

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 19 –December 2016

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

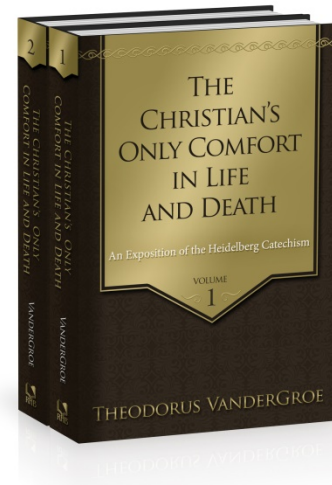
Van der Groe Immanent

As this newsletter goes into the mail, the appearance in print of *The Christian's Only Comfort in Life and Death: An Exposition of the Heidelberg Catechism*, 2 vols., is just a matter of days from rolling off the press. Written by Theodorus van der Groe, 1705-1784, “it was only published some twenty years after his death. But remarkably, it was reprinted a number of times subsequently and read fairly widely by people in the 1834 *Afscheiding* [E.T.: Separatism] tradition that had such a shaping influence on Dutch immigrants in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.” (Cited from Newsletter No. 17.)

The board over the years considered a number of commentaries and sermon collections on the Heidelberg Catechism, of which there are numerous examples in Dutch religious literature in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It opted for this one since van der Groe was so widely read and appreciated, is balanced as a representative of the Further Reformation, and is a favorite in some society circles.

The translator is Rev. Bartel Elshout, who has also translated material in our society's eight-volume series *Classics of Reformed Spirituality*. Reformation Heritage Books is the publisher and co-sponsor of the project along with our society.

Copies can be ordered at member discounts from RHB and complementary copies will be sent to DRTS patrons. Members with standing orders of DRTS material will receive this work immanently.



Progress on Other Projects

Honey from the Rock, the two-volume translation of Abraham Kuyper's first set of reprinted meditations, is in the hands of a major religious publisher for consideration. *Honig uit de Rotssteen* appeared in the early 1880s and is Kuyper's only topically wide-ranging set of meditations other than his last: *To be Near to God*. We provided an extended report on Kuyper meditations in our Newsletter 17 (December 2014), available on our society website.

Dr. John Bolt is working very hard with a team of Dutch and American editors and translators on Herman Bavinck's theological ethics. This material was discovered in Dutch archives in manuscript form several years ago and the translation has already been accepted for publication by Baker Academic. Completion of this three-volume work, subsidized with \$35,000 from DRTS, is anticipated in late 2019 or early 2020.

The Petrus van Maastricht project *A Theoretical and Practical Theology (Theologica theoretica-practica)* has been slowed down due to issues of co-ordination and to other commitments of the editors. But the work is progressing and members will be kept informed on it. Reports can be found in every newsletter since December 2008.

Housekeeping Matters

The board met on April 13 and October 19 this year. Both sessions went well.

Prof. Ronald Cammenga was elected to serve as secretary after having filled in for half a year as interim. Dr. Eugene Heideman felt compelled not to seek another term and is cordially thanked for his contributions to the board. Dr. Donald Sinnema, whose expertise on the Synod of Dort and as a Latinist brings invaluable strength to the board. Dr. Adriaan Neele has returned to the board after moving back to the Grand Rapids area. Dr. Jay Collier, on the other hand, has tendered his resignation because of his family's move out of state; his service has been invaluable and will continue in limited ways. The board extends its thanks. In the absence of an updated brochure, the current board members and officers are listed here.

In a significant action, the board decided to lift the threshold to \$1,000 of cumulative contributions for **new** patron members. Half of the **current** patrons in response to a solicitation last year have voluntarily met that new mark. Those who have not will remain patron members regardless, because of commitments made to them.

All members, including patrons, are asked to consider additional contributions to DRTS that its strategic efforts being blessed so wonderfully worldwide may continue.

Home and email addresses do change. Keep us informed so we can stay in touch with you. We'd like that a lot!

Board Members

Joel R. Beeke, vice-chairman, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
Ronald Cammenga, secretary, Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary
Gerald M. Bilkes, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
John Bolt, Calvin Theological Seminary
James A. De Jong, chairman, Calvin Theological Seminary, *emeritus*
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Adriaan C. Neele, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
Donald W. Sinnema, Trinity Christian College, *emeritus*
Gise Van Baren, retired business owner and executive
Henry I. Witte, treasurer, Witte Travel and Tours, retired

Holiday Blessings

The board genuinely prays that all who receive this newsletter and their loved ones may have a biblically joyous Christmas and a new year filled with health, strength and spiritual growth in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your continuing support of the society's important work.

Remember to place your orders as a society member at:

**Reformation Heritage Books
2965 Leonard St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525.
Phone: 616-977-0599.
www.heritagebooks.org**

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