

his exploration of outer space man becomes lost in a trackless void without a way to lead him back to God.

Amid all the galaxies of stars, Jesus Christ, the Mediator, is the Star out of Jacob, the Bright and Morning Star.

Without Him, all thought of conquering outer space or any part of the universe is only fancy or an empty dream. With Him we are more than conquerors now and forever.

MASTERY OR MISERY

■ IN THE HEREAFTER the redeemed will reign with Christ and thus share in the mastery of the universe, whereas the damned will suffer eternal loss.

God permits us while we are still in this life to have only a glimpse of glory. If He would draw back the curtain for us to have a full view of the joys that eye hath not seen, that ear hath not heard, and that have not entered into the heart of man, we would then be so homesick as to be good for nothing on this earth anymore.

Think of what it will mean to have the mastery of all that which God has put into outer space! The immensity of it all is enough to stagger our wildest imagination.

The Milky Way, we are told, is a galactic system of 100,000,000,000 members. The nearest star is said to be four light years or 24 trillion miles away. It is claimed that the 20-inch Mount Palomar telescope makes it possible to see billions of light years into space while astronomers are sure that there are stars also in the expanse beyond that.

"My God, how wonderful thou art!" the believer exclaims already now. But think of what it will mean one day to have a hand in administering the affairs of this vast array of God's handiwork, and possibly of even traveling from one marvelous part of God's redeemed creation to the next. An airplane trip far above the clouds gives one just a faint idea of what it may be like in the hereafter to be free from the limits of time and space.

But over against the bright sunlight of glory, Scripture tells also of the shadows and outer darkness of everlasting doom. Those without Christ will be terrified by a great earthquake, by the sun black as sackcloth of hair and the moon like blood, by the stars falling to earth and the heaven removed as a scroll, and by every mountain and island moved out of their places.

But, for believers the conquest of outer space is by no means an empty dream — *for we are Christ's; and Christ is God's!*

presently working on a plan for developing a similar center for Reformation literature (pertaining especially to Luther) at Concordia Theological Seminary, also in St. Louis.

Professor Lester De Koster, Director of the Calvin Library, has recently visited St. Louis to make a careful study of what is being done by the Roman Catholics and the Lutherans there. In an article appearing elsewhere in this issue he now places before us the magnificent goal of making the new Calvin Library the American center for John Calvin literature which needs so much to be made available to all.

POSSIBILITY OF ATTAINMENT

■ IT IS hoped that enthusiasm for this plan proposed for our Calvin Library will prove to be contagious. It is also eminently fitting that this undertaking should be launched while we are still in the Calvin Anniversary Year.

However, enthusiasm must go hand in hand with practical considerations. It is necessary to be hardheaded in evaluating all our planning, while it is also true that "he who builds no castles in the air, builds no castles anywhere."

The question is then: Is this possible of attainment? It is surprising and should provide healthy excitement for even the most phlegmatic Calvinist to know that this is far more attainable than most of us have ever dreamed.

Microfilm, explained in Professor De Koster's article, now makes the rarest volumes and documents available at a very nominal cost. It would be prohibitive, of course, to purchase such priceless treasures for our own possession or to visit various parts of the world to have personal access to them. However, it is now possible to purchase at no great expense exact copies of all this on microfilm to be used at will.

It may be added that plans for the new Knollcrest campus include the idea of a Library-Classroom Building of "modular design." Originally this building would be used for both classroom and library purposes. As the library would expand, the type of construction would permit it eventually to take over the entire building, with classroom facilities then being provided elsewhere.

HIGHLY COMMENDABLE

■ THERE IS so much to commend this forward-looking plan for the Calvin College and Seminary Library that one becomes increasingly enthusiastic about it. It is deserving of wholehearted support for various reasons.

If we are ever to have a Calvin University, especially two requirements must be met. A university must be built up around a qualified faculty and an adequate library. The present plan is one step in that direction.

To insure and to increase loyalty to the Reformed faith it is imperative also that everything possible be done to increase our own knowledge of it. The present plans would make increased provisions for that very thing.

The only real antidote to Communism as a godless ideology is Calvinism. Whatever can be done to promote the study of Calvinism ought to have top priority on the agenda of a church alert to the urgency of the present situation.

In this too, God's people are to exert themselves to be "the head, and not the tail" (Deut. 28:13). The Calvin Library plan has possibilities of drawing to our library, scholars from all over America as well as other parts of the world, and thus placing us where we ought to be.

And, need it be said again? This is in no sense an attempt to exalt a man, John Calvin. Our interest in making his teachings known is because of his *one holy passion* to give all the glory to God and to Him alone.

Here is a project in which we as a church should be able to unite. It cannot be expected to succeed as a local venture. To be done at all, it needs denomination-wide cooperation. It is deserving of our interest, encouragement, gifts, and fervent prayers.

A Magnificent Goal for New Calvin Library

THE GOAL

■ SUPPOSE that one of our own students or a scholar from elsewhere would decide to make a thorough study of everything written by John Calvin or about him, where would he go in America to find the material?

To Calvin College and Seminary? Yes, he would find much at the Calvin Library, as its name suggests. But, unfortunately, he would have to go elsewhere to find a Calvin collection that is more complete. Leading the field at present are Princeton Seminary in New Jersey and Union Theological Seminary in New York, with the Calvin Library possibly running third.

Now, to want to be *first* in something is not necessarily good in itself. At times it is better if one is willing to be *last*. But, when it comes to the dissemination of Calvinism as the finest expression of the Christian faith, we, who profess to be committed to it, may not be satisfied unless we are doing everything possible to be second to none.

The Roman Catholics have succeeded at the St. Louis University Library in making it a center for their literature in the United States and Canada. The Lutherans are