

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE CHURCH

A PUBLICATION OF THE FACULTY OF AUSTIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Volume 23 / 2009

Michael R. Weed
Editor

M. Todd Hall
Assistant Editor

Christian Studies (ISSN-4125) is a publication of the faculty of Austin Graduate School of Theology (formerly The Institute for Christian Studies). *Christian Studies* is funded by gifts from readers and friends of the graduate school. Subscription is free upon request. Back issues are available for \$3.00 each, plus postage. Correspondence should be addressed to Michael R. Weed, or M. Todd Hall, Austin Graduate School of Theology, 7640 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78752. *Christian Studies* is indexed in ATLA Religion Database. Copyright Institute for Christian Studies. FAX: (512) 476-3919. Web Site: www.austingrad.edu. E-Mail: christianstudies-press@mail.austingrad.edu.

Christian Studies

Volume 23

2009

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>FOREWORD</i> | 4 |
| <i>ARTICLES</i> | |
| Making the Handoff Stan Reid | 5 |
| One Lord and One Body: Implications for the Common Faith of the Church Allan J. McNicol | 17 |
| “Nailed to the Cross”: The Continuing Relevance of the Old Testament R. Mark Shipp | 37 |
| The First and Second Tables of the Law in the New Testament Jeffrey Peterson | 47 |
| <i>Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs</i> Alexander Campbell | 59 |
| Pietism, Pieties, and the Contemporary Church: Promise and Peril Michael R. Weed | 61 |
| A Russian “Christians Only” Movement Thomas H. Olbricht | 75 |
| <i>OBITER DICTA</i> | 85 |
| <i>BOOKSHELF</i> | 91 |
| <i>Why Johnny Can’t Preach:</i> <i>The Media have shaped the Messengers</i> Reviewed by M. Todd Hall | |
| <i>CONTRIBUTORS</i> | 96 |

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, 1852
Alexander Campbell

The psalmody and the public prayers of a Christian community are the most unequivocal and infallible exponents of its piety and spiritual intelligence. Indeed, the sacred song and the social prayer are but the express image and living form of the pious emotions, religious taste, spiritual discernment, than holy affections of those who unite in them. If the Christian can best exhibit his faith by his works, he can also most satisfactorily verbally demonstrate his piety and humanity in the praises which he sings, and in the prayers and thanksgivings which he offers.

The Christian Hymn Book, next to the Bible, moreover, wields the largest and mightiest formative influence upon the young and old, upon saint and sinner, than of any other book in the world. Poetry, and especially good religious and moral poetry, emanates as much from the heart as from the head, and partakes so much of the spirit of its author, that it insinuates itself into the soul with more subtlety and power than any other language of mortals, either pictured to the eye, or presented to the ear. “Allow me,” said some one, “to write the ballads for a nation, and I care not who enacts its laws.” Permit me, I also say, to dispense the psalmody of a community, and I care not who dictates its creed or writes out its catechism. If the hymn-book is daily sung in the family, and in the social meetings of the brethren, it must imbue their souls with its sentiments more than all the other labors of the pulpit or the press.

For these reasons, no book ought to be got up with more religious care and consideration than the volume of psalmody. No task requires a more cultivated spiritual taste—a more enlarged and comprehensive mind—a more intimate acquaintance with the spirit of the Bible and the hallowed breathings of its saints, than the psalmody of a Christian church (*Introduction*, 13–14).