



RFPA update

ISSUE
44

Winter 2024

New Release

Biblical and Religious Psychology

by Herman Bavinck

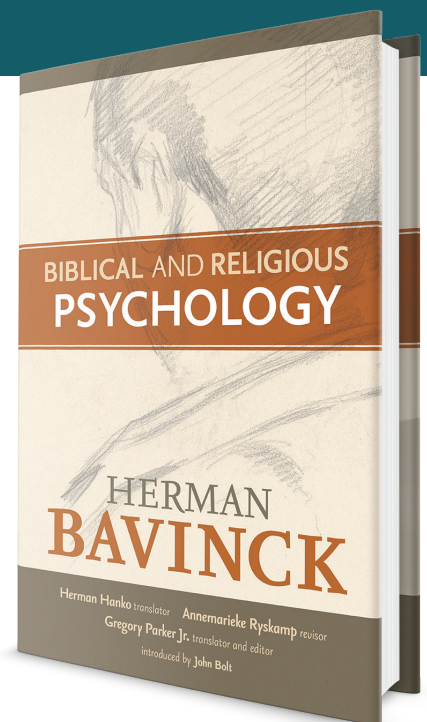
Available now!

The great Reformed theologian Herman Bavinck (1854–1921) was famous for his study of many disciplines, including psychology. The pinnacle of his studies in theological psychology is *Biblical and Religious Psychology*. The book is divided into two parts which work in harmony to cultivate a theological anthropology that attends to who man psychologically is, in relation to God, according to both special and general revelation. Both readers acquainted with Bavinck and new readers will be captivated by the author's typically rich and erudite style.

Biblical and Religious Psychology, translated by Herman Hanko and edited by Gregory Parker Jr, with revisions by Annemarieke Ryskamp, is an enlightening and stimulating work that will help all readers think more deeply about the relationship between theology and psychology and appreciate the theological complexities of being human.

“[The Bible] teaches us to know man as he is and as he will always remain in his origin, essence, and destiny... the study of holy Scripture introduces us to man's soul-life in a way that no other book does or can do. After all, it describes for us what changes in that man, who remains the same according to his essence, are produced through sin and grace. It follows that man through these changes to the deepest hiding places of his heart, brings to light what happens in secret, and manifests itself also in this sense to be a word of God that is living and powerful and penetrates to the dividing of soul and spirit [Heb. 4:12]. And finally, it never does all this in abstract conceptions, but it makes us see everything in the full reality of life. It brings before us persons, each of whom is worthy of studying in his own right and who together form a gallery that cannot be seen anywhere else. And among them, or rather, high above them, Christ stands, the only one among men, full of grace and truth.”

—Herman Bavinck, *Biblical and Religious Psychology*, p. 16



Bavinck spent his career as a theologian thinking about the human subject. Here you get his final thoughts on the psyche, consciousness, and particularly what the Bible teaches about human beings and how we respond to God's presence. This is the work of the mature Bavinck, which makes it worth paying attention to.

—Cory Brock, minister in the Free Church of Scotland at St. Columba's (Edinburgh, Scotland) and lecturer in systematic theology, Edinburgh Theological Seminary

New Release



***Who is Jesus?
Devotions from
the Gospel of
John for Teens,
book 1***

by Abby Van
Solkema

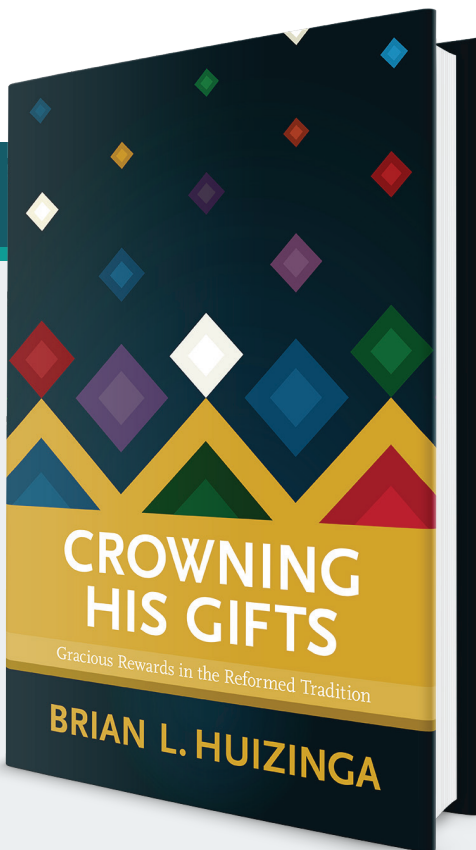
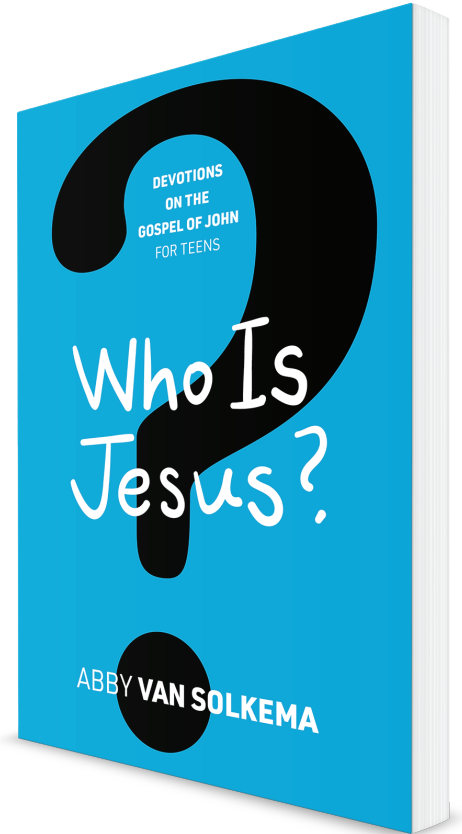
*Available since
December 2023!*

Contrary to what many believe today, neither the truth that Jesus is both really God and really man nor the way that he views the people on this earth are ideas that you can simply form your own opinion on. These truths are clearly taught in the pages of Scripture and are “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

So who is Jesus? John’s inspired gospel account of our Savior’s ministry will help you answer this question biblically, and it will also help you understand just how important the answer to your question is. When you fall into sin or are tempted to sin or when you suffer hardship and loss, there is great comfort in knowing who Jesus is—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

“Jesus is at the front and center of this devotional. What can the first four chapters of the book of John teach us about the Savior who came from Heaven to redeem us? This devotional makes the meaning of some complicated verses clear, all the while demonstrating why it is so important that WE know who Jesus is.”

—from a review by Mikiaia P. of Redlands, CA



Coming Soon!

***Crowning His Gifts: Gracious Rewards
in the Reformed Tradition***

by Brian Huizinga

***My Time is Not Yet Come: Devotions
on the Gospel of John, book 2***

by Abby Van Solkema

Stories from the Psalms

by Mike Velthouse

***What Is My Vocation? A Guide for
Young People Seeking a Calling***

by Bill Boekestein

Become an RFPA Book Agent Today!

Did you know? In addition to 5 full-time staff members, much of the work of the RFPA is done by 200+ Association members (16 of whom are elected to the RFPA Board) and a significant number of volunteers. These volunteers include “book agents” assigned to many church congregations in the United States—and even churches across the world!

If your congregation does NOT have a book agent, but you’d like to volunteer yourself or someone you know for the position, read on for the *requirements*, *responsibilities*, and *perks*. If your congregation *does* have an agent, please let them know that you appreciate their work on behalf of the RFPA!

Requirements

1. Agents must be a member of the church or organization that they serve/represent.
2. Agents must agree with the mission of the RFPA.

Responsibilities

Most importantly, agents are responsible for distributing new releases to congregants. Agents also work to promote the RFPA and its publications to their fellow congregants who are not currently RFPA supporters, such as newlyweds, young singles, and new members of the church.

Perks

Each Agent will receive every new Book Club/Level 1 release free of charge, regardless of the number of Book Club and Leveled members in the Agent’s congregation. Agents also have the option to purchase a **discounted** Level 2 membership if they wish to receive ALL new RFPA books (book agents may become Level 2 members for the price of a Level 1 subscription).

Does this work sound like something that might benefit you? Let us know if you’re interested in signing up as a book agent or would like more information. Email ashley@rfpa.org or call the office at 616-457-5970 today.

Conferences

Upcoming: 2024 Ligonier Conference

This May, Ashley Mulder and Marco Barone will attend the 2024 Ligonier conference in Orlando, TX. This year’s theme, *The Way, the Truth, and the Life*, perfectly aligns with our most recent devotional release for teens: *Who is Jesus?* by Abby Van Solkema.

The annual Ligonier conference, established in 1988 by the Sprouls, is regularly attended by thousands every year. In 2024, the planners are expecting 6000 attendees! Ligonier has proven to be an incredible way to introduce the RFPA and its catalog to many believers.

2023 ETS Conference

Last November, RFPA staff members Dwight Quenga and Marco Barone traveled to the 2023 Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Barone in particular was right at home, with many of the over 2000 attendees holding PhDs in theology and philosophy.

Hundreds of attendees from various Reformed and Evangelical denominations—many of whom had never heard of the RFPA until then—streamed through tables laden with our books and publications, including conference favorites *Behold He Cometh*, *The Ten Commandments for Children*, *Biblical and Religious Psychology*, and *The Wonder of Grace*.

Are you hosting or attending a conference that the RFPA should check out? Call 616-457-5970 or email mail@rfpa.org with comments and suggestions on future conference attendance.

Want to help sponsor RFPA attendance at future conferences? Use the QR code to donate now!



What's New? with PUBLICATIONS

Are you looking for a gift idea for someone's birthday, or for edifying Christian content to use with your own family? Consider subscribing to one or both of our religious magazines!

A subscription to *Ignited by the Word* is included in a Level 2 membership, and a subscription to *The Standard Bearer* is included in both Level 1 and Level 2 memberships. To learn more about the membership program, visit rfpa.org/pages/membership.

Ignited by the Word

Ignited has a new Facebook page! Since Dec 2023, follow along with fellow *Ignited* readers for behind-the-scenes content on authors and articles.

The most recent themed issue was **All Creatures Great and Small**. The next themed issue on **Music** is scheduled for April 2024. For sneak peeks and reminders of upcoming issues, find *Ignited by the Word* on Facebook!

Ignited by the Word is a quarterly-published, Christian children's magazine split into three sections: PreK–2nd grade, 3rd–5th grade, and 6th–8th grade. Whether you are looking for Bible stories to read to your preschooler, stories about the heroes of the faith for your ten-year-old, or a set of daily devotions for your young teenager, *Ignited by the Word* is the magazine for you and your family!

And don't forget—*Ignited* wants article and artwork submissions from YOU! Send in your work to info@ignitedbytheword.org or via the IBTW website to be featured and credited in future issues!

RFPA Blog

Have you read the recent *Apostasy* series on our blog? We publish new content every Monday, from blog series to book reviews! Don't forget to sign up for our email list (rfpa.org/pages/subscribe-to-our-email-list) so you can be the first to know when new blog content is available.

“...the preventive to apostasy is growth in grace. That is why the text begins with that word ‘for.’ The context of Hebrews 6 is that the Hebrew Christians were intolerably slow, and really careless and negligent in learning the truth. The writer brings up the subject of apostasy to stir them up more earnestly to grow in grace. These Christians were showing signs of being mere tasters and of being content with the milky first principles of the truth, but without the stomach for the more substantial strong meat of the truth...Let us heed the warning; let us watch and pray; let us cling to Christ, feed on Christ, and grow up into Christ, the only Savior. He will preserve us from apostasy. May God graciously grant it!”

—from Rev. Martyn McGeown, “Apostasy: Unto What?” (11/13/2023)



The Standard Bearer

If you're already subscribed to the *Standard Bearer*, you might have noticed that the magazine is celebrating its 100th year of publication! Since October 2023, the *SB* has been highlighting noteworthy covers from the last 100 years, including the very first cover ever used in October 1924. How many of the past few covers have you recognized? Keep an eye out for the June 2024 issue, which will complete this project with the unveiling of a brand-new *SB* cover design!

And if you're not subscribed yet, consider taking a moment to join thousands of Reformed believers who read the *SB* every month! Search for “Standard Bearer” on rfpa.org, or email mail@rfpa.org to order a subscription for yourself or a loved one today.

The *Standard Bearer* is a semi-monthly, 24-page print magazine devoted to explaining and defending Reformed doctrine, promoting the Reformed life of the church and believer, and combating old and new errors that threaten to disrupt the Reformed faith and life. The magazine has boldly and unashamedly testified to the faith of the Protestant Reformation since 1924.

Call to Action: Deficit Drive Update

Did you know? Reformed Free Publishing operates as a nonprofit. That means that the money from *every* book we sell is used to help create and sell more books! However, our book sales only partially cover all of our costs of operation. That means that in order to keep providing you and believers across the world with high quality, Reformed works, we depend on donations from readers like you.

For the last few months, the RFPA has been running a fundraising drive

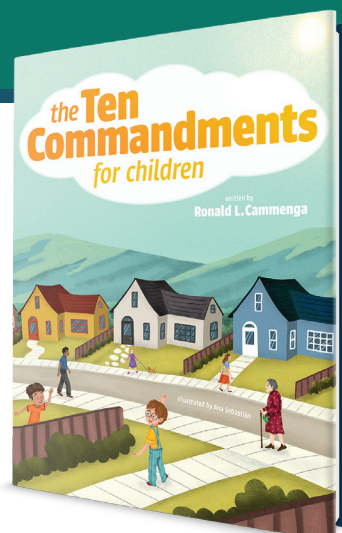
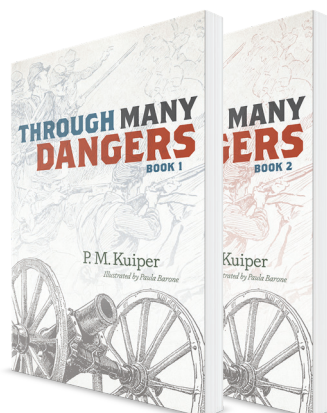
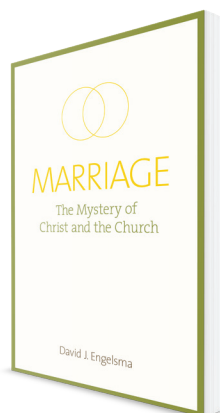
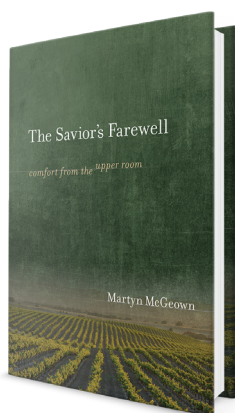
for our 2023–24 budget deficit. As a result, we've seen a generous spike in donations from you, our beloved readers! We continue to experience God's blessings through your prayers and financial support.

As of January 2024, the RFPA has received **\$143,000** toward our goal of **\$200,000** for the Fiscal Year. Wow! We thank God and we thank you for this outpouring of support.

If you'd like to contribute to our deficit drive, you may donate any time

by clicking on the "Donate" button on our website. Otherwise, checks may be mailed to the RFPA office address. Don't forget, the RFPA is a 501(c3) organization, so your donations may be tax-deductible! Every dollar (both American and Canadian currency alike) is used in our mission "to glorify God by making accessible to the broadest possible audience material that testifies to the truth of Scripture as understood and developed in the Reformed tradition."

What People Are Saying...



"One of the author's strengths is his regular reach into the historic creeds and confessions of the church...To be sure, McGeown's work is a treasure trove of exegetical and pastoral insights, and, from that interest alone, pastors will want to lean into this resource."

–Roger G. DePriest on *The Savior's Farewell* by Martyn McGeown

"This book is the best book I have read on marriage. I have given and/or recommended this book to just about every married Christian couple I know."

–Samuel W. on *Marriage: The Mystery of Christ and the Church* by David J. Engelsma

"Author P.M. Kuiper mastered historical accounts of the war so thoroughly that the novel comes close to being actual history...This is a Civil War story that Christian readers will not want to miss."

–Robert P. Swierenga on *Through Many Dangers* by P.M. Kuiper

"*The Ten Commandments for Children* is an effective resource [to teach our children God's most wise ways for our lives]. Cammenga not only teaches the commandments, but also explores their depth and practicality in an age-appropriate way. He has a kind, yet unwavering, manner of writing...*Ten Commandments* will undoubtedly be a blessing for many families."

–Amanda Deboer on *The Ten Commandments for Children* by Ron Cammenga

"It is exactly what I was looking for in preparing messages for the youth in the congregation I serve. It's first of all biblical. Secondly, it has depth of insight. Thirdly, it provides excellent application to our lives."

–Al B. on *The Ten Commandments for Children* by Ron Cammenga





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RFPA update



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Say Among the Heathen
the Lord Reigns
Evidences in Southeast Asia

Jeannette Kortering | MEMOIRS
Say Among the Heathen the Lord Reigns is the account of her husband Rev. James Kortering's missionary labors in Singapore, India, and Myanmar during the years 1892 to 2006. The recollections and stories in this book will direct your heart to God who gathers in Christ his elect church out of all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues.

"Our living in Singapore and other foreign countries for 19+ years was a great blessing for the whole family. Though children and grandchildren gave up their parents and grandparents for the Lord's work, and we were separated from each other for a while, God remained our constant. He reigns. He reigns over the whole earth and we rejoice. He reigns over the multitude of isles and they are glad (Ps. 97). He rules in America and he rules across the globe. We were separated by many, many miles but we were so close because we worshiped and served the same God. He is supremely sovereign and yet gentle and caring in his love for his people. It was our privilege many years ago to share that truth in a heathen culture."
Jeannette Kortering
368 pages, paperback (e-book available)
Retail \$24.95
Membership \$16.52 USA
\$17.55 international

"Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth; the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved; he shall judge the people righteously."
-Psalm 96:10

4 | NEW RELEASES

Ecclesiastes
A Reflective Exposition

Thomas Mieremaa
EXPOSITIONAL COMMENTARIES & SERMONS

"Our Saviour in his preaching and teaching does not quote directly from Ecclesiastes. Jesus, rather, takes up the concepts found in the book and expands on them, particularly in many of his parables. As such Ecclesiastes belongs to an aspect of the fabric of the gospel. It undergirds the knowledge of the world as it is fallen in sin under God's judgment. The world can afford us no salvation. Man cannot deliver himself from bondage. Under the sun the works of men do not profit. Salvation is a work of God alone which is from above. God must enter into our misery in the person of his only begotten Son to save and redeem us. Under the sun, deliverance is not to be found but only vanity and death. Ecclesiastes points to the need for the work of God's grace in Christ, the true Saviour, as the only solution to the fallen world and its vanity." -Thomas Mieremaa

Life in the Covenant
In Family, Church, and World

Wilbur Brutsman | CHRISTIAN LIFE

"Whether we are discovering the truth of God's covenant for the first time or being refreshed in it, we cannot help but behold the beauty and warmth of our personal relationship with the most high God! To the believer, this relationship is not some cold, abstract theological dogma he examines at arm's length, only to turn away untouched by what it teaches. This intimate relationship we share with almighty God becomes the warp and woof of our lives! Our lives in this world are inseparably woven together with that of our God! God's covenant becomes the fabric of life in the home, in the church, and in our place in this world. Living consciously and actively in the sphere of God's covenant, therefore, will directly influence our lives in all these spheres. Life with God determines how a believer views the world and his place in it." -Wilbur Brutsman

To place an order go to
rfpa.org or call 616-457-5970

UPCOMING RELEASES | 5

The RFPA UPDATE

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New catalogs will be available by request in the spring of 2024.