

Editor's Preface

Here we are at the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It is incredible to think of all that has transpired in the visible church since that day in October 1517 when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg in Saxony. Here at Haddington House, we have endeavoured to mark this anniversary with a special themed volume where the majority of our articles focus on some aspect of the Reformation. I believe they do make a good contribution and help to further ongoing discussion concerning the relevance of the Reformation for today.

Let me begin with our general article section. I would encourage all readers to consider the opening article. It is a clarion call by Michael Haykin to remember the Reformation. This is followed by Flip Buys' sermon which incorporates the Heidelberg Catechism, one of the most popular of the Reformation catechisms, on the theme of Christ's ascension. Flip then applies this well to the church of today. The next sermon is a fine exposition of Daniel chapter one by John Koning. It speaks very much of living for Christ today. The final general article is a reflective composition by Darren Stretch where he thinks over the continuing need to hold to the authority of God's Word.

Once again we have a solid number of books being highlighted through reviews and briefs. There are almost forty this year. The Biblical Theology department has many new commentaries reviewed, and these will be of interest to many ministers and preachers. Under the Systematic Theology department we begin with reviews of two volumes of the new "The Five Solas Series" in commemoration of the Reformation. There is also a review article about global theology, which will stimulate discussion across the continents. The Historical Theology department has two reviews on Reformation leaders plus one on an early pioneering leader in colonial British North America. In the Applied Theology department we have a wide range of reviews covering character formation, biblical counseling, church planting, apologetics, writing, ministry, spiritual life, and Christian higher education.

Our Book Briefs focus on Christianity in Africa and also a new series of short books by a publishing house new to us – Cruciform Press in Minnesota, USA. The latter seven were reviewed by Steve Mollins. The aim of Cruciform is to "publish short, clear, useful, inexpensive books for Christians and other serious people. Books that make sense and are easy to read, even as they tackle serious subjects." The Cruciform books are usually about one

hundred pages in length. We trust that you will enjoy learning about this publishing house established in 2010.

The academic articles focus on themes related to the Reformation. Each explores in-depth aspects of the Reformation not always at the top of the list for consideration: two kingdom theology from the Reformation to the current debates and discussions on this; next, current scholarship on the Scottish Reformation is noted and organized, which will serve as a good “go to” article for the Scottish Reformation; then, an interdisciplinary article explores the Reformation and worship and architecture – a much neglected area of scholarly study until most recently; next, there is an article exploring missions and the Reformation with the evangelical and Lutheran branch which developed amongst the Magisterial Reformers; and finally, an academic article focusing on a noted woman of the Reformation period. The place of women in the Reformation has not received much attention, so we are pleased to include this article here. I think each of these articles makes a helpful contribution to ongoing Reformation studies in this the five hundredth anniversary year.

As editor I want to thank each of our contributing writers and also our readers. Without writers this journal would not have its variety and range. I am always happy to receive suggestions for future articles and reviews from writers, so please feel free to email me.

Now take up and read and may you be blessed.

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