

## EDITORIAL:

Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*. Our theme this time is *Review and Critique*. We begin by reprinting a classic sermon by the nineteenth-century Baptist theologian Francis Wayland that exercised a formative influence upon James Petigru Boyce's famous 1856 discourse, "Three Changes in Theological Institutions." Michael A. G. Haykin, Professor of Church History and Director of the Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, introduces us next to the warm evangelical piety of the eighteenth-century British Baptist John Sutcliff. Continuing the contributions of scholars from Southern, Peter J. Gentry explores the extensive cultural influence and continuing relevance of the Septuagint, the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament. Next Fred Sanders, of Biola University, takes a look at the late Evangelical author and theologian Donald G. Bloesch through the lens of his Soteriology. After that we turn to a very practical discussion of the question of how differing views on the Synoptic Problem impact the on-the-ground apologetic task. This is carried out by author and apologist Robert M. Bowman, Jr. Bowman, formerly of NAMB, is the director of the Institute of Religious Research in Grand Rapids Michigan. One of our Old Testament doctoral students, Russell L. Meek, also the associate editor of the *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* and Research Assistant to Midwestern President Jason K. Allen, provides a helpful overview and evaluation of the history and development of Historical Criticism. Finally the editor contributes two articles, the first representing a critic of the liberal theologian W. Wrede's early twentieth century idea of the Messianic Secret in Mark and the second magnifying the usefulness and importance of the Second Commandment using his own early religious experience as a lens.

In this issue we include as well a new section featuring favorite quotations and reflections on the life and calling of the Christian scholarship, a number of which were contributed from professors and friends of Midwestern.

Finally we include, as always, a number of relevant and interesting scholarly book reviews.

*Tolle lege!*