

**Dear Friends of the Foundation:**

When **Dr. John H. Leith** characterized the Reformed theology which he wanted the **Foundation** to study and promote, he explicitly excluded the writings of **Friedrich Schleiermacher** (1768-1834).

Given that Dr. Leith was committed to building up the church of Jesus Christ and especially Presbyterian churches, perhaps this insight from **Paul Tillich** (1886-1965) explains in part his aversion:

**Schleiermacher** made a great mistake. The term he used ... was "**feeling.**" [According to Schleiermacher,] Religion is not theoretical knowledge; it is not moral action; religion is feeling. ... The consequence of this in the German churches was ... unfortunate ... for when religion was preached as feeling, the male section of the German congregations stopped going to church. When they were told that religion is not a matter of clear knowledge and moral action, but of feeling, they reacted. ... The churches became empty. Neither the youth nor the men were satisfied with feeling. They looked for sharp thought and moral significance in the sermons. When religion was reduced to feeling and weakened by sentimental hymns—instead of the great old hymns which had religious power of the presence of the divine—people lost interest in the churches.

Paul Tillich, *A History of Christian Thought: From Its Judaic and Hellenistic Origins to Existentialism*, edited by Carl E. Braaten (New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1972), pp. 392, 393-394, emphasis added.

So in our day let us proclaim the **gospel of Jesus Christ** as **truth** and **reality**, not as warm and fuzzy feeling! And let us sing some of "the great old hymns" with which Christians have praised God throughout the centuries.

Grace and Peace,

Jim

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

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