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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

As noted elsewhere in this issue of Pro Rege, the 1974-1975 academic year will mark the Twentieth Anniversary of Dordt College.

The years following Dordt's establishment have been years of blessing. The faculty has grown from five to fifty-eight members, and the student body from thirty-five to well over nine hundred. The curriculum has been developed and expanded. As the student body increased the necessary classroom, dormitory and recreational facilities have been built. Meanwhile the college developed from a two to a four-year institution, with full accreditation by the North Central Accrediting Association. God has blessed Dordt College!

During these twenty years many significant events have occurred and many changes have taken place in our society--events and changes which have radically altered institutions of higher learning in our nation. (In 1968 a new "magazine of higher learning" made its appearance, bearing the name Change.) Dordt College has not been untouched or unaffected by these "changes." But there is one thing that has remained unchanged at Dordt; that is its commitment to a biblical perspective in higher education.

That commitment is clearly set forth in Dordt's statement of purpose, Scripturally-Oriented Higher Education. Describing "the spiritual convictions of the constituents who originated and operate Dordt College," the statement makes this acknowledgment:

Fundamental to the beliefs of our constituents is their adherence to the Word of God. The Holy Scriptures are accepted in faith as the divinely, verbally, infallibly, and authoritatively inspired special revelation of God--the only rule of life. The Bible alone contains the key to the understanding, interpretation, meaning, and purpose of all life. All things must ultimately be judged in the light of its teachings: "In thy light we see light" (Psalm 36:9). Contained therein

are the principles and concepts which are determinative for and essential to a Christian educational philosophy... (p. 3)

That commitment is firmly re-iterated in the College President's convocation address, which appears as the first article in this issue of Pro Rege:

Foremost among these principles is that concerning the high priority of the Holy Scriptures in all scholarship and activity. Dordt always has and always should recognize the Bible as the infallible key to all knowledge. It provides the directives for each science.... And when involved in a study of God's general revelation, which is, after all, the task of Christian education, we look upon the Scriptures as having sole priority, as that light in which we see God's light in creation. (p. 4-5)

"Recent Covenant Studies and the Reformed Believer," (pp. 6-13) by Prof. Wayne Kobes, contains a clear expression of our unchanging commitment to a biblical perspective in the midst of change. Kobes is dealing in this article with recent scientific, archeological findings. Doing so, he writes:

The Reformed believer today must not accept the higher-critical approach to Scripture and all that follows from it, but, holding firmly to his confession that Scripture is the infallible, inspired Word of God, he can and must make use of recent research which serves to deepen his understanding of that covenant Word. (p. 13)

Pro Rege is not twenty years old. It is just beginning its third year of publication. But, as Editorial Committee of the faculty publication of a twenty year old Christian institution of higher education, we also pledge ourselves to carry on our part of this Kingdom enterprise in faithful recognition of the sole priority of Scripture.

J. B. H.