



GCS News

A Newsletter for Students and Alumni of Grace Communion Seminary

March 19, 2016

Greetings,

I can hardly believe I have been serving as GCS president for almost eight months now. While I am honored with that privilege, I have to admit that my first love is teaching. This semester I have been enjoying the course on the theology of C.S. Lewis. Although I have taught it a number of times in various formats, I find myself always challenged and refreshed in hearing anew insights into the deep things of God Lewis had to share.

But more than that, I find that the gospel, somehow, never gets old. Somehow it continues to be new and renewing. Yes, it is, in a way, simple. There is a core, a central truth focused on Jesus Christ as presented in Scripture. But the gospel seems to be simple – like a well. Once you know where it is, it's easy to locate, to get back to. And it's all right there in that one place. However, like a well, it's deep. Every time you go back to take a look and get a drink, it just gets deeper. After a while, you realize you're never going to get to the bottom of it. But that's OK. You know exactly where to return to find living water. And sometimes you do get a little deeper, often with the help of other mentors, like Lewis (or faculty members!).

At this time of the Christian year, we celebrate one of the deepest mysteries: how the crucifixion of the incarnate Son of God led to his resurrection, never to die again. The resurrection of Jesus means not just the rising up from the dead of that one man, but, in connection with his human nature, all humanity will be raised up and offered eternal life in and with him as Lord and Savior. He conquered death itself. He was raised for our justification, for our reconciliation and right relationship with God, as Paul put it. In him has begun the renewal of the whole cosmos. There is nothing greater to celebrate! "See, I am making all things new!" (Rev. 21:5)

Our Triune God is a God of renewal that overflows out from the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been graciously caught up in that astounding event. God has done an amazing work of renewal among us over these past 25 years or so. I believe GCS is called to bear witness to that renewing movement of the Spirit. We want to continue to equip the saints for pastoral ministry that faithfully raises others up to share in the ongoing regeneration of the Spirit – a renewal that comes out of that same center in Jesus Christ and his fulfillment of the new covenant in the power of the Spirit. GCS is called to serve as a continuing channel of that blessing which God has poured out upon us.

I want to thank you for being a part of GCS and invite you to continue to participate in God's continuing renewal among us so that we might be a living witness to the power of his resurrection. Please join us in prayer, by letting others know what GCS has to offer, by your gifts and by signing up for a course! God's not finished with us yet.

Every blessing through our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

President