

From the editor

Contrary to the beliefs of some in the Reformed tradition, Baptists have been a significant tributary in that great Reformation river. In this issue, Jay Collier, a Ph.D. candidate under Dr. Richard Muller of Calvin Theological Seminary, examines the exegetical methodology of one of the most important Reformed Baptist leaders of the seventeenth century, namely Hanserd Knollys (c.1599-1691). Like many in the history of the Church, Knollys sees in the Song of Solomon a depiction of the love of Christ for his people. This older perspective has been abandoned by many in recent years, but it appears to this writer to be a valid way of reading the biblical book. Collier helps us appreciate the reasons why an exegete like Knollys read the Song of Solomon in this way.

Our second essay is also focused on a key Baptist leader, namely John Gill (1697-1771) of the eighteenth century, a renowned defender of the doctrines of grace. In his day, though, Gill was equally known for his passion for eschatology. Dr. Barry Howson of Heritage Theological College, Cambridge, Ontario, guides us through the eschatological intricacies of Gill's thought. He helpfully contrasts Gill's premillennialism with the postmillennialism of Andrew Fuller (1754-1815), and shows how differing eschatological visions can have an impact on the mission of the church.

Our previous issue featured the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905. In this issue we return to Wales with Dr. Wyn James' fabulous study of Ann Griffiths (1776-1805) and Mary Jones (1784-1864). If the 1904-1905 Welsh revival brought a remarkable spiritual stirring to

Wales, the revival in northern Wales in the late eighteenth century in which Ann and Mary were involved was even more remarkable. In this year, the bicentenary of the death of Ann Griffiths, it is so good to be reminded of the impact of her life and that of her contemporary Mary Jones. Their passionate love of the Scriptures—and that of the Calvinistic Methodist revival of which they were a part—and of the Saviour of which they speak is a valuable rebuke to the low, desultory view of Scripture and Christ in far too many sectors of contemporary evangelicalism.

Our final article is a review by Scott Dyer, a M.A. student at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario, of the recent magisterial biography by George Marsden of the life of Jonathan Edwards. Although there have been some good biographical studies of Edwards in recent years, that of Marsden will probably be the definitive work for a good number of years. Dyer's review summarizes some of the rich features of Marsden's work and is an encouragement to the readers of this *Bulletin* to pick the book up and read it!

Michael A. G. Haykin,
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