

Editorial

This issue of the *Southwestern Journal of Theology* is devoted to biblical studies, bringing together some of the exegetical, historical, and theological contributions that are being offered by faculty within the Biblical Studies Division of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The issue begins with Joshua E. Williams' demonstration that the Pentateuch is a book with a message that begins in the first chapters of Genesis and characterizes the entire development of the Pentateuch. Second, Sang-Wong (Aaron) Son examines the concept of the "one new man" in Paul's letter to the Ephesians with regard to the doctrines of man and the church. Dr. Son's well-considered exegesis and conclusions are thought provoking and should generate substantial interest in his upcoming reflections on the Pauline doctrine of the universal church. Third, James Wicker delves into the earliest history of the church by examining inscriptions from the earliest Christian buildings, providing substantial proof that pre-Constantinian Christianity displayed a high Christology at the popular level.

Fourth, John W. Taylor analyzes a little-known Greek lectionary manuscript that is housed in the Roberts Library at Southwestern Seminary, providing us with such important information as the purpose of the manuscript, its liturgical uses, its dating, etc. Fifth, B. Paul Wolfe, now Headmaster at the Cambridge School of Dallas, provides a subtle evaluation of recent literary trends among New Testament scholars. Finally, hearty thanks are extended to John W. Taylor for bringing the biblical studies essays together and providing the first round of editing. His contributions have been invaluable to the publication of the first issue of the 52nd volume of the new series of the *Southwestern Journal of Theology*.

Three review essays are printed in this issue. One review essay is provided by Southwestern New Testament scholar Herbert W. Bateman IV and considers *The Messiah in Early Judaism and Christianity*. Of note is a compilation of reviews on the essays collected in the recent popular systematic theology, *A Theology for the Church*. The reviews of the essays in *A Theology for the Church* are written by systematic theologians affiliated with Southwestern Seminary's Theological Studies Division.

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