

## Dear Friends of the Foundation:

In trying to describe to someone the goal of the Foundation, I found myself saying that it was to build more churches like the ones he and I served! That is not to say that those churches have arrived, and certainly not to say that our ministries were all that they could have been and should have been, but this is what I meant:

*The churches served by those of us involved in the Foundation for Reformed Theology are among the strongest in the denomination. They are strong by virtue of their being precisely what the church is supposed to be, a gathering where the Word of God is purely read, preached, and heard, and where the sacraments are rightly administered.*

By way of contrast, in the summer of 2006 I attended a Sunday morning worship service at a church in our denomination where not only was the Word of God not purely preached and heard, but also it was not even read at all! There was no Scripture reading listed in the bulletin, and there was no Scripture read during the service. I was appalled. But that is what passes for worship, and for church, in at least some of our congregations.

More recently I attended another church where the preacher said that John the Baptist was the “first cousin” of Jesus Christ, then he belittled and berated the ministry of John the Baptist and his call to repent, and finally he used and abused what I take to be some of the unique identifiers of the Messiah, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them” (Matthew 11:4-5 (ESV)), to congratulate the congregation on how wonderful their good works are.

I am sure all of you could share similar horror stories.

You and I are committed to the recovery of our Reformed heritage for the sake of the building up of the church. This involves studying and learning what we believe, why we believe it, and what its implications and applications are. These tasks form the groundwork, or at least part of the groundwork, of our ministries. Our understanding of, and proclamation of, the gospel we have received is formed, informed, and reformed by the faith of the Reformation.

In order for the Foundation to reach its goal of building up more preaching and teaching churches, we have to do two related but distinct things simultaneously. One is to raise the money needed to support the program. The other is to identify, recruit, enlist, and support more and more ministers and members in the study, reclamation, appropriation, and application of the classical texts of Reformed theology, which is our program.

I thank you for your faith, your commitment, and your help with both these aspects of advancing the work of the Foundation.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

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