

DIDACHE: FAITHFUL TEACHING 17: 2 INTRODUCTION

Dean G. Blevins, Timothy Gaines Coeditors

Welcome to *Didache: Faithful Teaching*, Volume 17:2, this volume provides the resource papers for the Spring 2018, Church of the Nazarene Global Theology Conference. The initial GTC2018 Planning Team established several core commitments, including assuring that the voice of all six World Mission Regions would be represented in each of the three plenary sessions. Two Plenary Session Presenters from each World Mission Region will participate along with Responders from each World Mission Region in each primary session. In consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, the GTC2018 Planning Team developed the overall Conference Theme of “Christology.” The discussion regarding this overall theme included potential reflections on the following:

- What it means to understand Holiness as Christocentric and to be a global holiness people centered in Christ.
- What it means to be a global holiness people in today’s world fully appreciating our theological mothers and fathers (ie. Phineas Bresee, Phoebe Palmer, John Wesley, etc) yet fully centered in Jesus.
- What it means to “re-Jesus” the church.
- What it means to understand our Ecclesiology and our Missiology as properly centered in our Christology.
- What it means to understand our “global Nazarene identity” as centered in Jesus.
- What it means to understand our global Nazarene Mission: “To Make Christlike Disciples in the Nations” as centered in Jesus.

Out of this discussion/reflection, the committee developed the themes and sessions outlined to guide presentations and discussion at the Conference:

GTC2018 Theme: Christology - “To Know Christ” (Phil 3:10)

- Session 1: “Who do You Say I Am?” - Knowing & Becoming More Like Jesus Christ... Understanding/Embracing “Christlikeness,” what we know about Jesus and how this shapes our becoming more like Jesus.

- Session 2: “Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me” - Becoming More Faithful to Jesus Christ... Understanding/Embracing “Discipleship,” what we know about Jesus and how this shapes our being faithful to Jesus.
- Session 3: “As the Father Sent Me So I Send You” - Joining the Mission of Jesus Christ... Understanding/Embracing “Mission,” what we know about Jesus and how this shapes our joining the mission of Jesus.

The resulting plenary papers and responses provide a range of reflective writings to resource the conversation at the conference. We anticipate it will be a great gathering.

As always, please note the journal publishes articles along the themes of theology, culture, and education within a Wesleyan heritage. Guidelines for submissions are available at the website. Professors may also submit outstanding student papers (with student permission) as long as they will agree to serve as the reviewer. This edition provides an excellent example of this approach.

We again thank Ernalyn Longcop Fausto, with the staff of the Asia Pacific Region, who works diligently in the formatting and maintenance of our website, and Dr. Tammy Condon who works tirelessly promoting *Didache: Faithful Teaching*, as she does in the development of the Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library (WHDL) <https://www.whdl.org/>.

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