

EDITORIAL

Next year marks the silver anniversary of the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* and its predecessor, the *Bulletin*. For nearly a quarter of a century our Society's friends and members, in and through the pages of this *Journal*, have demonstrated how urgent is our intention and how unflagging our desire to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our strength and—last but certainly not least—with all our minds.

Our Society's purpose, as enshrined in Article II of its Constitution, is "to foster conservative Biblical scholarship by providing a medium for the oral exchange and written expression of thought and research in the general field of the theological disciplines as centered in the Scriptures." Focusing on the life of the mind, our regional and national meetings resonate with conversation and discussion and debate and the public reading of scholarly papers—in short, "the oral exchange . . . of thought and research." Focusing on the life of the mind, our *Journal* and monographs and other publications attempt to distill with precision and clarity the best of what we produce in literary form and content, including presidential addresses and exegetical studies and theological syntheses and historical treatises and specialized bibliographies and book reviews and other kinds of insightful articles and replies and rejoinders and surrejoinders—in short, the "written expression of thought and research." For those of us who struggle to be faithful stewards in living the life of the mind, we know by instinct and through practice that the weapons of our warfare are words and that we must wield them well.

A colleague recently called to my attention an old photograph that is both striking and poignant. Reproduced* on page two of this issue of our *Journal*, it pictures the desk of Professor A. T. Robertson of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was taken on the day of his death nearly fifty years ago. Robertson was both an intellectual giant and a prolific author. In the last twenty-five years of his life alone he published more than thirty volumes—many of which are still in use after half a century. The photograph of his desk on the last day of his life speaks volumes in another and in some ways more eloquent sense. A. T. Robertson, to the very end, loved the Lord his God with all his mind.

As God gives us strength, may we follow in his train.

Ronald Youngblood

*With the kind permission of the director of communications, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

