
Pro Rege

Volume 3 | Number 2

Article 1

December 1974

Editorial

John B. Hulst
Dordt College

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Recommended Citation

Hulst, John B. (1974) "Editorial," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 3: No. 2, 1.

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EDITORIAL

Is there a difference between Christian and non-Christian academic activity? If so, what is the difference and how does it express itself in the actual academic situation?

These questions are not infrequently heard today. As always, they are being asked by the secular community, because that community sees no purpose in Christian academic institutions or in the academic activity being carried on in those institutions. But these questions are also being asked by students attending Christian colleges. Many of these students have travelled a long way from home and are spending a large amount of money to get a Christian education. They, too, though for an entirely different reason, are asking, "What is the difference?"

In either case, these are good questions, questions which deserve an answer. "The Antithesis in the Natural Sciences" is an attempt to answer these questions in one area of scholarship. The four articles which appear under this heading were first presented as a series of Convocation addresses delivered to the students and faculty of Dordt College. They appear in Pro Rege because the Editorial Committee judged that they deserved wider distribution and consideration.

The series does more, however, than indicate the difference between Christian and non-Christian scholarship. In articulating that difference it demonstrates the kind of scholarship which arises out of the stance which Prof. N. Van Til endeavors to describe in his article entitled, "Confessional Scholarship." The various articles were produced independently. (The series was presented during the '73-'74 academic year.

while Van Til began work on his article this past summer and completed it after Wolterstorff's appearance on campus.) Nevertheless the articles of the series do reflect what Van Til sets forth when he writes:

... the antithesis runs through all of life. The antithesis is announced as early as Genesis 3:15 and is repeated through all of the Bible. If we are to pursue our scholarship biblically, we cannot do so by failing to take account of the distinctions which the antithesis demands (p. 20).

The visit of Dr. N. Wolterstorff, referred to in Van Til's article (p. 25), was greatly appreciated by the members of Dordt's faculty. In addition to Van Til's evaluation, Wolterstorff's presentation of a Christian "theory of theories" has resulted in extensive discussion—both formal and informal—within the faculty, which discussion will hopefully advance the cause of Christian scholarship.

"Incidentally" does not appear in this issue of Pro Rege. The things we had hoped to consider in this section have been quite adequately dealt with in other Dordt publications. We trust, however, that Pro Rege's first offering on a Christian approach to the study of language, written by Professors Boot and Struyk, and the initial appearance of the Book Review section will compensate for "Incidentally's" temporary absence.

And thus, with gratitude to God for His continued guidance and blessing, we present to our readers another issue of Pro Rege.

J. B. H.