



JULY 2025 | Issue #11

SEA TO SEA

Canadian RP Magazine



Christ In The Psalms:
They're All About Me

p. 4

Interview: Elder
Hugh Fraser

p. 6

News: RP Seminary
of Canada Update

p. 8

Church Update: New
Creation RPC (Kitchener)

p. 14

EDITORIAL

The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is an only “institution” that spans every generation of human history. As Christians we can look back to the “Church of Abel”, about which Luther wrote, “For Christ also calls Abel righteous (Matthew 23:35) and makes him the beginning of the church of the godly, which will continue until the end.” And we, with Luther, look ahead in faith to all the following generations of the Church until Christ returns. The Westminster Confession of Faith reminds us that while “The purest Churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error...Nevertheless, there shall always be a Church on earth to worship God according to His will” (25.5). Standing on the past, and confident in Christ for the future, the Church today lives out Psalm 145:4, “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” Part of our calling as the Church, which spans every generation, is to pray for and equip future leaders to serve in the Church. We are called, not to theological innovation, but to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 3). This same Faith, or “pattern of sound teaching” (2 Timothy 1:13), we are commanded to “entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2).

In the RPCC we have been the beneficiaries of generations of faithful servants, and even martyrs, of the truth that is in Jesus. To whom much is given, much will be required. In a few weeks, the training of several young men for the gospel ministry will begin in the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary of Canada. This is as weighty as it is wonderful! How can you be involved? **Pray.** Jesus is the One who gives men for the ministry (Luke 10:2, Ephesians 4:11). **Prove.** The Apostle Paul refers to Timothy as a man of proven character (Philippians 2:22). This “proving” begins at the congregational level. **Provide.** While the disciples were with Jesus, women supported their ministry (Luke 8:1-3). The financial commitment of the congregations to support the training of men for the ministry is significant. But is anything more significant than the proclamation of the Gospel? **Pray.** Wasn’t this the first point? Did the editor fail to edit his own editorial? NO! We must pray without ceasing! Paul, as a gospel minister, often pleaded for saints to pray for him. Pray expectantly, “For dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord” (Psalm. 22:28, 30).



BY REV. MATT KINGSWOOD
Minister of the Russell RPC

CONTENTS

3 NEWS: RPC Canada Women's Retreat

4 CHRIST IN THE PSALMS: They're All About Me (Part III)

6 INTERVIEW: Hugh Fraser

7 QUOTE: Supporting Students for the Ministry

8 NEWS: RP Seminary of Canada Update

11 CONTEMPORARY: Election Disappointment

12 BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: The Institution of Marriage

14 CHURCH UPDATE: New Creation RPC

15 BOOK REVIEW: What Happens When We Worship (Cruse)

General Editor: Rev. Matt Kingswood
Features Editor: Mr. Jim Hughes
News Editor: Mrs. Karin Foster
Layout Editor: Mr. Jordan Dohms

magazine@rpccanada.org

All Bible quotations are from the ESV



Cover: Photo of Grand River in Cambridge, ON (near Kitchener)

NEWS: RPC CANADA WOMEN'S RETREAT

On a weekend in April, women from six different Reformed congregations gathered in Godfrey, Ontario at Camp Iawah for the first annual RPCC Women's Retreat.

The weekend included a relaxing time of fellowship, insightful messages, and a break from cooking. Melissa Murray from the Grace Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Woodstock led two talks on the Christian Conscience. Her talks drew from the Puritan classic, *The Bruised Reed*, by Richard Sibbes, and provided a helpful perspective on shaping our consciences through God's Word and using our consciences to encourage our fellow sisters and brothers. Melissa shared her insights from scripture on how to correct with gentleness, seek unity, and bear with one another in love.

Saturday's talk was followed with a time of prayer for the RPCC congregations, a beautiful hike by the lake, games, and breakout groups focusing on devotional life, elder care, and cultivating meaningful conversations. I appreciated the meals and hike, which gave us the opportunity to connect more meaningfully with women from fellow churches.

In the breakout session I attended on cultivating meaningful conversations, Tara Kingswood encouraged us to engage others with compassion and intentionality, asking questions that draw out the heart and point others to Christ. I appreciated learning how thoughtful questions such as "What is most important to you right now?" or "What are you learning about Jesus in this season?"—can open doors for deeper relationships and gospel conversations.

I'd highly encourage you to join next year's RPCC Women's Retreat. Even if you can only join for the day, you will be richly blessed by the time of fellowship, prayer, and edification!

By Leanne Zuiderveen (Ottawa RPC)





CHRIST IN THE PSALMS THEY ARE ALL ABOUT ME

PART III - PSALM 45

In earlier articles we have marshalled implicit and explicit biblical teaching to support the affirmation that the Psalms are all about Jesus. In this article we will examine Psalm 45 and see how it gives substance and foundation to this affirmation.

1. THE OCCASION

Psalm 45 is a love song composed for a royal wedding. Various proposals have been offered as to whose wedding it was written for. Many are of a mind that it was written for King Solomon's marriage to the daughter of the king of Tyre, as mentioned in Chronicles. Others are not so definite and will venture no further than to say it was written for a royal wedding of a king in David's line.

However, these words could never be limited to an earthly king. Its language and imagery extend beyond historical events, pointing to a cosmic marriage between Jesus Christ, the King of creation, and his Bride, the Church. This interpretation is supported by New Testament connections, particularly in Revelation, where the Church is depicted as the Bride of the Lamb (Revelation 21:2, 19:7-9).

C.S. Lewis in *Reflections on the Psalms* wrote,

"The birth of Christ is the arrival of the great warrior and the great king. Also of the lover, the Bridegroom, whose beauty surpasses that of man."

Alexander Maclaren notes this Psalm,

"... either exaggerates beyond poetic license or describes a King greater than Solomon—Messiah Jesus."

His eternal throne, righteous character, and majestic splendour demand our worship, honour, remembrance, and praise.

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever... Therefore, the people shall praise You forever and ever." (Psalm 45:6, 17).

This Psalm, unique in the Psalter, is recognized even by Jewish commentators as a messianic portrait.

2. THE ODE

This Psalm is also an ode of exalted emotion, sung to honour the King. It is not merely a choir master's tribute, but God's testimony to his Son.

Three qualities of this King inspire wonder and worship:

• He is a Good King (45:1)

The psalmist's heart overflows with a noble theme, stirred to sing of this King who "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). His tongue is like a skilful writer's pen proclaiming the King's goodness.

• He is a Graced King (45:2)

"You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever." This King is unmatched in appearance, conduct, and speech. His words are kind, wise, and healing, unmatched by any, as John 7:46 notes: *"No man ever spoke like this Man!"*

• He is a Glorious King (45:3-5)

"Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendour and majesty!" This King, the Mighty One, rides out victoriously for truth, meekness, and righteousness. His sharp arrows pierce the hearts of enemies, and nations fall before him. This imagery, fulfilled in Jesus, depicts his

spiritual conquest through the Gospel, as seen in Revelation 19:11-16, where he is identified as the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

John Calvin commenting on these verses writes:

“whoever shall engage in the attempt to shake the stability of his kingdom shall miserably perish, for the King has in his hand sufficiency of power to break the stubbornness of all such persons”

Further characteristics are presented which underscore the King’s divinity and superiority, contrasted with earthly rulers and aligning with New Testament depictions of Jesus as the Rider on the White Horse, conquering through the Word rather than physical warfare.

- **His Crown is Eternal (45:6)**

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.” The psalmist boldly calls the King “God,” a title applied to Jesus in Hebrews 1. His eternal reign is unshakable, as Spurgeon notes: *“No throne can endure forever, but that on which God himself sitteth.”*

- **His Character is Exalted (45:6-7)**

His kingdom is ruled by a sceptre of righteousness. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness, earning God’s anointing with the oil of gladness above his companions. This distinguishes Him as both God and anointed King, a paradox pointing to the incarnation.

- **His Clothing is Excellent (45:8)**

His robes are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, reflecting his divine splendour.

Here in full royal display for all to smell and see is “*the splendour of the King.*” His scent is the scent of holiness.

What he wears reflects who he is, and he is excellent in every way!

From ivory palaces, music brings him joy, showcasing his excellence.

- **His Companions are Esteemed (45:9)**

Daughters of kings honour him, and his queen, adorned in gold of Ophir, stands at his right hand. This esteemed bride reflects the Church’s glory in union with Christ.

3. THE OFFERING

The latter part of the Psalm (verses 10-17) shifts focus to the Bride, interpreted as the Church. In these verses the Bride is counselled to offer worship and honour to her King.

She is called to:

- **Worship Him (45:10-12)**

The bride is urged to listen, consider, and forget her past, fixing her gaze on the King. *“Since he is your lord, bow to him.”* Her devotion draws honour from others, who bring gifts and seek her favour.

- **Honour Him (45:13-15)**

The bride, glorious in gold-woven robes, is brought to the King with joy, accompanied by her companions. Honouring him is a joyful privilege, not a

burden, as they enter his palace with gladness.

- **Remember Him (45:16-17)**

The King’s name will never be forgotten. His sons will rule the earth, ensuring that his dynasty endures. His excellence and eternal blessing ensure his name is remembered forever.

- **Praise Him (45:17)**

Fairer than any man, he is mighty in truth and righteousness, sovereign over all, He is worthy of endless praise. *“therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.”* This is a call that we should never tire of exalting King Jesus.

Psalm 45 should leave us gazing in awe and wonder upon this glorious and eternal relationship between an esteemed and exalted King and his Bride.

We close with these fitting words:

Greater than Solomon. Greater than David. Greater than any King who shall ever be. This is Messiah King Jesus.



BY REV. ALLAN MACLEOD
Minister of the Toronto RPC

INTERVIEW

Hugh Fraser Ruling Elder in Vancouver RPC

Give us a brief life history (where were you born, early family life, etc.)

I was born in Toronto in the year 1957 and lived in Toronto until my mid-twenties. My father was a high school teacher at Jarvis Collegiate teaching physics and math. In the mid-1960s he joined the Ministry of Education becoming an inspector. My mother was a homemaker keeping my five brothers and one sister in order. I went to elementary, junior high school and high school in North York, then studied engineering at the University of Toronto. I moved to Ottawa in 1982 and worked there for five years. In 1987 I moved back to the Greater Toronto Area and was involved in consulting engineering. A transfer to British Columbia in 1995 brought me to Vancouver. It was here that I met and married my wife, Kathy. I transferred to a local government job in the late 1990s and retired in 2021.

Growing up in Toronto my family attended a Presbyterian church on Bloor St. when I was young. The congregation moved to Victoria Park Ave north of Sheppard Ave. in 1970. Regular attendance at the Lord's Day services was part of our family life.

What is your current situation (church, location, job, family etc.)?

I have been an Elder in the Vancouver congregation since 1995. The congregation joined the RPCC in 2023. Last year I was diagnosed with ALS. I live at home in Vancouver and am dependent on my wife and two daughters to help with daily routine activities.

What has been the greatest influence in your life for Christ?

My parents were the biggest influence. My dad taught us the scriptures, the catechism, and also history. My mother was a woman of prayer. In my twenties, I lived in Ottawa and was challenged in respect of my faith by the folks I met at Ottawa RP Church.



What has been the biggest challenge in getting where you are today?

I can't identify a single biggest challenge. There have been many. Looking back, my life has been one of learning and then gradually increasing responsibilities at work and in the church. In the church, having to deal with discipline cases has been very challenging, causing stress and worry at different times. Looking forward I find each day now is a challenge.

What advice would you give to someone 10 years younger than you?

Persevere, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life.

If the Lord continues to bless, what would you like to see happen in the RP Church in Canada?

We need to be a people of prayer. Husbands and wives should pray, teach, and train their children in the ways of the Lord. The advice of scripture needs to be taken to heart by all parents:

Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Elder Hugh Fraser passed into the presence of his Lord and Saviour on June 17, 2025.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS FOR THE MINISTRY

Adapted from Samuel Miller's sermon at the inauguration of Rev. Archibald Alexander as the professor of Theology at Princeton Seminary, 1812.

[And] what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)

The church is bound to provide funds for the partial or entire support of those who need this kind of aid, while they are preparing for the work of the ministry. Some of the most promising candidates for this holy work have not the means of supporting themselves, while they withdraw from the world, and give up its revenues, for the purpose of becoming qualified to serve God in the gospel of his Son. These persons must either abandon their sacred enterprise altogether, or receive from some other source, adequate aid. And from what source can they so properly receive it, as from their moral parent, the Church? Nature, reason, equity, parental affection, all conspire in pointing to this parent as the most suitable provider. The aid which flows only from the hand of individuals and occasional bounty may be withdrawn, or grudgingly continued. But the church can never be weary, as long as ability is given her, for her beloved children. The aid which individuals, as such, furnish may produce, in delicate minds, a painful sense of dependence; but children ought to feel, can feel, no pain in receiving from the hand of parental affection. Nor is it any valid objection to the furnishing of this aid, that the objects of it may not always be found, when their character shall be completely developed, either ornaments to the Church, or worthy of so much exer-

tion and expenditure. As well might parents according to the flesh decline to provide for the support and education of their children, in early life, lest perhaps they might afterwards prove neither a comfort nor an honor to them. In this respect every faithful parent considers himself as bound, in duty and affection, to take all possible pains for promoting the welfare of his offspring, and having done so, to leave the outcome with God. Neither ought the church to consider this provision as a burden, or imagine that, in making it, she confers a favor. It is as clearly her duty, a duty which she really owes her Master and herself, as the ordinary provision which she makes for the support of the Word and Sacraments. Or rather, it is to be lamented that she has not been accustomed always to consider it as an essential part of her ordinary provision for the maintenance of the means of grace.



Samuel Miller
(1769 - 1850)

NEWS: RP SEMINARY OF CANADA UPDATE

Seminary Facility

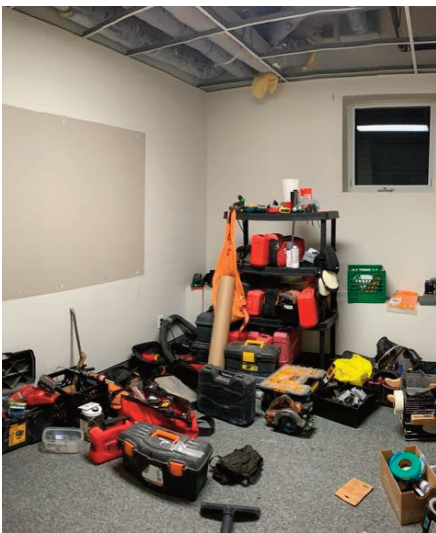
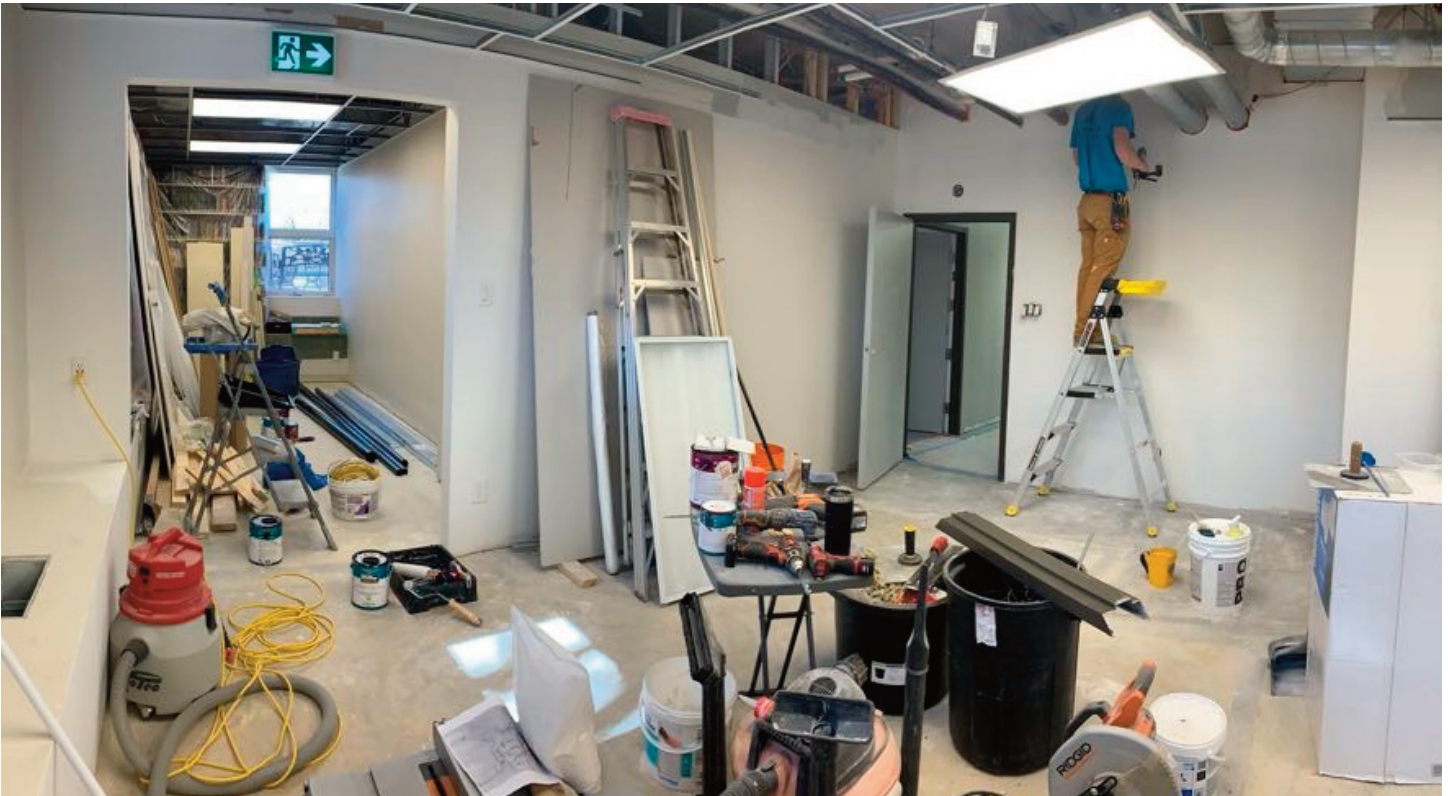
We are thankful to the Lord that the work to develop the Seminary facility within the Ottawa RPC has been completed ahead of schedule. This is due to the excellent collaborative work between the Ottawa RPC Session, Deacons, Mr. David Sinclair (project manager), Mr. Simon Martignago, who created the architectural drawings, and Mr. Stas Jesionka, who managed his construction team.

We also thank the Lord for the members of the Ottawa RPC who have supported this work by approving the budget and praying for it as it was being undertaken.

Seminary Library

We are thankful to the Lord for considerable work Lucas Coelho (Ottawa RPC member) is doing to digitally catalogue and organise the former Ottawa Theological Hall library.





Training of Men for Ministry Fund – Clear evidence of the Lord’s hand at work.

This is nothing short of incredible. In October 2024, the Presbytery decided to provide each student with a bursary of \$54,000, allowing them to focus on their studies without the need to work to support their families. With three students, the total required was \$162,000. The presbytery did not specify a particular amount but left it to each session, in consultation with the congregation’s deacons, to determine the donation. The Lord then led His church to provide \$162,000 for the year from July 2025 to June 2026. Yes, you read it correctly. Presbytery agreed on a figure of \$162,000, and the Lord provided \$162,000 from the RPC congregations, without any interaction between the sessions, deacons or congregations in the RPC of Canada. We just have to stand back and praise God for this token that His hand is in what we are doing.

SEMINARY CON'T

Seminary Operating Budget

While we rejoice in the provision of funds for the student bursaries, there are still Seminary overheads that need to be met, such as teachers' travel costs, a remunerative gift, the cost of field trips at the end of each year, and the cost of materials. With that in mind, we are again thankful to God that, although the closure of the RP congregation in Squamish was deeply sad, He led the people there to donate the \$152,000 they had for the training of men for the ministry.

Matters for Prayer

- The RPC Finance Committee, along with the Seminary President and Dean, who are working to produce a costed budget for the annual operating costs of the Seminary. (Starting something up always requires considerably more work than maintaining it, and we appreciate the input of a number of men in Presbytery in the start-up process).
- The Tochijara, Van Hoffen, and Wilkinson families as they move, God willing, in July 2025 to the homes they have leased in Ottawa.
- The Seminary's commencement on August 4, 2025, when Dr. David Weir will be teaching the first class on a study of the land of Israel.



Marco & Keturah, Apollos Tochijara



Ethan & Tia, Evangeline Van Hoffen



Judah & Natalie, Ada Wilkinson



Registration
Closes Aug 1

rpfamilycamp.org

RP 
FAMILY CAMP

September 5-8, 2025
Wesley Acres Campground

Rev. Matt Dyck



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Election Disappointment

On April 28th, Canadians elected a Liberal government once again. After nearly a decade under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, it seemed all the polling pointed to change—until it didn't. The Liberals simply switched out their leader, and that alone was enough to shift the mood of the electorate. In just a few weeks, political momentum that had been building for the Conservatives vanished. What many assumed was a sure win flipped and the results shocked more than a few.

After the election, I heard a lot of frustration—some disappointment too. And I get it. There's always hope that this time things might be different. That a shift in government might mean a shift in direction. But was it really a surprise? Perhaps not entirely. And maybe more importantly, this moment gives us a chance to pause and reflect on something deeper.

People often ask me if the work I do—trying to bring a faithful, biblical perspective to Canada's public square—is discouraging. It's easy to imagine it would be, especially in the face of political disappointment, cultural shifts, and what often feels like an uphill battle. After all, the headlines rarely bring good news and

it can seem like our society is moving further away from the things we hold dear.

But here's what I tell them: our hope and our witness are not built on election results.

The work we do is a long-term obedience. It's not flashy. It's not usually front-page news. But it matters.

*"Christ is Lord of all,
including the
chambers of
Parliament."*

There are Members of Parliament quietly speaking the truth in their caucus meetings, sharing resources rooted in biblical morality with their colleagues. There are leaders who refuse to compromise, even when the media pressures them to conform. There are ordinary Christians—people like you—building relationships with civil authorities, praying for them, and bearing witness to the truth of God's Word.

These acts of faithfulness don't always make it into the public narrative. But they are real. They are meaningful. And they are how change happens over time.

So, if you're discouraged by the election results, take a moment to examine your heart. Ask yourself: did I place too much hope in political victory? Am I willing to trust that God's purpose—though it may not match mine—is still good?

We believe that Christ is Lord of all, including the chambers of Parliament. That doesn't change because of who sits in the Prime Minister's Office. And while we may not see the full picture, we trust that the Lord is at work, perhaps even in ways we wouldn't have chosen ourselves.

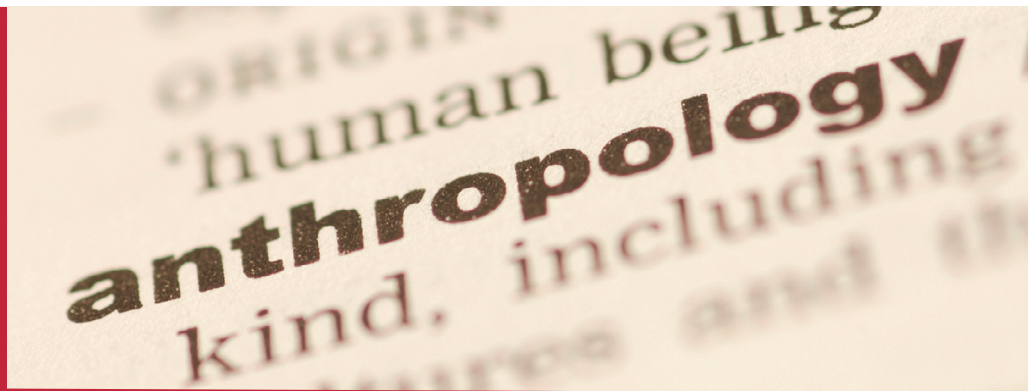
Stay faithful. Stay hopeful. And keep building. Because the long-term future of this country isn't ultimately shaped by election-night headlines, but by the steady, courageous obedience of God's people in every sphere of life.



BY MR. COLIN POSTMA
Ruling Elder
in Ottawa RPC

ANTH ROPO LOGY

NUMBER 11 IN THE SERIES
MALE AND FEMALE



The Institution of Marriage

At the beginning, God established a few institutions, including the Sabbath, work, civil government, and marriage. These institutions are not Jewish inventions, nor were they established by Moses to support a supposedly unique cultural-religious cult; they are perpetual and universal institutions that apply to

all of Adam's descendants in every nation, through all time. Therefore, what we find in Genesis (Genesis 2:22b, 24) must be the standard for marriage not only for those within the Church but also for everyone within our society. Jesus reinforces this truth when he appeals to Genesis (Matthew 19:3-9) as the basis for his teaching on proper marital behaviour.

The creation of man as two compatible individuals leads to the obvious conclusion that they were to be together in a married relationship. This is why Genesis 2:24 begins with the word 'therefore'. What has been said in the previous verses about the creation of Eve as a fit helper for Adam, one who shared his biological and spiritual essence, can lead to no other conclusion than that marriage is the natural state for men and women. However, it is not easy to determine whether the conclusion stated in this verse was originally delivered by God to Adam as an anticipatory requirement for future generations, added by Adam when he relayed the account to his de-

scendants, or added by Moses when he wrote Genesis under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Regardless, Jesus declares it to be God's definitive word (Matthew 19:4-5).

Despite the popularity of TV shows dealing with wedding planning, romantic comedies that culminate in a wedding, and news about celebrity marriages, marriage in North America today is thought to be optional and appears to be heading to obsolescence. The Biblical ideas expressed in the well-known words from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer—that "marriage is an honourable estate, ordained for the procreation of children, as a remedy against sin for avoiding fornication, and intended by God for mutual joy, help and comfort"—are almost universally ignored. Young people today have become cynical about matrimony and view it as merely a contract for long-term dating, which might give some financial advantages but results in more headaches at times than it is worth, and that it can be dissolved at any time.

This negative view of marriage is the result of the acceptance of sexual intercourse outside of marriage and the belief that children can be raised successfully by single mothers, and a redefinition of marriage to include other relationships (e.g., male-male or father-daughter) which are based solely on mutual affection or lust.

Without doubt, marriage is a covenant relationship (Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14). This is implied by the instruction given here that the husband and wife are to form a new entity of relationship of 'one flesh', by the use of 'leave' and 'be united' (or 'joined'), and by the fact that leaving one's current family setting to be united to a spouse is a public declaration of intent. These terms are used elsewhere in the context of covenant relationships (e.g., Deuteronomy 28:20; Hosea 4:10). In addition, divorce is viewed throughout Scripture as a covenant breach.

The covenant relationship that is established by a new couple creates new obligations that

override already existing obligations to their parents. The 'leaving' that is spoken of in Genesis 2:24, does not mean that a new couple cannot live with one of their parents or have parents living with them (however, it may not be the wisest thing to do while a new couple is establishing their own household and shared practices). Nor does it mean that a married couple no longer has any obligations to honour their parents. Rather it means that the husband (and by extension, the wife) is to put the welfare and interests of his spouse above that of any other person (Ephesians 5:25-29). While it is recognized in Genesis 2:24 that there is a parent-child authority structure (instituted at creation), these natural bonds are not as strong as that between a husband and wife, who are to become 'one flesh'. A key lesson from this consideration is that married couples are not to allow their parents to run or ruin their marriages.

A married couple becomes one flesh—a single unit established

through sexual intercourse. This means that the only place for sexual intercourse is within the married relationship of one man and one woman (1 Corinthians 6:9; Hebrews 13:4). However, this physical oneness is to be a symbol for a psychological and spiritual union which continues to grow beyond the physical sex act. Since sexual intercourse is to be limited to the marriage relationship, this means that the procreation of children should only occur within the bounds of a marriage. In 2012, the US reached a tipping point where more children were born to unmarried women than to married ones. If Canada has not reached that point, it probably will soon, since what happens in Canada usually mirrors what happens in the US. What used to be illegitimacy is now the new normal. This rejection of God's institution can only result in increased social, cognitive, behavioural, and economic problems for future generations. The iniquities of fathers will be visited on the children (Exodus 20:5).

Christians living by Biblical principles provide the last human-based defense for proper beliefs about marriage and the practices associated with marriage. The more Satan attempts to dishonour marriage through such things as Islamic polygamy, the prevalent practice of unmarried cohabitation, or man-made laws which establish and endorse lewd homosexual practices, the more Christians should defend the creation ordinance of marriage by honouring it as a lifetime commitment between one man and one woman and by keeping the marriage bed pure from all adulterations.



BY MR. JIM HUGHES
Ruling Elder in the RP
Congregation in Toronto, ON

Subscribe online: rpccanada.org/contact



RP CHURCH OF CANADA


www.rpccanada.org

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A collection of news items from the RP Congregations across Canada



NEW CREATION RPC KITCHENER, ON



New Creation is very thankful for the steadfast love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who continues to richly bless His bride.

Our congregation consists of 48 communicant members and 23 baptized members. Over the past year, we've had seven baptisms: Evangeline Van Hoffen, Ellison Thompson, Scott Wilkinson, Apollos Tochijara, Cody Hodder (a recent convert), and Grace and Rebecca Amoako. We also rejoiced in the marriage of Joel Gritter and Mia Gabriel and the addition of new professing members, including Viktor Gregorian, Melissa Ruback, and Joel himself, who transferred his membership from the OPC.

New Creation is under the leadership of Pastor Scott Wilkinson, elders Seyr Lemos, John Smid, and Rob Somers, and our deacons, Tom Gillelan and Sam Sutherland. New Creation conducts two bi-weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings. There have also been two catechism classes and a growing youth ministry. Elders Smid and Somers shepherd the older and younger youth groups, respectively, while our precentor, Isaac Sutherland, fosters a love for the Psalms through monthly Psalm-sings at his home.

One of the most exciting developments has been the Lord's calling of men to ministry within our denomination. Marco Tochijara, Ezra Wilkinson, and Ethan Van Hoffen have been taken under the care of Presbytery. Their families eagerly anticipate relocation to Ottawa, trusting God to provide housing and sustain them through the coming years of training.

We continue to worship in the building of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, maintaining a harmonious tenant relationship while praying for a permanent home of our own. Yet, we recognize that God's greater blessings often come in different ways, not necessarily in bricks-and-mortar, but in the growth of His people and the raising up of ministers for His Church.

Not only does our congregation focus on preaching the Gospel and nurturing our flock, but we also seek opportunities to serve our local community. Whether through personal evangelism, hospitality, or the quiet faithfulness of our members in their workplaces and neighborhoods, we strive to be salt and light.

How You Can Pray for Us

When you remember us in your prayers would you please pray for:

- *Provision and Employment:* Several families in our congregation face financial strain due to unstable employment. We trust in God's provision but ask for prayer that He would open doors.

- *Our Seminary Students:* Pray for Marco, Ezra, and Ethan as they prepare for seminary—for their families, their studies, and their ongoing preaching ministries. Also, the absence of these faithful families will be a challenging loss to our congregation.

- *Another Deacon:* As we look ahead we believe it is time for us to seek out men full of the Spirit and of wisdom to serve as deacons. Please pray that God would prepare such men and give wisdom to the congregation when it comes time for an election.

- *Continued Growth:* Pray that our congregation would remain rooted in the Word, fervent in prayer, and united in love, even as we welcome new members and deepen our discipleship efforts.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for God's past faithfulness and confidence in His future grace. To Him be all the glory!

CHURCH UPDATE



The RP Global Alliance website
www.rpglobalalliance.org
is the place to find news,
information and prayer points
about the RP Church around
the world.

The RPGA Team also sends
out weekly prayer emails and
a monthly newsletter directly
to your inbox.

Scan the QR Code below to
subscribe.



REVIEWED

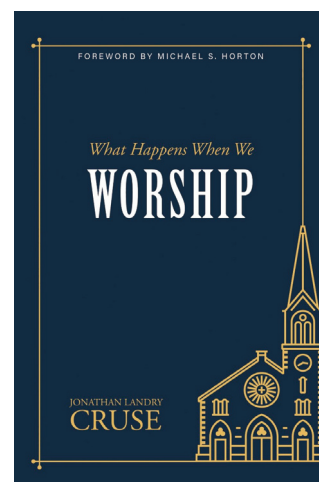
What Happens When We Worship

by Jonathan Landry Cruse

REVIEW BY MR. JORDAN DOHMS
Member of Ottawa RPC

In an accessible style, enriched with ample quotations from Scripture and Reformed sources, Jonathan Landry Cruse answers this question in his book of the same title. The book is under 200 pages and divided into three parts: a theology of worship (the 'why'), an anatomy of worship (the 'what'), and, lastly, preparing our hearts for worship. Cruse begins with God, the one worthy of our worship, who has condescended to meet with us in his worship. He reminds readers that this simple and regular activity is the pinnacle of our own and the church's calling and purpose (our 'chief end') on earth, and it is an activity that will continue into eternity.

It is easy to diminish the magnificence of worship as we attend week by week, month after month, year after year. Yet what a glorious thing it is that God has invited us to partake in this sacred act, reminding us time and again of his covenant love and faithfulness as he brings instruction, encouragement, and correction through his Word and Spirit. Cruse also warns us that not all that claims to be worship is Biblical worship; some have departed from Scripture into the varied abuses of 'entertainment' and 'mystical' counterfeits.



As we gain a deeper understanding of why we are to worship, Cruse describes the function and significance of several common elements of a Reformed worship service: the call to worship, the reading of the law, confession of sin and declaration of pardon, preaching, the Lord's Supper, singing, and the benediction. Each element he discusses is full of significance in the life of the believer, deepening our love for God and our desire to exalt His name.

I encourage everyone to read this book. Whether you are new to Reformed worship or have attended services all your life, we can all benefit from meditating on these foundational truths of our faith. Such meditation will increase our love for the worship we are privileged to participate in, instilling a newfound zeal as we read or sing the opening words of Psalm 122.1: 'I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."'



ANNUAL **MEN'S RETREAT**



OCTOBER 24 & 25

Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley
OVP Camp, Cobden Ontario

More details to come

