



No Neutral Ground

*The Cost of
Discipleship in
a Secular Age*

THE 2021
Touchstone
CONFERENCE

October 14–16, 2021
Deerfield, Illinois

Speakers Include

- Hans Boersma
- Allan Carlson
- Rod Dreher
- Anthony Esolen
- S. M. Hutchens
- Peter Leithart
- Patrick Henry Reardon
- Carl Trueman

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Parable of the Sower, 1557
Pieter Bruegel the Elder



THE SCHEDULE

4:00 P.M. Thursday, October 14

Registration begins

The Arnold T. Olson Chapel

• *All events will be held in the Olson Chapel unless otherwise specified.*

eighth day
BOOKS



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

—Evening—

7:00 P.M.

James M. Kushiner

Welcome & opening remarks

Patrick Henry Reardon

Disputed Territory
& Biblical Rhetoric

Allan Carlson

Moral Combat

*Lessons from Early Christians . . .
and from Our Great-Grandparents*

9:00 P.M. Reception, La Quinta Inn

PATRICK HENRY REARDON, *Touchstone* senior editor. He is pastor emeritus of All Saints' Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois. He is the editor of the *St. James Daily Devotional Guide*. His biblical commentaries include *Christ and the Psalms*, *Christ in His Saints*, *Creation & the Patriarchal Histories* (Genesis), *Out of Step with God* (Numbers), *The Trial of Job*, *Chronicles of History and Worship* (Chronicles), *Wise Lives* (The Wisdom of Sirach), *Romans*, and *Revelation: A Liturgical Prophecy*. His theological work has been published widely, and most recently includes *Reclaiming the Atonement: The Incarnation*. He lives in Chicago with his wife Denise. They have two children.

ALLAN C. CARLSON, *Touchstone* senior editor, is the President emeritus and founder of the Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society in Rockford, Illinois, where he serves as editor of *The Natural Family: An International Journal of Research and Policy*. Among his books are *Family Cycles: Strength, Decline & Renewal in American Domestic Life, 1630–2000* and *Conjugal America: On the Public Purpose of Marriage*. He has been published in *The Washington Post*, *New Oxford Review*, *Intercollegiate Review*, *University Bookman*, *Communio*, *Chester-ton Review*, and *Wall Street Journal*. He is a Lutheran (Missouri Synod) and lives with his wife Elizabeth on a farm near Rockford, Illinois. They have four children.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

—Morning—

9:00 A.M.

Hans Boersma

Let's Talk About Sin

Retrieving Compunction & Introspection

10:00 A.M. Break

10:30 A.M.

S. M. Hutchens

The Eclipse of Mere Christianity

Peter Leithart

When Worlds Die

Preparing for the End



HANS BOERSMA, *Touchstone* contributor editor, a native of the Netherlands, is the Saint Benedict Servants of Christ Chair in Ascetical Theology at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Wisconsin. His work centers upon the retrieval of a “sacramental ontology.” His books include *Heavenly Participation: The Weaving of a Sacramental Tapestry*, *Scripture as Real Presence: Sacramental Exegesis in the Early Church*, *Seeing God: The Beatific Vision in Christian Tradition* and, most recently, *Five Things Theologians Wish Biblical Scholars Knew*. He is a Deacon in the Anglican Church in North America. He and his wife Linda have five children and thirteen grandchildren and live in Vancouver.

S. M. HUTCHENS, *Touchstone* senior editor, has been writing for *Touchstone* for more than thirty years and has served as Chairman of the Board of the Fellowship of St. James. He received a Th.D. under the supervision of Carl E. Braaten with a dissertation on the epistemologies of Karl Barth and Carl F. H. Henry. Until retirement in 2015, he served as a public librarian in Kenosha, Wisconsin. His writing has also appeared in *The New Oxford Review*, *The Congregationalist*, *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, *The Religion & Society Report*, *The Evangelical Catholic*, *Sursum Corda*, *Books & Culture*, and *The New Atlantis*. He and his wife Mary live in Racine, Wisconsin, and have two daughters.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

—Afternoon—

12:00 P.M. Lunch

Waybright Center—Hawkins Dining Hall

2:00 P.M.

Anthony Esolen

A Liar & the Father of Lies

Milton's Satan & the Confusion of the Mind"

Live by video, followed by Q & A with Dr. Esolen

3:00 P.M. Break

5:00 p.m. Supper

Waybright Center—Hawkins Dining Hall

PETER J. LEITHART, *Touchstone* contributing editor, is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America and president of Trinity House Institute for Biblical, Liturgical & Cultural Studies in Birmingham, Alabama. His books include *Defending Constantine*, *Between Babel and Beast*, *Gratitude: An Intellectual History*, *Baptism: A Guide to Life from Death*, *Great Stage of Fools: A Guide to Six Shakespeare Plays*, commentaries on Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, the Epistles of John, Second Peter, Revelation, and a volume of children's bedtime stories, *Wise Words*, based on the book of Proverbs. His weblog is at www.leithart.com. He and his wife Noel have ten children and twelve grandchildren.

ANTHONY ESOLEN, *Touchstone* senior editor. He is a professor and writer-in-residence at Magdalene College of the Liberal Arts in Warner, New Hampshire. His many books include *Life Under Compulsion: Ten Ways to Destroy the Humanity of Your Child*, *Out of the Ashes: Rebuilding American Culture*, *The Hundredfold: Songs for the Lord*, and *Sex in the Unreal City: The Demolition of the Western Mind*. He is a regular contributor to *Chronicles*, *Crisis Magazine*, *The Claremont Review*, *Inside the Vatican*, and *The Catholic Thing*, and *American Greatness*. He has translated Dante's *Divine Comedy*. He is a Roman Catholic and lives with his wife, Debra, in New Hampshire. They have two children.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

—Evening—

7:30 P.M.

Introduction by Rod Dreher

Carl Trueman

The Two Self-Denials

Christian versus Modern

9:00 P.M. Reception, La Quinta Inn



CARL TRUEMAN, a native of England, received his PhD from the University of Aberdeen. He is professor of biblical and religious studies at Grove City College. He previously served as the William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life at Princeton University. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books, including *The Creedal Imperative*, *Luther on the Christian Life*, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*, and *Strange New World: How Thinkers & Activists Redefined Identity & Sparked the Sexual Revolution* (forthcoming in 2022). He is an ordained minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and lives with his wife, Catriona, in Pennsylvania. They have two children.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

—*Morning*—

9:00 A.M.

Rod Dreher

Babylon's Furnace

Truth, Suffering & the Hard Road Ahead

10:00 A.M. Break

10:30 A.M.

What Are the Duties of Christians in Cancel Culture?

*A discussion with Rod Dreher, Hans Boersma,
S. M. Hutchens, Peter Leithart, Patrick Henry
Reardon & Carl Trueman, followed by Q & A*

11:30 A.M.

James M. Kushiner

Closing remarks

ROD DREHER, *Touchstone* contributing editor. He is a senior editor and blogger at the *American Conservative* and author of *How Dante Can Save Your Life: The Life-Changing Wisdom of History's Greatest Poem*, *The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation*, and *Live Not by Lies: A Survival Manual for Christian Dissidents*. He has written and edited for the *New York Post*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *National Review*, the *Washington Times*, and the *Baton Rouge Advocate*. His commentary has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary*, *The Weekly Standard*, and elsewhere. He is Eastern Orthodox and lives with his wife, Julie, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They have three children.

JAMES M. KUSHINER is the executive editor of *Touchstone* and *Salvo* magazines.

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