
Western Theological Seminary
    Sermons, 1934-1964. 0.25 linear ft.

Abstract

Minister in the Reformed Church of America from 1925 until his deposition in 1929. The collection consists of his sermons for Radio Bible Class from 1934 through 1964, which are in the form of pamphlets.

Accession No:    W88-0028
Provenance:      Western Theological Seminary
Donor:           Information Unavailable
Photograph:      1 image
Processed by:    Jodi McFarland, January 1994

Biography

Martin R. De Haan was born in Zeeland, Michigan, in 1891. He attended Hope College, and then earned a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Illinois in Chicago. De Haan practiced medicine successfully from 1914 to 1919, when a near-death experience inspired him to leave the medical profession and go into the ministry. He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in 1925, and was minister of Calvary Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1925 to 1929.

Throughout the year 1929, De Haan espoused views that were not in agreement with the Reformed Church of America, especially in the areas concerning infant baptism and premillennialism. Unlike the Reformed Church, De Haan believed only in baptism by immersion to believers at the time of their conversion and public confession of faith, and not in the baptism of infants. De Haan’s view of premillennialism, which states that the Second Coming of Christ would precede a 1000 year reign, was one of which the Reformed Church was not tolerant. De Haan was an associate editor of “Grace and Glory,” a monthly magazine which began in 1929 that first defended the Reformed Church, but later disputed Reformed Church beliefs. De Haan spoke in 1929 at the Fundamentalist Bible Conference in Allendale, Michigan.

For his vocal disagreement with Reformed views, De Haan was deposed as a Reformed Church minister, but claimed that the ruling had no bearing on him, as he claimed to have resigned before it was made. De Haan left the Calvary Reformed Church and began Calvary Undenominational Church, taking the majority of the congregation with him. He was minister of Calvary Undenominational until he left the pulpit during a sermon in 1938, announcing his resignation and exiting. Once again, De Haan’s leaving reduced the congregation significantly. De Haan left as a result of conflicts with the church board—the main conflict being De Haan did not want one to exist, preferring to have absolute rule in church matters. There was also some question regarding the dispensation of church donations, as De Haan felt that donations addressed to him were his for personal use.

De Haan founded Radio Bible Class after he left Calvary Undenominational. De Haan died in 1965.
Scope and Content

The collection consists of 38 pamphlets which are transcripts of De Haan’s sermons for Radio Bible Class, spanning the years 1934 to 1964. Due to the lack of dates on most of the pamphlets, they have been arranged alphabetically rather than chronologically. It is interesting to note the pamphlets entitled “Water Baptism” and “Infant Baptism and the Covenant of Grace,” in which De Haan espouses the views which led to his deposition as a minister in the Reformed Church of America, as well as in “The Ordinances of the Church,” pp. 7, 8.

Other useful sources of information about Martin R. De Haan available in the Joint Archives of Holland include the book Grace and Glory Days, by Thomas Boslooper, chapters one and six, which is available in the Hope College book collection, and the April 2, 1929, minutes of the Classis of Grand Rapids, Michigan, which detail De Haan’s deposition, located in the Western Theological Seminary collection (W88-0509). A final alternative source is the magazine “Grace and Glory,” also in a topical file in the Western Theological Seminary collection.

Container List

Pamphlets

After Death...What Then?, n.d.
Angels of God, The, n.d.
Atomic Bomb in Prophecy, The, 1950
Bible Versions and Perversions, 1962
Christ on Christmas, n.d.
Devil and His Angels, The, n.d.
Empty Tomb, The, n.d.
Eternal Security, n.d.
Faith is the Victory, 1964
First Ecumenical Council, The, 1964
God’s Last Will and Testament, n.d.
Infant Baptism and the Covenant of Grace, n.d.
It is Finished, n.d.
Jonah and the Whale, n.d.
Lake of Fire, The, n.d.
Law and Grace, n.d.
Law or Grace, n.d.
Marriage and Divorce, n.d.
Marriage, Divorce, and Re-Marriage, 1934
Mixed Multitude, The, 1964
Nothing but Leaves, n.d.
Ordinances of the Church, n.d.
Our Resurrection Bodies, n.d.
Rise and Fall of Communism, The, 1962
School Days, n.d.
Study of the Cults, A, n.d.
Temptation of Jesus, The, n.d.
That Blessed Hope, n.d.
Thy Kingdom Come, 1962
To the Jew First, 1964
Unpardonable Sin, The, n.d.
Your Pastor and You, n.d.
Wages of Sin, The, n.d.
Water Baptism, n.d.
Who Changed the Sabbath?, n.d.

Oversized (See WTS Oversized Photographs)

Photograph, “University of Illinois School of Medicine Class of 1914”