



Editorial

In this issue of *Theology in Scotland* for Autumn 2013 we are privileged to be able to publish Professor N. T. Wright's lecture on Paul's letter to the Ephesians, given at the SCTS conference earlier this year. Professor Wright here offers a new and fresh perspective on Ephesians. The exegesis of the letter itself is combined with an illuminating use of the nature of Second Temple Judaism and this wider context provides some rich and fruitful insights. As such, this article provides a superb introduction, *in nuce*, to N. T. Wright's important work on the Pauline corpus and, furthermore, offers a sample of some aspects of his wider thought. Readers who are students of the New Testament will find that this paper on Ephesians offers new insights with each new reading.

David Lyall's paper on the history of pastoral care and counselling in Scotland since 1950, is of some significance. As teacher and practitioner David Lyall played an active role over several decades in many of the important changes in pastoral care in Scotland and he is, therefore, well placed to reflect on these developments. This paper offers an important survey of the development of pastoral care and counselling in Scotland over the past sixty or so years.

Within Reformed circles there has been a long and continuing debate on the relation of justification and sanctification. In her paper, Alexandra Radcliff gives a succinct account of our justification and sanctification as inseparable in Christ. Drawing on the work of Andrew Murray, J. B. Torrance, T. F. Torrance and Gary Deddo, this brief paper outlines a view of sanctification which, to quote, 'should be understood in terms of our participation by the Spirit in what has been decisively accomplished in Christ' through all that he has worked out for us in our humanity. Our sanctification *in* Christ is, then, the source of a new identity which liberates us, progressively, to live life in holiness.

Péter Pásztor has a background in the Hungarian Reformed Church, with an interest in Reformed theology and English literature. His Hungarian translation of Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer prize-winning novel *Gilead* was recently printed in association with the Hungarian publisher Magvető. Readers will recall that Marilynne

Robinson gave the Croall Lectures at New College, Edinburgh, in September of this year. In this essay, Péter Pásztor reflects on Robinson's work in the light of the Calvinist tradition and Freud's understanding of the unconscious.

In his paper, Graham Monteith explores some of the social boundaries, or cultural limits, of language. An investigation, that is, of the liminal area of speech which issues from pain or anger, and is expressed in swearing and expletives. He draws on more recent literature to offer a reflection on Jesus' suffering on the cross in the darkest moments of pain and utter desperation. He concludes with a message of hope in the continuing love of God.

In his article, Daniel Valentine examines John Baillie's book *The Idea of Revelation in Recent Thought* from the formal perspective of broader historical theology. He sets out the two main topics of Baillie's study – first, the relation of reason and revelation, and second, propositional views of revelation. Valentine follows Baillie's thought through to its main conclusions, indicating that Baillie had, perhaps, failed to set his study of these problems in the broader historical context of theological tradition. This paper offers an introduction to the variety of perspectives concerning revelation.

Ian Maxwell
Editor

Dr Michael Purcell

Readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Dr Michael Purcell on the 18th October after a short illness. Mike was Senior Lecturer in Theology and Ethics at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, and he had served on the Editorial Board of *Theology in Scotland* for a number of years. Mike was a devoted teacher and supervisor, who was much cherished by students and colleagues alike. His theological and philosophical work, particularly on Levinas, was highly regarded, and his contribution to church life in Scotland will be greatly missed. We extend our condolences to his family and many friends.

Alison Jack
Chair of the Editorial Board