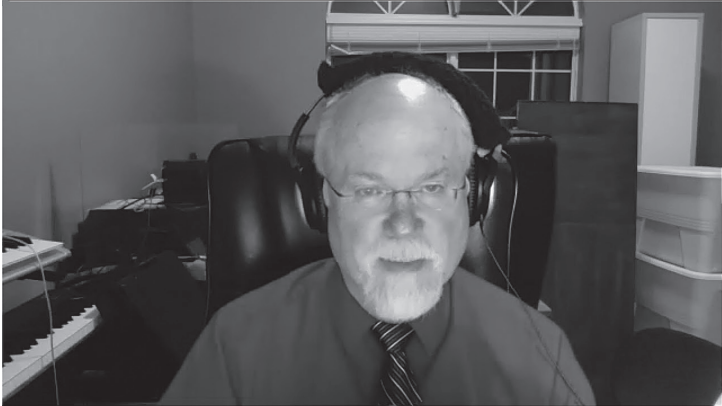


ChalcedonReport

MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE CHALCEDON FOUNDATION® APRIL 2020



Empowering Reconstruction

With the launch of a NEW podcast, Chalcedon begins its first phase of empowering a new era of Christian Reconstruction.

One meaning for the word *empower* is to “make (someone) stronger and more confident.” When it comes to Christian Reconstruction, the need for empowerment is significant because the mission is a long-term one requiring great faithfulness and fortitude. Fifty-five years ago, R. J. Rushdoony knew full well what was required and then spelled it out in plain, direct speech in his first issue of the *Chalcedon Report*:

This movement [humanism] has been a long time in developing: it cannot be defeated overnight. It

cannot be defeated by short-sighted people who want victory today or tomorrow, and are unwilling to support long-term battle.¹

Therefore, the purpose of Chalcedon was to create what Rushdoony called “a countermeasure to the prevailing trend, to promote ... a Christian Renaissance,”² which he soon after referred to as Christian Reconstruction.

Such a long-term approach requires faithfulness—especially in the face of the great cultural decline which we are seeing today. Rushdoony predicted much of this so we feel doubly prepared to address it.

“What Now?”

It’s during such periods that the truth has an even greater opportunity to shine because Christians aren’t finding solutions in church growth, revival, or politics. And since the rapture also did not come, they’re asking the question, “What now?”

The solution is always the Kingdom of God which means reconstructing every area of life in terms of God’s revelation in Scripture. Awakening the church to this fact requires teaching on such doctrines as creationism, covenant, law, soteriology, Christology,

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and eschatology from a dominionist perspective, but as you probably know, there aren't many churches, ministries, or seminaries doing so.

Since 1965, Chalcedon has labored within the fields of the church in order to push forward the message of Christian Reconstruction, and we believe that our times are affording us greater opportunities for even greater outreach.

The temptation is to try and seize upon current events in order to appear more relevant, but the truth is that nothing is more relevant than the work of the Kingdom in family, church, and society. In addition, current events are only revealing the consequences of sin, and our calling is reconstruction more so than critique.

In other words, better than critiquing our tax or monetary systems is to invest our time and tithes in serious works of reconstruction that we can take action on now such as Christian education, the family, small business, charity, apprenticeship, and the like. Such emphases will work to strengthen and prepare a new Christian governing class.

Summoning the Redeemed

We feel we are very much in line with the course that was set by Rushdoony when he began Chalcedon:

The first report in 1965 announced my concern, the need for *Christian reconstruction*, and the term was there first used. It was much criticized at the time, and by some still is. The term, however, sets forth the purpose of Chalcedon, to apply God's word to every area of life and thought and to summon the redeemed to God to their responsibilities in Christ our King. The irrelevance of too many churchmen to the dominion mandate has made the church irrelevant to our time.³

We are to "summon the redeemed to their responsibilities in Christ our King," and that means Christian Reconstruction which will always be a hard sell to a people whose current theology is looking for handouts from God and not hard work for God.



This is where the crises of our times come in because without revival, rapture, or the Religious Right, Christians will be more open to alternative solutions. We have that solution in reconstruction, so that is the sole purpose of the ministry of Chalcedon:

The purpose of the Chalcedon Foundation is the reconstruction of all things in terms of the word of God.⁴

The point is that the message of reconstruction is the same, but we must make it more clear and distribute it to more Christians. We feel that is both the present and ongoing responsibility of Chalcedon, and in order to achieve those goals—with limited resources and personnel—it requires utilizing and maximizing the powerful technological tools that are available today.

Rushdoony Led the Way

What's interesting is that because Rushdoony always operated outside the system, so to speak, he was always creative and cutting edge with his use of "do-it-yourself" media. For example, before there was blogging (taken from "weblog"), Rushdoony was writing his "Random Notes" section in each issue of the *Chalcedon Report*. If he were writing those today on a blog, it would probably be the most visited section of our website!

And long before there was podcasting, Chalcedon was producing a regular series of audio discussions called *The Easy Chair* in which Rushdoony and other Chalcedon staff members would have lengthy discussions on current

events, Biblical topics, books, and more. Cassettes of *The Easy Chair* were regularly sent to supporters.

Rushdoony was blogging and podcasting before they were cool!

Now that we're past the era of cassettes and CDs, we can now stream a regular Chalcedon podcast which will represent a return to the successful model of *The Easy Chair*.

New Ways to Reach New People

Podcasts are easily distributed with the powerful sharing features of social media. Many don't recognize the significance of this, but if you recall, prior to social media, you had to hope someone found you in a search engine, but now, with social media, you can target a specific audience best suited for your content.

So, we're excited about the possibilities of both empowering our own subscribers as well as giving you the content that you can then share with your own family and friends.

In addition, the podcast is hosted on popular podcast streaming services such as iTunes, Stitcher, and Spotify as well as a video version for both YouTube and Facebook.

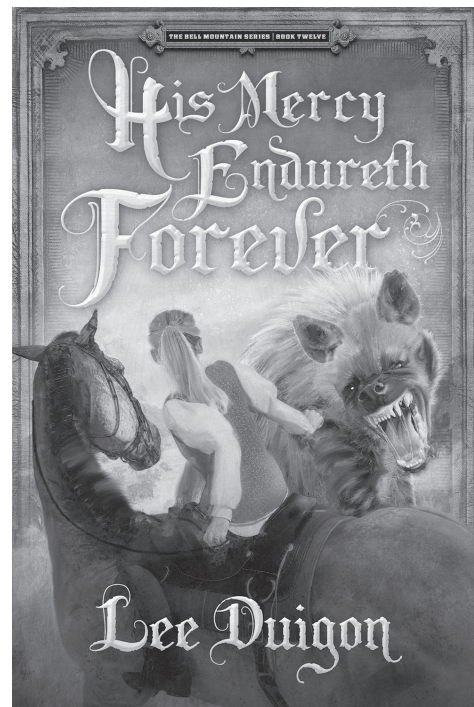
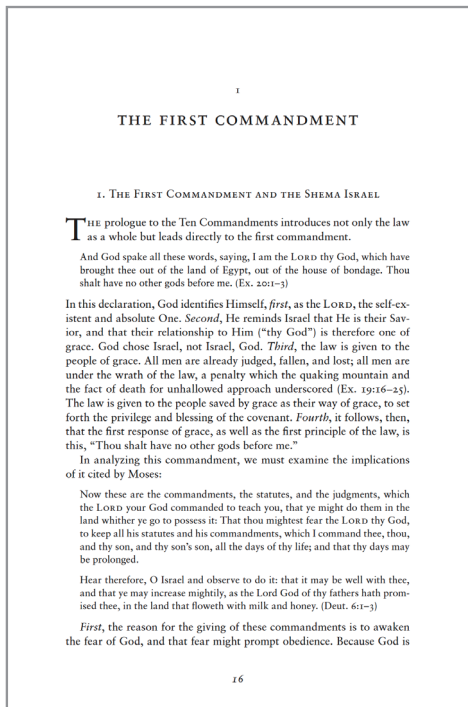
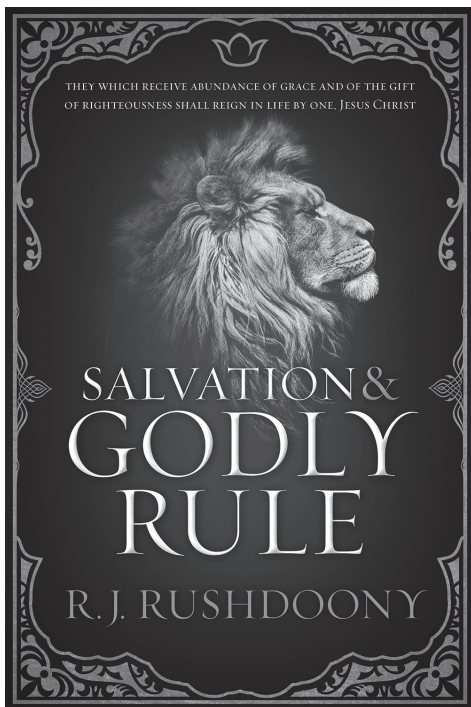
Of course, all of this will also be hosted on our own website where you can find links to all the respective podcast players.

The podcast is hosted by Mark Rushdoony, Martin Selbrede, and Andrea Schwartz, and the door will be made open for guests in the future. Learn more at Chalcedon.edu. 🎧

1. R. J. Rushdoony, *Faith & Action: The Collected Articles of R. J. Rushdoony from the Chalcedon Report, 1965-2004* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 2019), p. 1201.
2. *ibid.*, p. 1202.
3. R. J. Rushdoony, *Roots of Reconstruction* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 1991), p. xi.
4. R. J. Rushdoony, *Law and Society: Volume II of the Institutes of Biblical Law* (Vallecito, CA: Ross House Books, 1986), p. xiii.

Reprints, Revisions, and a New Release

Christians still consume the printed word, and Chalcedon/Ross House Books is keeping the presses warm with non-fiction and fiction volumes.



Books continue to play an important role in the ongoing work of Christian Reconstruction, and caring for the literary legacy of Chalcedon/Ross House Books is a central part of that work.

In 1983, we published Rushdoony's *Salvation & Godly Rule* which, at the time, was an unlikely title for a serious Christian book outside of Reconstructionist circles.

But it was such titles that helped our books stand out during a time of great transformation during the 1980s. It was the early days of Christian conservatism, and although Rushdoony was not writing specifically for a political purpose, the idea of dominion was linked with that burgeoning political movement.

Dominion is so much more than politics, so we're delighted to be sending *Salvation & Godly Rule* to be reprinted with a new cover design in hopes of inspiring Christians to embrace the victory they have in Christ and to apply their faith to every area of life.

The New Institutes!

Recently, Chalcedon received the publishing rights to volume one of *The Institutes of Biblical Law* from Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing. We immediately began the arduous process of correcting typographic errors—which Rushdoony had long wanted to do—and then adding new, extensive indexing to make this important book even more useful!

This revised version features a general index, a history index (where key historical events are mentioned), a Scripture index, and a works cited index. The original version had only a general index and a Scripture index, so this revised version will help make personal research so much easier.

The book was also re-typeset, so the reading will be crystal clear, but it will still feature the same dustjacket so that it will visually match the existing three volume set.

The new *Institutes* is at the press now, so stay tuned for more information!

Volume 12 of Bell Mountain!

Also going to press at this time is *His Mercy Endureth Forever*, which is the twelfth volume in the popular Bell Mountain fantasy fiction series by Lee Duigon.

The series began in 2010, and Lee has written succeeding volumes at a pace of nearly one installment per year.

The beautiful custom covers are the handiwork of professional digital illustrator, Kirk DouPonce, a sought-after Christian artist who creates covers for major book publishers. Kirk reads each of Lee's manuscripts and then creates custom art based upon the story.

Readers of all ages are loving the Bell Mountain series because it's not only enjoyable to read, but it's faithful to the message of the Kingdom of God. That's why the Bell Mountain series would be a great addition to your own family's book collection.

You can learn more about all of our books by visiting our online store at ChalcedonStore.com. 📖



CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

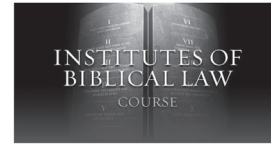
To reclaim our civilization for Christ we must focus on Christian education and become proficient teachers.

Rather than learning to educate, humanistic



REVOLT AGAINST MATURITY

Psychology is a branch of theology. To understand human beings we must first understand how man was created and how the Fall has affected his soul.



BIBLICAL LAW

The flagship course of the Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute is R.J. Rushdoony's *Institutes of Biblical Law*.

Graduates of this course acquire a solid

Another Graduating Class

Beginning in 2007, Andrea Schwartz, and the Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute, has successfully taught women around the world out of Rushdoony's books.



At the end of 2019, the women of my most recent Institutes of Biblical Law Online Study (CTTI) completed the study

program that we began in the spring of 2016. It is quite a commitment to show up every Wednesday morning with women from different time zones. The class began with fifty women who expressed interest after I posted an invitation to join the group. By the time we finished, there were about eight regulars on the call with the rest listening to the recorded discussions afterwards. This marked the sixth online class that I have conducted, the first one in 2007. It is a testimony to the godly use of technology that women have joined in these internet studies from Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Cayman Islands, South Africa, and all time zones in the U.S. I have also engaged women one-on-one by phone or video conferencing whose schedule did not accommodate the regularly scheduled classes. Before I moved to online studies, I conducted my first IBL class in my own living room. How

blessed I am that I remain in contact with all of these women.

Over the years, I have become very familiar with R.J. Rushdoony's seminal work, and have not only read it twice, I have listened many times to all the lectures that he gave prior to the book being in print. With each new class, I have learned from those who were studying the material for the first time and been blessed by the insights of those who just wanted the opportunity to discuss weighty matters with other Christian women.

Most, but not all, of the women involved have been wives of men already well-versed in Rushdoony's works who wished their wives would delve into his *Institutes*. Some of my biggest fans are the men who are grateful that their wives are now on-board with theonomy and Christian Reconstruction. The best part is that now we have *women warriors* all over the globe who know that God's law-word gives us the weapons of our warfare and can teach it to others, especially their children.

Three and a half years is a big commitment and I felt that this most recent IBL group would be my last

official one. In preparation for its conclusion, I laid out the course of study on my chalcedonteachertraining.com website with every section from every chapter outlined with a short summary of the salient points to be used after participants read the section in the book and/or listened to Dr. Rushdoony's lectures. I have also included the questions for thought and discussion at the end, with an opportunity for those who wish to write out their thoughts to share with me for comment.

So what's next? One of the women who was an integral part of this most recent study and I are conducting an online study using Rushdoony's book *Revolt Against Maturity*. This book provides an important and useful understanding of modern culture and the assault on the application of our Christian faith. This course is also available on the ctti.org website and can be accessed there. Anyone interested in joining this ongoing study (at this writing we are ten chapters into the book) may contact me at andrea@chalcedon.edu. 🙌