

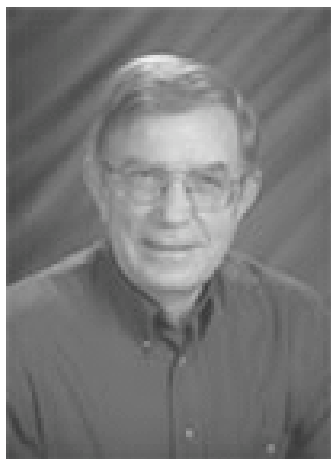
Christian Studies

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In Memoriam



Dr. Mike White
1938–2007

Dr. Mike White, son of John and Frances White, was born November 26, 1938, in Danville, Illinois. He died August 31, 2007, while visiting his son Paul in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mike received his undergraduate degree from Harding College where he met Gwen Combest, whom he married in 1960. After graduating from Harding, Mike entered the University of Illinois where he received his Ph.D. in Chemistry. Mike came to the University of Texas in 1966, where he held the Robert A. Welch Chair in the Department of Chemistry.

Mike published over 650 scholarly articles and graduated more than 50 doctoral students, many of whom are now teaching in universities around the world. In 2004 Mike

began a joint research appointment with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington State, where at the time of his death he was director of the Department of Energy's Institute for Interfacial Catalysis.

Mike was a longtime member and elder of the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ in Austin and served on the Board of Austin Graduate School of Theology. Mike is survived by his wife Gwen; son Mark and daughter-in-law Melissa; daughter RaeAnne and son-in-law Todd Landrum and their children; and his son Paul. He is also survived by his mother, Frances, and four siblings.

A friend and administrative associate described Mike as "a mentor, a teacher, a friend, a model for righteous living, and a loving husband, father, and granddad. He treated those he met with respect and generosity, and his passing leaves a mighty gap in not just the academic and scientific community but also in the circles of faith in which he served and lived."

Mike's common exhortation to friends was "Press on." And we will press on; and because of having walked a part of the journey with Mike, we will do so with more resolve, and courage, and expectancy than had we not known him.

Christian Studies

Volume 22

2007-2008

FOREWORD 6

ARTICLES

Divine Sovereignty and
Human Freedom in the Old Testament 7
R. Mark Shipp

The Trouble with Tulips:
Romans and Reformed Theology.....3;
Ben Witherington III

Christian Reflections on Human Free Will.....4;

Universal Salvation and the Christian Story.....59
Allan J. McNicol

Beyond the Darkness
Martha Ponders Walker.....79

From Mystery to Mastery:
Christo-Paganism Then and Now.....7;
Michael Weed

Baptism: Mode and Meaning.....8;

QDKVGT'F KVC.....95

BOOKSHELF

The Lepers Among Us, by Jim Reynolds
A Review Essay
Reviewed by M. Todd Hall.....9;

CONTRIBUTORS.....: 5

Beyond the Darkness

Martha Pounders Walker

05/22/2008

Oh, the loneliness of just-past sundown,
when tired day begs to stay—
when anxious night hovers in the wings
eager to command the stage.

Oh, the weariness of the unrelenting
task master pounding my brain, dividing
to conquer. The youth in me wants to finish;
the older me looks longingly at the sofa.

Oh, the guilt-ridden list, still incomplete,
the questions of indecision and the “if-onlies.”
Where is time hiding, and when did the body
become so unwilling to cooperate?

Finally night slips his dark shawl around my
weighted shoulders like a caul, protecting
the precious embryo of resignation from
which shall come thoughts of hope—
germinating, growing, and finally bursting forth—
Hope for the new day that was conceived when
darkness extinguished the struggling lights
of my regrets and my repentance.

How long now before that final twilight? How long
before that last night wraps me in his velvet shroud?
I cannot know *when*, but I can know hope—
Hope in the One *who* worked under cover of darkness,
Bringing day from the nothingness of night.

That same Creator, who brought me from the darkness
of my mother’s womb, shall likewise draw me from
the darkness of the grave—into the Light of His Presence.
I cannot remember that first nocturnal work, but
He can never forget. He has *promised* to do it again!

He shall surely shred the shroud, and
Darkness shall never strut again!

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