

# Editor's Note

Mark Hoeksema

November is our annual scholarship issue, in which we print several of the best essays in the Protestant Reformed Essay Competition. This year we are publishing the four that we were given. They are interesting and well-written, so please enjoy them. Below please find the requirements and prompts given to all participants. This material will help put the essays into context and make them more understandable. The contestants were given the following choices of subjects on which they could write.

1. How important to our churches and schools is it to learn to speak other languages? Focus on currently spoken languages of the world (e.g. Spanish or Tagalog), not on the languages typically associated with biblical studies (Greek, Hebrew, Latin). Consider the possible uses or benefits, as well as who might take on the task of learning another language.

2. Explore the importance of Christian schools and missions relative to each other. Is one more important than the other? In our thoughts, our prayers, and our giving, does one seem to be more important? Think about Scripture passages such as Acts 2:39 to address how God gathers His people and how we ought to maintain a balance in our consideration of the cause of missions and needs of Christian schools.

The preceding are the topics on which you may submit an essay in order to qualify for a monetary award from the Protestant Reformed Scholarship Fund. Scholarship awards are granted primarily on the basis of essay quality, but financial need can also factor into total award amounts based on the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.