

ChalcedonReport

MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE CHALCEDON FOUNDATION® OCTOBER 2023

The More Things Change, the More they Stay the Same

An Update on Our New Website by Andrea Schwartz.

Resources About Store Give



The Kingdom of God Will both Endure and Grow

These soon to be published essays might be some of my father's most important work.



Mark R. Rushdoony
July 28, 2023

I wonder if Dr. Rushdoony could have imagined how far Chalcedon would reach since he founded the Chalcedon Foundation and coined the term Christian Reconstruction in 1965. Could he have foreseen how the advances in communication would lead to his work being distributed on a massive scale? He cared nothing for dust jackets and book covers, and he wrote tens of thousands of pages with a fountain pen, but what he did know was that it is ideas which have the power to shape history regardless of the available technology.

For Chalcedon, the mission and methods remain the same despite how the “delivery system” for this message has changed. This ministry is still a “think-tank for the self-governing Christian,” and for every step along the 58-year journey, Chalcedon has been careful not

to abandon the mission while adapting to the rapid advances in technology.

We’ve come a long way from mimeographed sheets of paper distributed to a handful of people in a short newsletter format, to now having one of the largest websites—in terms of data—around. No, this is not hyperbole. It comes right out of the mouths of our web developers who took on the task of helping us revamp, update, and streamline our website beginning in 2022.

Revamping Chalcedon’s Website... Again?

Somewhere along the line, there were those who recognized the value of the ideas and application of R.J. Rushdoony’s thinking. How can I make this claim? Well, there are those that

had the presence of mind to record his talks, whether they were as a sermon in a church, a lecture in a conference, or even a Bible study with a small group of people. At the earliest stages, this was done with a reel-to-reel tape recorder, a far cry from our digital capabilities when it comes to recording. What no one could have imagined then, is a reality now. These thousands of lectures are available at our fingertips through multiple devices enabling anyone around the world to hear the wisdom of R. J. Rushdoony on demand.

In 2008, despite reservations from some individuals, the Board of Chalcedon decided to make all the content on our website freely accessible to everyone. While there were concerns that this approach might reduce incoming donations—since many people

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prefer not to pay for what they can get for free—the decision was more mission-driven than financially motivated.

Aligned with the belief that the Church in the 21st century needs a significant course correction, Chalcedon felt a responsibility to both warn and instruct. This approach has since introduced many thousands of people to the idea that every aspect of life and thought should be governed by the law-word of God.

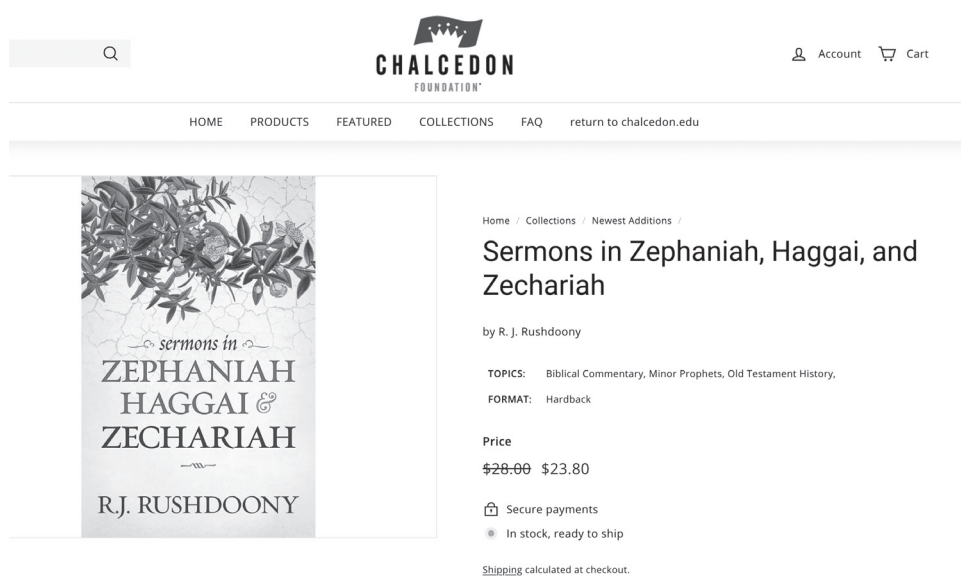
As of this writing, we have revamped the Chalcedon website at least three times previously, so why spend the time, money, and effort to repeat this process again? Think of it in terms of why you may not be using the same phone, TV set, or automobile that you were using five years ago. Granted, many of these devices can have a long shelf life, but the internet updates far quicker than television or automotive technology. The answer is clear: people upgrade their technologies for more features, easier navigation, and advances that benefit the end user's experience. Yet, like many of us, when a new phone is placed in our hands, we tend to miss some of the previous features and their placement, and it takes time to learn how to utilize the new ones.

So, buckle up your seatbelts as you get used to the 2023 updated version of chalcedon.edu!

Jill Rouse, Our Resident "Techie"

When we undertook this project a number of our staff were asked what they would like to see different on the new website. We also consulted professionals who instructed us that on the "back end" there were significant modifications and features that would allow for a more intuitive user experience on the "front end." It is not an overstatement to say, this is a daunting undertaking. Why? Because our goal is to make resources available and make obtaining them a process that gives the user tools to get to his destination. Doing that, however, is not so simple.

People often say that ease of use reflects good design. While it may seem that an underlying complexity makes things appear simple when done



correctly, I assure you that is not always the case.

Without our office manager Jill Rouse's unwavering dedication, perseverance, and resilience, we wouldn't have a functioning website, let alone an improved one. Many may not realize that Jill is the granddaughter of R.J. Rushdoony. Having collaborated with her for over three decades, I've witnessed her growth and her establishment as a cornerstone of our team. Jill is not only our first line of defense; she has also self-taught many skills out of necessity.

For instance, Chalcedon owes its e-book availability to Jill; she has single-handedly crafted every digital version we offer. Our ability to use cutting-edge plug-ins also comes from her dedication to learning how to operate and adapt them to Chalcedon's specific requirements. In addition, Jill is the go-to person for our supporters, whether they need assistance, wish to lodge a complaint, or want to express their appreciation for our work. Like many on our team, Jill performs multiple roles with great skill.

Let me also highlight Jill's commitment to excellence. For her, "good enough" simply isn't sufficient. I've seen her tirelessly hunt down bugs or obstacles to ensure that our website chalcedon.edu, our online store chalcedonstore.com, and even our donation process function at their best. It's safe to say that she likely inherited some of those "Rushdoony

genes," which emphasize the principle that if you're going to do something, you should do it right.

Emily Rouse, Our Resident "Expert"

When you first interact with our revamped website, it may not be immediately apparent that we've done more than just "update the furniture." However, the real magic happens behind the scenes, a process that required considerable time and fine-tuning. Many users aren't aware of the intricate steps involved when transitioning from listening to a resource to actually purchasing it, including accurately calculating tax, shipping, and handling. This is where another Rushdoony granddaughter, Emily—Jill's younger sister—plays a crucial role. So adept is Emily at her job that even the post office consults her for shipping queries. Her expertise had to be translated into identifying the right products so that shipping could accurately calculate various tax rates, both nationally and internationally. While it may sound simple, getting these programs to run seamlessly on the website is no small feat. Therefore, the "sisters" (my personal nickname for them) continue their family legacy by refusing to settle for the path of least resistance.

For both seasoned users and newcomers to our website, some time spent exploring will be necessary to find your favorites and discover new offerings. To ease any potential frustration, we've

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designated the previous site as an archive, providing you with the option to access content from there as well.

Chalcedon.edu now serves as our worldwide gateway, and I believe most would concur that our world could greatly benefit from a return to embracing the entire Word of God as a foundation for all aspects of life. We're grateful to our supporters and underwriters who make this possible, as well as our development team and consultants who help us reach our goals.

Please take advantage of our site. Share our URL with your network. Help us stay committed to the Great Commission and remain steadfast in prioritizing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (justice). Together, we can eagerly anticipate receiving the commendation: "Well done, My good and faithful servants." 🏰

Attention Chalcedon Underwriters

If you are a Chalcedon Underwriter, you'll need to create an account on the new site to ensure you continue to receive your benefits and discounts as an Underwriter. The steps to create a new account on a desktop or laptop computer are simple:

1. Go to ChalcedonStore.com
2. Click on "Create Account"
3. Enter your First and Last name
4. Enter your email address
5. Create a password
6. Click create.

We will be notified that you have set up this account and will be able to identify you according to your Gold, Silver, or Bronze Underwriter status.

If you wish (although not necessary) you may email us to ensure we properly recorded your account creation at info@chalcedon.edu.

Is the Church Obsolete?

R. J. Rushdoony (*A Word In Season*, Volume 6, pp. 53-55)

Is the church obsolete? The answer, clearly, is that many churches are. The basic definition of the word "obsolete" is "gone out of use." Not too many years ago, a horse and buggy were necessary on most farms; today, they are obsolete, and, for much farming, even a barn is obsolete also. They have no real function or purpose in terms of the necessities of farm life today.

Is the same true of the church? The church is, by the definition of the Bible, the body of Christ, made up of His members, governed by His Word and ordained officers, and called together for worship by the preaching of the Word of God and the administration of the sacraments. According to the Bible, the church does not belong to man but to Jesus Christ: it is His possession, called to serve Him and fulfill His purposes.

The church is obsolete when it fails to do that. In fact, the church is not a church when it fails to fulfill Christ's purpose. **When the church becomes an agency for propagating unbelief, when it denies the basic doctrines of the faith, it is obsolete. When a church joins forces with social revolution, when it champions lawlessness, rioting, and the organized assault on the property rights of farmers and businessmen, the church is obsolete.** Of every false church, Jesus Christ says, "I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth" (Rev. 2:16). His promise to false churches is one of sharp judgment (Rev. 2:23). In Christ's eyes, false churches are obsolete, of no use to Him, and therefore to be destroyed.

If Christ, according to His Word, regards false churches as obsolete, as useless to Him, we have no right to treat them differently. **We cannot stand with a church that has abandoned Jesus Christ and expect Him to bless and defend us.**

Even a prominent leftist, Michael Harrington, recently protested against the church's position today. While agreeing with their revolutionary political ideas, he declared that "they still have an obligation to talk about their old theological hero, God. If they are unwilling to do that, they should take off their robes and discard the ceremonial paraphernalia and come out into the secular cold with the rest of us. Otherwise, the crosses . . . are so much costume jewelry." Harrington concluded, "And so, my radical advice to these radical religionists is: God should go to church. And maybe He shouldn't hang around the bars so much."

Not only the cross but the entire form of the church is simply "so much costume jewelry" for most clergymen today. **They use the form of the church to promote the substance of a socialist revolution. They use the form of the preaching of God's Word to issue propaganda for political and economic causes that are hostile to Biblical faith.**

St. Paul describes these infiltrators into the church as "traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [h]aving a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:4-5).

As far as Christ is concerned, such a church, and such a clergy, is obsolete: it has lost its usefulness to Him. **But a church that is useless, and yet is still thriving, must then have some great use for someone else. Although it is obsolete for Christ, the church is obviously useful to Christ's enemies.** 🏰

The Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute

By Andrea Schwartz

Twenty-five years ago, I initiated a Friday night study group focused on R.J. Rushdoony's *Institutes of Biblical Law*, primarily with women and girls. As my homeschooling chapter closed with the graduation of my youngest child, I found myself pondering, "What comes next?"

My husband suggested various paths, but none resonated with me. Then, unexpectedly, an idea struck me: perhaps my calling was to continue teaching, but to shift my focus towards those who are educators themselves—homeschooling moms. Although I wondered how I would spread the word, a sense of assurance came to me during my prayers: "Don't worry; they will come to you."

Then, an email landed in my inbox from a woman who shared that her husband had purchased several of my homeschooling books for her. Her mother, who lived in the UK, was facing challenges in teaching her children, and this woman asked if I could offer some guidance. After a reassuring phone call with the mother in the UK, where I provided some coping strategies, things began to change. When I subsequently started a one-on-one study of the *Institutes* with the original woman, named Nicki, she expressed a sense of guilt for not sharing such valuable knowledge with other women she knew. And so, the Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute was born.

Since that time, I've led at least five group studies focusing on Rushdoony's seminal work, involving women both nationally and internationally. The transformations I've witnessed in them have been nothing short of remarkable. When these women "turn the corner" and start viewing all aspects of life through the lens of God's Word, tangible change occurs.

In time, as our study of the *Institutes* came to a close, many asked if we could move on to other of Rushdoony's works. If you go to ctti.org, you will see the



resultant courses that began as "pilots" but morphed into readily available courses for people to do solo, or in a small group. I came to understand that when you empower wives and mothers to embrace and apply the full Word of God to every area of life and thought, great things happen.

Today, not only can you take these courses online, but they include the books, lectures pertinent to the subject matter, questions for thought and discussion, and in some cases recordings of an original class. I am continuing to add courses and the benefit to me is that I get to re-visit the books and lectures afresh and realize how much I missed initially.

Our current line-up includes: the *Institutes of Biblical Law*, *In His Service*, *Cure of Souls*, *Revolt Against Maturity*, *Foundations of Social Order*, *Law & Liberty*, *Freud*, and an in-process class with the first four chapters of *Systematic Theology* being added to regularly.

When many people comment on my knowledge of Scripture and its application, it has everything to do with the fact that for almost three decades I've endeavored to share the blessing of Rushdoony's insights into the Word of God.

There are additional courses on the horizon thanks to those who have decided to take books they have found useful and are putting courses together for individual or group study.

Are you looking for a way to reach out to those hungry and thirsty for God's Word to be *the* governing force in their lives? Well, you might consider starting one of these "ready-to-use" study guides as a way to be the salt and light you are instructed to become. And, although these studies had their focus with women as students, I have heard from people around the world how useful they are to both men, women, boys, and girls as a way to establish their work of the Kingdom.

Go to either ctti.org or chalcedonteachertraining.com and subscribe. It's free and you have access to all our offerings. 📖



Support Chalcedon!

Our objective is to help equip Christians to apply their faith and "take back" government by means of Biblical self-government, and we need your financial support to help continue this mission. Please take a few moments today to prayerfully consider supporting Chalcedon with your tax-deductible giving. For 58 years, it's been supporters like you that have made the difference. Your tithes and offerings are what keep this vital mission going. We've enclosed a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to make it easy, and you can also donate online at:

Chalcedon.edu/Give

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