



PROVIDENCE TIMES

Happenings on Harshaw

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Tuesday, March 3, 2026



Ok, do not let your eyes glaze over as you quickly seek something more interesting. You DO need to hear about this. I have heard several people say, “I wish I could have a better understanding of what the Bible is saying,” OR, “I’m just not wired for it.” One significant part of addressing that problem is being able to see where and how every verse, passage, book, and story “fits” within the whole. It is akin to when you are close up to one of those large stained glass windows, and it makes no sense at all; yet, when you back up to see the whole thing, you can clearly see where and how each part “fits” into the whole. This is the task of Biblical Theology.

Biblical Theology (BT) involves coming to the text of the Bible (or any part of the Bible) as history, which in fact it is, and then seeing how each part is connected to every other part as well as to the whole. Recognizing that connection produces understanding. BT involves understanding the one “storyline” and how everything fits into it, so that, for example, when you open up to Leviticus 16 — a very important chapter by the way — you see how it fits into the whole redemptive story. In a sense, the goal of BT, because it deals with history, is similar to taking a class in secular history — yet, it is immensely more valuable because BT does not just emphasize important people, places, and events, but it traces what God, the creator of all things, has done and is doing, and ultimately how He is meeting our one great need (Acts 4:12).

We will take another look at this next month, as we discuss the difference between Biblical Theology and Systematic Theology (the other way of looking at the Bible); we will also look at practical ways by which BT helps us to understand the Bible and how to apply it to ourselves — P. David

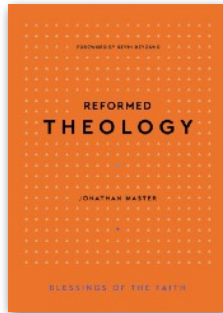


Got an “App”etite for Daily Bread?



Here are two apps that provide wonderful spiritual sustenance whether listening at home or on the go; look for them online for download to your favorite devices (click on images to find out more):



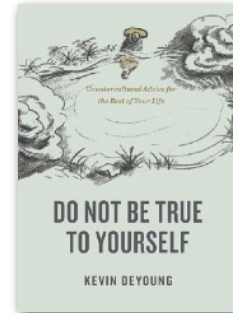


Reformed Theology by Jonathan Master is about what Reformed theology is, how it started, how it follows the Bible, and its blessings. Reformed theology is more than just the five points of Calvinism. The teaching about salvation is very important,

but so are the teachings about worship and the Covenant of Grace. Dr. Master shows that Reformed Theology is grounded in Scripture. He also explains what a covenant is and why understanding the covenant is important for understanding the Bible, and he goes through the different stages of the one Covenant of Grace.

Dr. Master wants us to fully comprehend the blessing of understanding Reformed theology. Theology is not just something you understand in your mind. It is, "The doctrine of living to God through Christ," and is essential for our lives, families, and witness to the world. Reformed theology gives us comfort and tells us about the covenant blessings for God's people.

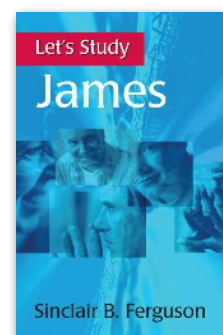
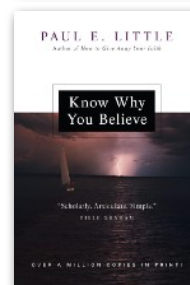
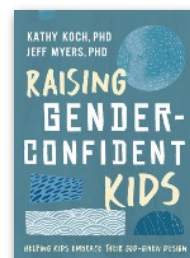
At the end of the book, Dr. Master gives some questions and answers about Reformed theology that you might find interesting. For example, he asks, "Many people who claim to be Reformed are prickly or obnoxious. Why is this?" and "Doesn't Reformed theology deny free will? Does it make human beings into robots?" If you are interested in seeing Dr. Master's answer to these questions, you can find the book in our library; that is, if someone else hasn't already borrowed it! – Sam Randall



This is a small, 62-page, book that is filled with snippets of wisdom! The author, Kevin DeYoung, starts off by reminding us that because of total depravity, "Our passions are broken, our reason is not entirely reliable, and our wills, apart from Christ, are bound in sin." He had me hooked; I had to keep reading! – Claire

Our Ever Expanding Library

Along with the book that Sam reviewed, Reformed Theology, there are more new books in our library that might spike your interest. We make every effort to keep up with cultural issues as seen in a biblical light as well as all things related to the Church and theology. As usual, new books can be found on the cart in the foyer.



† Men's and Women's Bible Studies †



As a perfect segue from our recent study of the Book of James, we are now delving into the Apostle Peter's first epistle. Well nourished by the study guide used for James, we are sticking with the same series. Pastor Dave said the books have just come in; we ask \$9 for a copy (pick up a book in his office). The women's study remains at 10 a.m. each Monday in the parlor, and the men's study at 8 a.m. Tuesdays. Please monitor your e-mail for any changes. Regarding the study of the Bible, prominent theologian and author D.A. Carson wisely stated, "We are dealing with God's thoughts: We are obligated to take the greatest pains to understand them truly and to explain them clearly."

About Highlands Presbytery



Here are five questions for you about our Presbytery. See how well you do (don't cheat - put your hand over everything after question #5):

1. What is the name of our Presbytery?
2. How many churches are in it?
3. Have you visited the website?
4. Name 5 churches in it, excluding ours.
5. Name the RUF universities in it.

Ok, did you score a perfect five out of five?! The more you know about Highlands Presbytery – yup, that is the answer to #1 – the better equipped you are to pray for it and the churches within it. To check yourself, there are 28 churches in the Presbytery, and the website is highlandspresbytery.org. For questions 4 & 5, click on the "Churches" menu item. Looking on the map, it is helpful to see the geographic extent of our Presbytery. Who's that in the far western corner?!



Website Highlight



Did you know that past issues of the Providence Times can be found online? Suggestion: Send a link to friends or family members! To get there, go to our website (pc-murphy.org) and you will find it under the "Resources" menu. You will also find bulletins for upcoming and past worship services in the same spot. Don't forget that you can also find a link there to the Providence Library website, from which you can look up, read about, and locate every book in our library!