

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring issue of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*. This issue has as its theme the teachings of Islam. First featured is a well-attended debate that took place here at Midwestern between Jay Smith, a noted Christian apologist to Islam, and Khalil Meek, a former Southern Baptist Convert to Islam. Following that, we have an article by one of Midwestern's Old Testament Professors, Dr. N. Blake Hearson, along with one of our Doctoral students in Old Testament, Russell Meek, dealing with the apologetic problem of divine violence in the Old Testament as it relates to the ongoing debate between Christianity and Islam (i.e., how can Christians object to Muslim terrorism, while their own Old Testament contains many examples of seemingly similar violence carried out with divine approval?). Rounding out our theme section is a discussion of folk Islam, by Midwestern's Missions Professor and Interim President, Dr. Robin Hadaway, that features the teachings of Sufism, a mystical movement within Islam. As a final contribution to our theme section, Dr. Michael McMullen, Professor of History at Midwestern, has edited a previously unpublished sermon by prominent 18th century American Theologian, Jonathan Edwards, on John 3:36, dealing with the issue of the exclusivity of Christ as the way of Salvation.

In addition to articles relating to the issue's primary theme, we also include three other contributions that we hope you our readers will find interesting and helpful. The first is by Dr. Robert M. Frazier, Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College, on the subject of *ressentiment* in Kierkegaard. Though Dr. Frazier's article does not address the current political situation directly, in my view this is a very important article for this particular moment in history as the political left (especially though, sadly, not exclusively) increasingly comes to rely, not on the attractiveness of its political platform, but its ability to first of all foster resentment in people, and then to exploit that resentment as the force cementing loyalties to its own political agendas.

Next comes an article by Professor Donald T. Williams, Chair of the Department of Humanities and Natural Sciences at Toccoa Falls College. Dr. Williams defends C. S. Lewis's famous "Liar, Lord, or Lunatic Trilemma" against recent objections. Finally, the editor contributes an article on Mitt Romney, Mormonism, and abortion, showing how the Mormon view of when and how the soul enters the body of the unborn child leads to significantly different views on abortion from those commonly held by Evangelicals.

Finally we include several reviews of significant books, that we hope you will enjoy.