we work so hard to win people to our church. If some of our teachers
do not believe what the church teaches, the honorable thing for
to do is to get out—not to stay in and undermine the faith of
others.

Now it is not our business to decide who is on which side. What
we need to do is to teach our people to study the Bible and the Spirit
of Prophecy for themselves rather than, for example, depending so
much on tapes for their understanding of what is right and wrong.
We need to concentrate on the tremendous potential God has
granted each one of us. Not only does He forgive our sins, He also
cleanses us from sin and makes it possible for us to live pure and
holy lives.

The ATS must challenge the members of the Seventh-day
Adventist church to measure up to the potential God makes pos-
sible. We are His workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus for
good works.

Biblical Theology
Without Apology

A Final Word from the Editor,
Leo Van Dolson

With this first issue of the JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY we have accepted the challenge of bringing into focus a biblical
theology without apology. "Biblical theology" I am sure you understand. But
"without apology" may take a word or two of explanation.

First of all, we say "without apology," because some persons in recent
years, convinced that our unique Adventist understandings of the Bible are
not well accepted by theologians of other faiths, have become somewhat
apologetic about our message. But rather than being apologetic, we believe
we should thank God for the unique message he has given us, based as it is
in the three angel's messages of Revelation 14:6-12 and directed to a truly
global mission—a mission that includes the education of scholars rather than
intimidation by them! As humbly, and yet as clearly as possible, we need to
let others (including other scholars) know that we believe we are not merely
another evangelical denomination. Our reason for existence is our belief
that God has given us insights into Bible truths that set us apart as distinct,
truths that other Christians have not yet acknowledged, but which they need
to acknowledge.

Second, we say "without apology" because we recognize that the
message which we believe God has entrusted to us is vital to the practical,
everyday needs of people living in the last moments of earth's history.
Unfortunately, all Adventists do not seem to appreciate this fact. The world
about us has adopted a set of values corresponding to those "in the days of
Noah." Many even in the church, influenced by these immoral values, are
challenging those aspects of our theology that condemn the lifestyle they are
adopting. Part of our challenge in the Adventist Theological Society, as some
of the writers in this issue of our JOURNAL point out, is to take our unique,
God-given understandings of truth and make them as plain and as meaningful as possible to our fellow believers, without in any way seeming to apologize for doing so.

Third, we say "without apology," because we have attempted to do a thorough job in applying correct methods of interpretation (hermeneutics) to the scriptures we discuss. We do not expect that everyone will agree with all the viewpoints expressed in our articles, nor do we want our readers to conclude that the articles represent "official" positions of the Society. But we offer the articles believing they represent thorough-going Bible study, worthy of serious consideration.

And we'd like to add that it is our sincere desire to maintain a positive attitude, free from attacks against any individual or segment in our church.

These are our ideals. If we do not quite measure up, please be patient with us. Like all new organizations, we'll have our growing pains. But we do pray that God will use us to present our Adventist biblical theology without any apology.