

### **Editorial**

This issue contains several articles of interest and help to both ministers and scholars. Each contributing author is committed to scholarship in the service of Christ and the church.

I wish to offer special thanks to Dr. Thor Madsen, the out-going academic editor. His insights and support have been a tremendous boon to the journal and to me personally. I also want to thank Joni Carrico for all of her valuable help and time on the formatting of this and the previous edition of the journal.

The first and second articles are written versions of two of the three Sizemore lectures that were presented at Midwestern Seminary in the fall of 2008. Dr. Steven Ortiz of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary gave the lectures on the nature of biblical archaeology and its usefulness to the evangelical community.

The third article is a helpful piece submitted by Alan Branch who teaches ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. This article gives a helpful critique of the hermeneutics practiced by the Metropolitan Community Church. The article will help readers understand good hermeneutical principles as well as the dangers inherent in forcing the Bible to conform to our desires.

The fourth article is a submission from David Wenkel who is a Ph.D. student studying at the University of Aberdeen. David's article examines the oft overlooked two-age eschatology in the book of Matthew and how that eschatology impacts our understanding of the book.

The final article is by Michael Fox who recently graduated from Midwestern Seminary with his M.Div. degree and who is now pursuing a Ph.D. at Brite Divinity School. The article gives an insightful examination into the concerns of Malachi by examining nuances present in the Hebrew text.

If you would like to have a Midwestern Seminary faculty member speak in your church, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to serve you.

Enjoy!

N. Blake Hearson, Ph.D.  
Managing Editor