



## Western Reformed Seminary and the Bible Presbyterian Church



In 1983 Western Reformed Seminary started operation; at that time, and ever since, its stated purpose is to train leaders for the Bible Presbyterian Church. The seminary has other students also, but its primary goal is to serve the BPC. Today it is the only seminary that has sought and obtained the approval of the BPC.

What makes the BPC and WRS special? There are several other conservative Presbyterian denominations and seminaries. Is it worth the time, effort, money, and sacrifice to maintain our particular testimony? These are serious questions. Here is an encouragement for us to renew our zeal for this branch of the Lord's church.

*The BPC and WRS are fundamental and Reformed.* While the term "fundamentalist" often is misunderstood, we are not ashamed to be called "fundamentalists," if that means militant adherence to the great fundamentals of the Christian faith. We also are Reformed, boldly and gladly proclaiming the great doctrines of grace rediscovered by the Reformers. We find in the "five points of Calvinism" a systematic, biblical response to the natural desire for human power and authority in our salvation. God is sovereign over all.

*The BPC and WRS teach and practice biblical separation and unity.* We believe that individual believers must live in a manner separate from the sinful and fleshly norms and habits of our godless society, yet as witnesses to that society. Likewise our churches must be separate from fellowship with churches that teach or practice heresy or that compromise with it. At the same time, we joyfully fellowship with other churches that share the fundamental Christian faith, even though we may disagree about important, secondary matters.

*The BPC and WRS emphasize the Bible over church creeds.* The name "Bible Presbyterian" is an indication of our emphasis. Our preachers exposit the Bible. We accept the Westminster Standards because they summarize the Bible's teachings, yet we recognize they are fallible and may be amended.

*The BPC and WRS foster service to Christ in freedom.* Our church government is "bottom-up," with all residual power residing in the churches and the individual believers under Christ. Of course, we all are accountable to the biblical oversight and discipline of our session or presbytery. The church's agencies can be either church-controlled or independent in their government. Every Bible Presbyterian is free to help start and maintain a ministry for Christ as he is led. While our Confession reflects the premillennial beliefs of most Bible Presbyterians, all orthodox

views are permitted. There is freedom regarding non-essential views within Reformed theology.

*The BPC and WRS are warm and evangelical.* Rather than a cold orthodoxy and a smug superiority, we seek to know Christ sincerely, to humbly and joyfully serve him, and to be winsome ambassadors for our King. A high percentage of our money and efforts go into spreading the gospel here and around the world.

Are the Bible Presbyterian Church and Western Reformed Seminary worthy of your prayers and support? We believe they are! May the Lord preserve these testimonies, and bless their ministry in the years ahead!

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## DAY OF PRAYER FOR WRS: JANUARY 28, 2009

### Praise the Lord with WRS

- For 25 years of training God's servants
- For 39 graduates
- For faithful supporters who sustain this ministry
- For the hospitality of the Tacoma BP Church

### Prayer Requests for WRS

- **More young men** seeking training for the ministry, especially the BP ministry
- Increased **monthly financial support** from individuals and churches
- Blessings on **WRS graduates** who are now in the ministry
- **Health** for students and faculty
- Wisdom for **board of directors** as they plan for WRS
- Success and usefulness of the upcoming **WRS Road Trip program** to establish young people in the faith
- Encouragement for **distance students** and their **pastoral mentors**
- Approval for the renewal of **accreditation** by the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries
- Seminary **training by extension** (currently in Myanmar and Grand Island, NY)
- **New regional opportunity** to offer Reformed biblical studies at a church in Port Orchard, WA