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Editorial

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Editorial

Two small paperback books may not seem very important to some people. But when these books are written by Dr. Cornelius Van Til and are personally autographed by the author, they become very important. Such is the case with two books on my study bookshelf: The New Synthesis Theology of the Netherlands and Who Do You Say That I Am? both published by Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company.

One thing has always characterized the position and writing of Dr. Van Til, i.e. a sensitive recognition of the antithesis which exists between the Christian and non-Christian world of thought and life. Thus it is, for example, that we read in Who Do You Say That I Am? on page 15

The Greek's search for a moral ideal, standard, and motivation, was the quest for the depth of mankind's spirit. At all three of these points, their paideia must be regarded as the diametrical opposite of the Christian paideia.

Professor Nick Van Til, a member of Dordt's faculty from the time the College began, is a nephew of Cornelius Van Til. The nephew is in no sense an uncritical follower and disciple of his uncle; but he is, like his uncle, cognizant of the antithesis. Van Til is especially aware of the importance of the antithesis in the sphere of education. For this reason we were not surprised when, in speaking on behalf of the Dordt faculty concerning "Academic Orientation at Dordt," he made the following statement:

...we begin with certain fundamentals of the Christian faith which will not allow us to assume a neutral or noncommittal attitude towards the data we

find in our fields of competence as scholars. We never presume to work in any area that is not part of God's Creation. We don't presume that this always shows up, so that we are doing something ostensibly different than our secular counter-parts, but we hope that we work with a noticeably different self-conscious intent. The idea of the antithesis would also intimate that secularism has religious intentions of its own, though they have not been formalized by ritual expression.

When Professor Van Til made this statement, which appears in his article in this issue of Pro Rege (p. 6), he did not fear the possibility of public contradiction from any of his colleagues. All of us are committed,* along with Van Til, to the position set forth in Dordt's statement of purpose, Scripturally-Oriented Higher Education, p. 19:

The insights of the unregenerate when viewed in the context of his presuppositions, his heart-commitment, reveal the basic spiritual antithesis between his conclusions and those which are the fruit of regeneration. A synthesis of unbelieving and believing thought remains wholly out of question (II Corinthians 6:14-17).

We trust that the articles appearing in this issue of Pro Rege indicate that the biblical concept of the antithesis between the "conclusions" of the regenerate and unregenerate is still observed at Dordt College.

J.B.H.