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 blessings 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 churches 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 righteousness.

"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.