

**33
THESES
ON
CULTURE
SHAPING**

NEW SAINT ANDREWS COLLEGE

CANON  PRESS
MOSCOW, IDAHO

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

*“For everyone to whom much is given,
from him much will be required.”*

LUKE 12:48, NKJV

THIS VERSE is part of the graduation ritual at each commencement ceremony at New Saint Andrews College. We believe that by God’s grace, we have given much to our graduates and that as a result, much will be required of them. God has given us abundant fruit already in the form of faithful graduates, but, as the leadership of the college, we are ambitious for more. We desire to be faithful servants who increase what we have been given to steward by ten- or even one-hundredfold. The following theses reflect that ambition. They are a combination of both what is being given to students and what will be required of them.

IN ALL of this, we sow in faith with a vision to produce graduates who shape culture by living faithfully under the

Lordship of Jesus Christ. Join us in praying that God will continue to bless our work, bring the harvest, and require much from us and our graduates in the process.

LUKE JANKOVIC

Chairman of the Board

New Saint Andrews College

PREAMBLE

NEW SAINT Andrews College is an academic community that is centered on the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all things; therefore, we are pursuing a robust liberal arts education in the classical Christian tradition in the context of real Christian community. Our purpose is to graduate leaders who shape culture living faithfully under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As we have undertaken the education and formation of our students with an eye to culture-shaping, we often have been asked: Precisely what is entailed in the task of cultural leadership, and what is not entailed by it?

THE COLLEGE seeks to operate within the following board-approved description of what liberal arts education in the classical and Christian tradition means to us here at New Saint Andrews College. We will keep this statement in print, readily available to students, donors, prospective students and their families, and any others. When revisions are made, as they will be from time to time, the date such revisions are approved by the board will be listed on the copyright page. This set of theses is a description, not a definition nor a pedagogical statement of faith, such that every faculty

member has to subscribe to every jot and tittle mentioned. Nevertheless, this stands as an accurate summary of our project, which we trust will be clearly and regularly reinforced to the students.

HOWEVER UNCONVENTIONAL in its design, the following array of affirmations contains a carefully considered structure and order.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

WE AFFIRM the absolute authority of Scripture. As the Word of the almighty God, this authority extends over all things. The Scriptures are authoritative in all that they address, and, in principle, the Scriptures address everything. Because Jesus is Lord, there is no neutrality anywhere. In order for our graduates to engage in the task of shaping culture with boldness, once honest exegesis is done, we want them to identify no “problem passages” in the Scriptures that would challenge their view of biblical authority. This is not to imply that biblical exegesis is always easy; however, once the meaning of a passage is understood, submission to the teaching of that passage is a given. What the Bible teaches, we believe, confess, and seek to apply. This includes the general equity of the Old Testament law, because the Old Testament is as authoritative as the New Testament. We intend for our graduates to be thoroughly familiar with the contents of Scripture, to be able to appeal to its content in support of their views, and to be devoted to Bible reading and study for the rest of their lives.

WE DENY that our presupposition of exhaustive biblical authority negates or diminishes in any way what we are to learn from natural revelation and from persons benefiting from common grace. We are biblical absolutists, not biblical exclusivists. But we do acknowledge the inability of the natural man to reason ultimately, either morally or consistently, apart from the work of the Holy Spirit and the specific revelation of the Scriptures.

WORSHIP AS THE CENTER OF ALL COMMUNITY

WE AFFIRM that the Lordship of Christ extends over every aspect of human existence, and that this sovereignty is to be acknowledged by all Christians in worship every Lord's Day. There is no place for neutrality, no realm that is outside the realm of His authority (Matt. 28:18-20). In this respect, we affirm the crown rights of the Lord Jesus and celebrate them on a weekly basis. We are content to have Christ's rule called a theocracy. We intend for our graduates to labor productively in every lawful pursuit and want them to always remember that unless this pattern of worship is at the center of their endeavors, those endeavors will all come to nothing.

WE DENY that theocracy in this sense mandates an ecclesiocracy in any way; rather, it prohibits one. If mere Christendom were a town, then the church is the cathedral at the center of town, and its ministry is that of grace and peace. The civil authorities over the town constitute the ministry of justice. And it follows that the families of the commonwealth are the ministries of health, education, and welfare.

WORSHIP AS THE HIGHEST OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

WE AFFIRM that man is fundamentally *homo adorans* (worshipping man) and cannot enter into the glory God has prepared for us apart from worshipping the Lord in accordance with His Word. All that we seek to accomplish in this world must be built upon the foundation of worship, and all that the liberal arts represent are nothing apart from that worship. We therefore affirm that worship is the highest of the liberal arts. As theology is the queen of the sciences, so worship is its crown.

WE DENY that worship is a withdrawal from the affairs of the world. Rather, worship is the engine of culture. It is the shame of much contemporary Christianity to have sought to engage culture with little or no engine.