

# INTRODUCTION

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**MARK PRATER**

I don't think I will ever forget the gratitude to God that I felt in that moment and the sense that something historic was happening.

It was November 10, 2020, during our annual Council of Elders meeting. First, I listened as each delegate voted to approve the new *Statement of Faith* for Sovereign Grace Churches. Then, after the unanimous approval was announced, there was a silent pause followed by joy-filled applause. It was the culmination of seven years of hard work, and together we celebrated the goodness and faithfulness of God to us.

This third edition of the *Sovereign Grace Journal* is devoted to our *Statement of Faith*. As a confessional document, the *Statement of Faith* unites our family of churches theologically, defines the sound doctrine we share, and protects our churches from error. It plays a vital role in our mission to plant and strengthen churches for the glory of God.

As always, I am grateful for each of the pastors who contributed to this issue. Alex Chen has written a helpful piece entitled "The Value of Historic Creeds and Confessions" to guide us in treasuring the great confessional documents of the church in past centuries. In addition, several pieces reflect on a particular doctrinal truth affirmed in our *Statement of Faith*: Walt Alexander on the

sufficiency of Scripture, Bill Patton on the attributes of God, Brian Chesemore on gender identity, and others.

If you've read *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, then don't miss Jeff Purswell's review of Grudem's 2nd edition of *Systematic Theology*. And, be sure to check out the other book recommendations as well.

I want to thank each of the men who served on the Theology Committee over the last seven years. These brothers, led by Jeff Purswell, put in many hours of research, study, and writing to produce our new *Statement of Faith*. We dedicate this edition of the *Sovereign Grace Journal* to you men to express our appreciation for the hard work you did in serving our family of churches now and for generations to come.

We Believe,  
