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In This Issue

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In this issue

John Vander Stelt ("Theology as Study of Faith-life") offers an answer to an extremely important question, a question usually not asked. Perhaps the question is not asked very often because Christian educators and other Christian scholars uncritically assume the answer. This is one form of the question: What should theology teachers teach? Vander Stelt discusses what it means to consider theology a science. He shows that "theology" is not the same as "Christian beliefs," but is rather a distinct discipline. If that is so, he asks, what does theology investigate? He begins his answer by stating, "At least five wrong answers have been given to this question: God, revelation, scripture, creed, and church." In his discussion Vander Stelt offers a definition of theology which helps one to answer the fundamental question. If teachers of theology accept his analysis of the present situation, there will be far-reaching changes wherever "Bible," "religion," or "theology" are taught.

Mike Vanden Bosch ("Literature and the 'Good Society' ") questions whether many of the reasons usually given for studying literature are valid reasons to study contemporary literature. As Vanden Bosch discusses these reasons, he also points the way toward effective criticism of literature. For example, he states in discussing

Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-lighted Place" that "... we must bring our own wisdom to the story, for nothing in the story qualifies as such." In particular, he suggests that comparing this tale with ten Boom's *The Hiding Place* would be illuminating.

In "Of Pendulums, Eclectics, and Identity: An Essay on Method and Worldview," John Kok looks at the concept of worldview as Christians are using it today and how this concept could be used fruitfully in the future. Kok examines the analyses of the worldview concept advanced by James Sire, Arthur Holmes, and others. In his summing up, Kok maintains that we must always define our position in a positive way, not define it by rejecting another point of view. He says, "... People who acknowledge that God is both sovereign and personal should not be satisfied with a standpoint in between the extremes of pantheism and deism."

In our next issue we expect to present the proceedings of a creation-evolution conference held on campus last fall. Because of the great amount of material, we will have one large issue, the March/June, 1989 issue, instead of separate issues in March and June.

Russell Maatman