us in your year-end giving. We recognize the challenges many of you face during these financially difficult times and are very grateful for the sacrificial giving you have extended to NWTS. The vast majority of the NWTS annual budget is paid for through donations. Your financial support in any amount is valuable to us, for you are the instrument by which our Sovereign Lord continues to faithfully sustain us.

New Student Introduction



Ying-Ju Chen was born in Pintung, Taiwan and spent his childhood growing up in Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. After being raised in the Taoist and Buddhist tradition, Ying-Ju first came to know the Lord at an evangelical rally in Taiwan in July 2007. We've asked him to chronicle this experience for us and recount more about how he arrived at NWTS and what the Lord is doing in his life. "During the evangelical rally, the preacher was preaching about the goodness of Christ. He conveyed that the goodness of Christ cannot be fully described in words, but people would come to a clearer understanding of it once they believed in Christ. Intrigued about the goodness of Christ, I decided in my heart to give Christianity a try so I could figure out what this was all about.

Many things have happened since that evangelical rally. By God's grace, since my conversion, I have been given the opportunity to live in different countries while holding diverse jobs. No matter where I traveled, I witnessed people trying to fill up the voids in their life with the perishable things of this world. At the same time, the true and pure gospel of Jesus was very limited, even in the churches that I visited. In God's providence, I ended up in one of a handful of churches where the pastor delivered Sunday sermons in accordance with Reformed Theology. My heart was stirred up. Originally, it was because I had finally come across sermons that were consistent with the Scriptures and showed forth both the New and Old Testament eras as one continuum of redemptive history. I wish this kind of preaching could be more readily available. This is what led me to Northwest Theological Seminary (NWTS).

My seminary experience has been both rewarding and challenging. Because the classes are there to help students to discover and preach Christ from all of Scripture, this journey has been very edifying to my soul. Initially, the large amount of information to retain challenged me to improve my time management skills. Thankfully, the NWTS faculty is very attentive to the individual student's strengths and weaknesses, and they always proactively provide support and suggestions to help the students grow. I believe this is due to the fact that, while being knowledgeable educators, most of the faculty are experienced ministers as well. Needless to say, the courses are ambitious in their content. In all of the classes that I have taken, the professors always push me to be more precise in my responses and more perceptive in my analysis. Overall, I'm very grateful for the NWTS approach in preparing their students for Christian ministry. I hope that, just as I was effectually called at God's appointed and accepted time six years ago, by the end of my seminary education I can be a faithful instrument used for the truthful proclamation of the gracious gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Board and Faculty of NWTS seminary wish you all a Joyous Christmas and Blessed 2014 filled with God's richest Grace.