

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](https://paypal.me/robbradshaw)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *Reformation & Revival* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_ref-rev-01.php



Reformation
& **REVIVAL**
JOURNAL

A Quarterly for Church Renewal

VOLUME 14 · NUMBER 1 · 2005

REFORMATION & REVIVAL JOURNAL

Reformation & Revival Journal (ISSN 1071-7277), (U.S.P.S. 011-791), is published quarterly, for \$28 per year, or \$48 for two years, by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., 630 Paxton Place, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-9244. Second-class postage has been paid at Carol Stream, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Reformation & Revival Journal*, P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216.

Reformation & Revival Journal is indexed in *Christian Periodical Index* and *ATLA Religion Database*, published by the American Theological Library Association, 250 S. Wacker Dr., 16th Fl., Chicago, Illinois 60606, E-mail: atla@atla.com, <http://www.atla.com/>.

Reformation & Revival Journal is published four times each year by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit teaching ministry organized in the state of Illinois in 1991. The ministry is committed to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the infallible Word of God and is in essential agreement with the confessional statements of historic Reformation theology. The purpose of this ministry is centered in its name:

1. To encourage *reformation* in local Christian churches worldwide.
2. To promote the cause of *revival* and spiritual awakening through prayer and the provision of resources to aid Christian leaders.

Subscription rates are \$28 for one year, \$48 for two years. Special full-time student rate is \$18 for one year. Please remit in U.S. currency only. For overseas orders add \$4 for each year for postage. Canadian subscribers add \$2 per year for additional postage. Back issues and single issues are \$10 each. To order in other currencies contact the names below:

Australian subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (Australia)
c/o Malcolm Bouchard
110 Marshall Road
Rocklea, Qld. 4106

United Kingdom subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (UK)
c/o Tony Ruston
2 Caxton House, Wellesley Road
Ashford, Kent TH24 8ET, England • Phone: 01-233-662262

Canadian subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (Canada)
c/o Don B. Cook
2113 Victoria Avenue E
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 1E4 • Phone: (807) 622-2325

Correspondence concerning articles, editorial policy, books for review, suggested manuscripts, and subscriptions should be addressed to the editor. Comments are welcome.

The conviction of the staff and editors of the *Reformation & Revival Journal* is that awakening, of the kind seen in the First Great Awakening in America, wedded to the doctrinal concerns of the historic Protestant Reformation as expressed in the terms *sola scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*, is needed in our generation.

The views expressed in this publication should be considered as the personal opinions of the authors and are not to be taken as an official editorial perspective.

A Quarterly Journal for Church Renewal

Published by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216
(630) 221-1817

Editor-in-Chief:

John H. Armstrong

Associate Editors:

Ardel Caneday

T. M. Moore

P. Andrew Sandlin

Thomas N. Smith

Managing Editor:

Anita Armstrong

Design and Production:

Ragont Design

Subscriptions Manager:

Stacy Kifer

Copy Editor:

Dana Hood

Contributing Editors:

Joel R. Beeke

Robert Benne

Donald G. Bloesch

David Bryant

Elmer M. Colyer

Susan Cyre

Eifion Evans

Gabriel Fackre

John Franke

Don Garlington

Timothy F. George

Michael A. G. Haykin

I. John Hesselink

John Mason Hodges

Alan F. Johnson

Nelson D. Kloosterman

Robert Kolb

Erwin W. Lutzer

Ralph MacKenzie

Bassam Madany

Gerald R. McDermott

Andrew T. B. McGowan

Charles H. McGowen

David P. Mills

Peter Moore

Thomas C. Oden

Kevin Offner

James I. Packer

Rebecca Pippert

Tom Schwanda

H. E. Singley

C. Samuel Storms

Travis Tamerius

Robert E. Webber

Tom Wells

Luder Whitlock

Monte Wilson

Terry Yount

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFORMATION & REVIVAL JOURNAL

<i>Introduction</i>	
John H. Armstrong	7
<i>A Reformation & Revival Journal Dialogue Between P. Andrew Sandlin and John H. Armstrong</i>	11
 <i>Articles</i>	
<i>The Grace of Law and the Obligation of Gospel</i>	
P. Andrew Sandlin	29
<i>Salvation and Theological Pedagogy</i>	
John M. Frame	57
<i>Law and Gospel in Covenantal Perspective</i>	
Norman Shepherd	73
<i>Law and Gospel: The Contribution of the "New Perspective on Paul"</i>	
Don Garlington	89
 <i>Jonathan Edwards on Justification: Closer to Luther or Aquinas?</i>	
Gerald R. McDermott	119
 <i>Law and Gospel or Gospel and Law?—Karl Barth, Martin Luther, and John Calvin</i>	
I. John Hesselink	139

Departments

Annotated Bibliography

 John H. Armstrong 173

Ministry Resources

Book Reviews

179

 Backbone of the Bible
 Bound Only Once: The Failure of Open Theism
 The Cost of Moral Leadership: The Spirituality of
 Dietrich Bonhoeffer
 Divine Discourse: The Theological Methodology
 of John Owen
 Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel
 The Last Things: Resurrection, Judgment and Glory
 The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church

Book Briefs

207

Final Thoughts

 John H. Armstrong 218

INTRODUCTION



John H. Armstrong

*P*rotestant Christian theology teaches that individuals are saved fully by the grace of God on the ground of Christ's atoning death and victorious resurrection. This doctrinal formulation is actually consistent with the whole of historic Christian tradition, East and West. What is distinct about Protestant theology is its resolute assertion that this gracious salvation is appropriated only by faith, apart from any human merit or law-keeping. Simply put, in classical Protestant thought there is no room for human cooperation, of any sort, in the saving of the human person. There are disagreements, in later Protestant development, regarding the contribution of the human will, but even here there is still a serious attempt to consistently preserve the non-meritorious nature of human faith. This commitment is unique for a number of reasons. Some of these reasons have to do with exegetical concerns developed within Protestant history. Others flow out of a distinct Protestant and evangelical response to the theological developments of the Middle Ages.

But there has also been a concern in Protestant theology to insist that obedience and good works in the believer's life are the inevitable effect of this completely gratuitous salvation. In fact, the faith which truly saves is itself an act of obedience, at least in some Protestant thought, albeit one granted

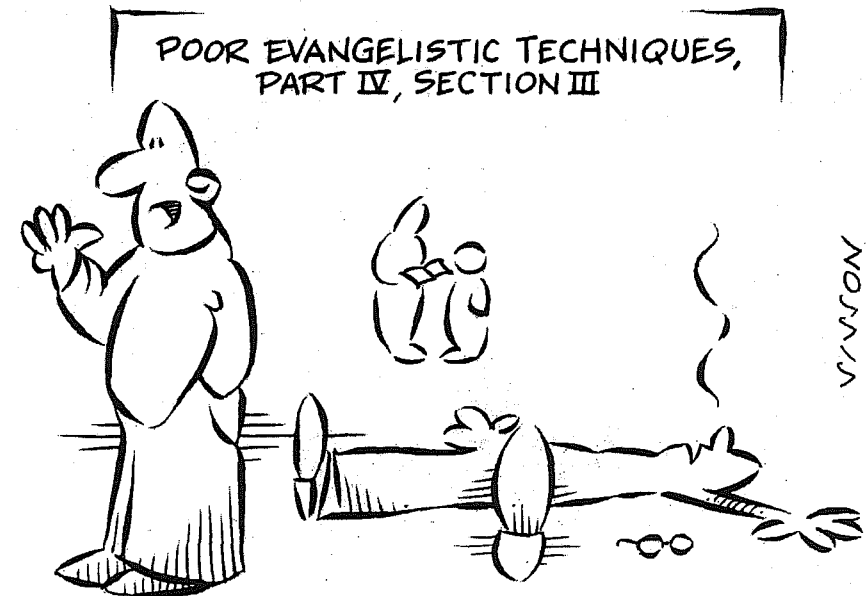
by the gracious operation of the Holy Spirit.

The perennial problem for Protestants in this regard has been to answer one basic question: "How is it possible to safeguard the fully gracious character of salvation without diminishing the necessity of obedience and good works, apart from which none will be saved?"

In an attempt to shed contemporary light upon this perennial question, Reformation & Revival Ministries and the Center for Cultural Leadership (California) sponsored a symposium on law and gospel in Chicago, Illinois, in March of 2004. This symposium included twelve different speakers, and twelve excellent respondents. Each paper presented at this symposium addressed questions related to law and gospel. Ten papers were from within the confessional traditions of Protestant Christian faith. There was one Roman Catholic contribution and one from an Orthodox perspective. The goal in the entire event was to listen, to dialogue, and to better grasp the message of the Bible and the Christian Church. These addresses and responses were all recorded on tape and are available from www.soundword.com if you desire to hear the entirety of the symposium.

The conviction of the sponsors of this event was that individuals are graciously called into a covenant relationship with the living God, mediated exclusively by the redemptive work of Christ, and as covenant members they are charged with, and empowered for, *faith and obedience*. In this way, both the gratuitous character and the bilateral obligation of salvation are preserved.

Can Protestants retain the central concerns of their historical perspective while they also seek to be faithful to their reformist roots and the role of Scripture in renewing the church? Can we still be judged by Scripture while we deal fairly and honestly with our confessional traditions and concerns? I believe an affirmative answer is not only possible but necessary. This issue presents some of the material from this 2004 symposium, in a version edited for publication, with the hope that it will foster further interest in the renewal of the church by Word and Spirit.



HE SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION, SO I DECKED HIM.