A COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION OF COVENANT THEOLOGY

WHEATON, Ill.—The Bible makes clear that humanity, made in God’s image, was created to have fellowship with God. However, it can be difficult to understand how such fellowship is possible between an all-powerful God and his limited creatures. Most evangelical Protestants throughout history have argued that the primary way God interacts with humanity is through covenants. In fact, the language of covenant is so vital to theology that Dutch Reformed theologian Herman Bavinck once said, “Covenant is the essence of true religion.”

To provide an overview of the biblical teaching on covenant, twenty-six scholars from Reformed Theological Seminary have teamed up to write *Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives* (Crossway, October 2020), edited by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid, and John R. Muether. In this volume, they explore how covenant is not only clearly taught from Scripture, but also how it lays the foundation for other key doctrines of salvation.

Ligon Duncan, chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary, writes in the foreword, “Covenant theology sets the gospel in the context of God’s eternal plan of communion with his people and its historical outworking in the covenants of works and grace (as well as in the various progressive stages of the covenant of grace). Covenant theology explains the meaning of Christ’s death in light of the biblical teaching on the divine covenants, undergirds our understanding of the nature and use of the sacraments, and provides the fullest possible account of the grounds of our assurance.”

In part 1 of *Covenant Theology*, the contributors examine the biblical covenants—the covenant of redemption, the covenant of works, and the covenant of grace. Part 2 unfolds the historical development of covenant theology to show the continuity of the covenant theme throughout church history. Finally, part 3 looks at collateral and theological studies to address technical issues in covenant theology.

Dan Doriani, professor of biblical and systematic theology at Covenant Theological Seminary, writes, “*Covenant Theology* is a gift to the church, a grand account of covenant in Scripture and in Christian theology. This work is scholarly and readable, rigorous and complete. Every chapter is thorough, whether it gathers data on familiar themes or explores new territory. The contributors and editors have presented a resource that pastors and scholars will draw upon for many years.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Guy Prentiss Waters (PhD, Duke University) is James M. Baird Jr. Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi. He is an author or editor of ten books and numerous chapters, articles, and reviews. Guy and his wife, Sarah, have three children. He is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

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John R. Muether (MAR, Westminster Theological Seminary) serves as dean of libraries and professor of church history at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando. Muether previously served as librarian at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He has authored and coauthored several books, most notably Cornelius Van Til: Reformed Apologist and Churchman. John and his wife, Kathy, have four children and six grandchildren. He is an elder at Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Oviedo, Florida.

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