the children who attend the schools in which we teach, are interested in these distinctive principles and these methods of teaching. It is for this reason that the PROTESTANT REFORMED TEACHERS' INSTITUTE publishes the magazine.

The editorial staff, as representatives of the Institute, solicits both your comments and your support for this important cause. We are grateful for the generous responses from both individuals and from organizations.

We solicit your comments, both adverse and complimentary, because we wish to know whether you agree or disagree with us in our avowed purpose and the direction in which our magazine moves. We solicit your support, both prayers and material gifts, because we believe that this is an important work which the Institute is doing.

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The Managing Editor of the magazine hereby announces that your first year subscription has expired. All those desiring the magazine, who have paid their first year subscription, are receiving this third edition of Perspectives and are asked to send to the Subscription Office the annual subscription fee of $2.00. We assume that unless you notify us to the contrary, you desire to continue to receive the magazine.

Do you have a friend or relative to whom you wish the magazine to be sent? If you will include the name and addresses of these and include the appropriate subscription fees the magazine will be sent to them.

THE COVENANT SPHERES OF INSTRUCTION

by Rev. Jason Kortering

Rev. Jason Kortering is the pastor of the Protestant Reformed Church of Hull, Iowa. "The Covenant Spheres of Instruction" is one of a series of newsletters published by the Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School Society.

Within the covenant, one must constantly be instructed. A person never outgrows that need. With effort we can learn more of God's wonderful dealings with His people. The more we study, the more we marvel at God's greatness manifest in Himself and His works. Instruction has specific meaning as it applies to our children. They must learn to resist evil, Psalm 51:5,6. They must also learn to be children of God, thoroughly furnished unto every good work, II Timothy 3:16. The unique thing about our early years is that they are given entirely to learning. How important it is that we use them to the fullest.

1. God has designated three areas of instruction: church, home, and school. There is something special and peculiar to each of these areas. The church is the sphere of grace. God has given to us His infallible Word. This Word is the basis of the preaching of the gospel and sacraments. When the preaching and sacraments are according to the Word, they are indeed the Word of God. The preacher may rightly say, "Thus saith the Lord." By this word, we are delivered from sin and death and brought into a personal fellowship of friendship with God. We and our children are saved by this grace, Ephesians 2:8. The home is the sphere of practical religion. As covenant parents and their children live together in the home they are called upon by God to apply
the Word preached to their daily lives. A
godly mother and father have a great
influence upon their children. They give
them life-long values. These parents
demonstrate in their marriage the bless-
ings of being one in the Lord. Children see
this within the home. Both parents
demonstrate their God-given roles within
the home, and children learn by example
what they must try to do in their lives.
Prayer, spending money, attitude toward
the church, gossiping or loving concern for
others, all are taught in the home. This is
living out the life of grace in Christ. The
school is the sphere for learning a world
and life view. By means of instruction in
various disciplines, writing, reading,
math, history, science, our children are
taught that they are in this world and they
must learn what their place is in this
world. Parents realize that they lack time
and ability to develop this area for their
children, so they work together to provide
a school in which a covenant teacher can
do this with their cooperation.

2. Unity within these spheres is
important. There is only one Word of God,
the Bible, and each sphere is not
sovereign by itself, but rather each sphere
influences other spheres. This is a
beautiful idea for covenant parents to
understand. Through the preaching of
the gospel, the Word of God, faith is
implanted in our hearts. We believe in
God and we believe His Word is truth.
The Holy Spirit makes us alive by this
Word, this living faith carries over into
our homes and schools. The guide for the
home is the same Word of God, the Bible.
As living saints, we realize that the Bible
is given to us as a lamp unto our feet and
a light upon our pathway. We must be
hearers of the Word, but also doers,
James 1:22. True piety is to learn to live
according to the will of God every day. As
parents we must teach this to our children
by precept and example. Now apply this to
the school. The same Word is given to us
as a guide for our world and life view. The
Bible has much to say to us concerning
our place in this world. It is for the
covenant Christian school to spell this out.
The one thing that unifies all instruction is
the one Word of God.

3. To do this most effectively, we
need our own Protestant Reformed school.
This is seen by many church communions
different from our own. Roman Catholic,
Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist
dinstitutions and Christian Reformed parents
have schools that teach their views. The
church has a great deal of influence on
these schools. History shows that as the
churches go, so go also the schools. Our
distinctiveness as church certainly carries
over into the areas of home and school.
That which makes the difference is our
interpretation of the Bible. Our children
need to be shown the unity of the Word as
it applies to all three spheres of life. The
more we do this for them, the better they
are able to reject sin and follow righteous-
ness.

"Chronological problems are resolved when it is realized that all dates
before about 3000 B.C. are based on radiocarbon or other indirect
methods, not on actual historical records. The assumptions on which
such methods are based are suspect because of their fundamental
evolutionary and uniformitarian presuppositions. As discussed further
in Chapter VIII, all such calculations are easily capable of reconciliation
with the much more condensed Biblical version of human chronology."

Henry M. Morris

*The Remarkable Birth of Planet Earth*, p. 46-47.