

# DRTS NEWSLETTER

## The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

### Number 9 – May 2006

### “The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

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#### **Bavinck’s Dogmatics, Vol. III**

Last month the third of Herman Bavinck’s four volume *Reformed Dogmatics* (*Gereformeerde Dogmatiek*) came off the press. The event was celebrated at the society’s spring board meeting, held in Ada at the corporate offices of Baker Publishing.

Volume III is subtitled “Sin and Salvation in Christ.” Divided into four parts, it covers “The Fallen World” (chapters on the origin, the spread, the nature, and the punishment of sin), “Christ the Redeemer” (chapters on the covenant of grace and the person of Christ), “The Work of Christ” (chapters on Christ’s humiliation and Christ’s exaltation), and “Salvation in Christ” (an extended chapter on the order of salvation). In typical Bavinck fashion, the subject material interweaves a balanced handling of classic Christian and Reformed themes with perceptive reflection on major Western intellectual developments. The material is remarkably relevant today.

Editorial work on Volume IV has been substantially completed by Dr. John Bolt. It, the final volume of the dogmatics, should appear on the market in the spring of 2007.

#### **Acquiring Bavinck**

Members of the society can obtain the new volume, as well as the earlier two volumes and the four titles on spirituality, at the 50% discount to which they are entitled. Like the first two, the new volume retails for \$50. Members’ price is \$25.

Purchase at this price is possible only through

Reformation Heritage Books  
2919 Leonard St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525.  
Phone: 616-977-0599.  
E-mail: @heritagebooks.org

**When ordering, be sure to mention your membership in order to receive your discount.**

The staff of Reformation Heritage Books has a current list of society members.

Non-members can purchase DRTS at deeply discounted prices from this source as well, but not at the rates members enjoy.

Members who have completed the “automatic mailing” form should already have received their copy of Bavinck III via Reformation Heritage Books. If not, please contact this vendor.

All members who have not completed such a form are receiving one with this issue of the newsletter. By completing and returning it to us, they will receive society publications automatically when they are published. The DRTS address is on the form.

#### **Progress Report—Future Titles**

The translation of Professor Arie de Reuver’s *Verborgen Omgang* is complete in the editing and production stage. It will appear as *In Sweet Communion: Trajectories of Spirituality in the Middle Ages and Further Reformation*.

Contracts have been signed with Baker Academic and with the translators for producing a translation of Bavinck’s last work: *Essays on the Terrain of Science and Religion*. This book consists of some 15 essays that Bavinck considered his best contributions in such diverse fields as education, psychology, philosophy of religion, aesthetics, and politics. The translators are Dr. Harry Boonstra, retired theological librarian at Calvin, and Rev. Gerrit Sheeres. Both immigrated as young adults and know theological Dutch well. Boonstra has done a number of translations, also for our society. This new volume is being edited by Dr. John Bolt, whose editing of the dogmatics makes him the obvious choice for this responsibility.

The board expects that this volume will appear by 2008, the centennial of Bavinck’s lectures at Princeton Seminary.

## April Board Meeting

At its meeting in April, the board conducted its annual elections. Joel Beeke, Gerald Bilkes, James De Jong, and Adriaan Neele were re-elected for three-year terms.

The board also re-elected its slate of officers: James De Jong, President; Joel Beeke, Vice-President; Nelson Kloosterman, Secretary; and David Engelsma, Treasurer.

The treasurer reported receipts of just over \$5,500 and disbursements of just over \$3,500, leaving a balance of \$26,251.61 as of March 31. Most of the balance is committed to completing the two Bavinck titles. The remainder will be used as seed money for new projects.

The publisher reported that each of the first two Bavinck volumes has sold over 3,000 copies. Excerpts of Bavinck on eschatology and on creation, published as paperbacks in 1996 and 1999, have sold over 6,400 and over 5,500 copies respectively. The four volumes on spirituality have sold between 1,700 and 2,400 copies each.

An active subcommittee is considering some half dozen new titles on spirituality. The subcommittee considering whether to translate the major work of Peter Van Mastricht, which in scope is the size of Bavinck's dogmatics, has been expanded. The board decided not to translate the Reformed systematic theology of Gerhardus Vos, since it dates from very early in his career and is not of the same quality as other projects.

The board decided that it will once again make its titles available at dramatically subsidized rates on Reformed seminary campuses this fall.

## Series Used in Seminary Course

The four titles on spirituality were used in James De Jong's course at Calvin Seminary this spring, which was entitled "Spirituality and Discipleship in the Dutch Reformed Tradition, from the Reformation to W.W. I."

Jonathon Spronk of Edgerton Minnesota said of them, "I found these authors to be a

wonderful introduction to the thought and beliefs of my Dutch Reformed heritage. The authors present insights that are still very relevant to Christian faith and spirituality."

Rev. W. Yang of Seoul, Korea, wrote, "The DRTS spirituality series presents classic material that offers profound principles and practical insights for Christian spiritual formation today. Thank you for your challenging introduction to this series."

The series consists of these titles:

Jacobus Koelman (1633-1695), *The Duties of Parents in Bringing Up Their Children for God*, edited by M. Eugene Osterhaven, translated by John Vriend. \$7.50 society price.

Jean Taffin (1529-1602), *The Distinguishing Marks of God's Children*, edited by James A. De Jong, translated by Peter Y. De Jong. \$7.50 society price.

Willem Teellinck (1573-1629), *The Path of True Godliness*, edited by Joel R. Beeke, translated by Annemie Godbehere. \$10.00 society price.

Gysbert Voetius (1589-1676) and Johannes Hoornbeek (1617-1666), *Spiritual Desertion*, edited by M. Eugene Osterhaven, translated by John Vriend and Harry Boonstra. \$7.50 society price.