

BYARD BENNETT

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary/ Cornerstone University

1001 E. Beltline Ave. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Phone: (616) 222-1568

E-mail: byard.bennett@cornerstone.edu

Webpages: <https://www.cornerstone.edu/staff/byard-bennett/>

<http://cornerstone.academia.edu/ByardBennett>

Website: <http://www.didymus.org> (Early Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Direction)

CITIZENSHIP

U.S. and Canadian

EDUCATION

Ph.D. St. Michael's College, University of Toronto (1997) (Theology)

M.Div. Duke University (1988)

B.A. Duke University (1985) (Religious Studies)

DISSERTATION

"The Origin of Evil: Didymus the Blind's *Contra Manichaeos* and Its Debt to Origen's Theology and Exegesis"

Director: Dr. Robert E. Sinkewicz

Available online in PDF format at

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk3/ftp04/nq25205.pdf>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2002- Grand Rapids Theological Seminary/Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

2012- Professor of Historical and Philosophical Theology

2008-2012 Associate Professor (received tenure 2008)

2002-2007 Assistant Professor

- Courses regularly taught:
 - [THE515 Historical Theology I: The Early Church](#)
 - [THE516 Historical Theology II: The Medieval Church](#)
 - [THE517 Historical Theology III: The Reformation Church](#)
 - [THE518 Historical Theology IV: The Modern Church](#)
 - THE640 Systematic Theology II
 - THE641 Systematic Theology III
 - [THE673 Moral Issues in Christian Life and Ministry](#)
 - THE710 Seminar in the History of Christian Thought
 - [Augustine](#)
 - [Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church](#)
- Conducted a comprehensive review of the M.A. in Historical Theology program (2006-2007) and redesigned it to help students achieve admission to competitive, nationally-ranked doctoral programs

1999-2002 Adjunct Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies, Tyndale College and Seminary, Toronto, Canada

1992-1994 Teaching Assistant, Department of Church History, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

1990-1992 Teaching Assistant, Department of Theology, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto

TEACHING AWARDS

2017 The James Murray Grier Theological Educator Award

2017 Student Senate Excellence in Teaching Award

[2006 Student Senate Excellence in Teaching Award](#)

COMMITTEES

ATS Standard 5/Program Standard/Educational Standard Committee (2015-2016)

Promotion and Tenure Committee (2013-2016)

Internal Review Board (2013-2016)

Spiritual Formation Committee (2012-2013)

Admissions and Financial Aid (2003-2006, 2010-2012)

Student Appeals—Academic and Non-Academic (2003-2006, 2009-2010)

Self-Study Committee—Review of Degree Programs (2005-2006)

Assessment and Planning (2006-2008, 2009-2010)

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Member, Steering Committee, [Manichaean Studies Seminar](#), [Society of Biblical Literature](#), 2003-2004

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Teaching Spiritual Formation at [Redeemer Covenant Church](#), Caledonia, MI (2009-2016)

- Notes for the teaching series on the seven deadly sins are available online at <http://www.didymus.org/the-seven-deadly-sins.html>
- Notes for the teaching series on the Lord's Prayer are available online at <http://www.didymus.org/the-lords-prayer.html>

International Panel of Reference for [SALT Institute](#) (Chennai, India) (2007)

Responsible for [Alpha](#) programs at Danforth Baptist Church, Toronto (1997-1999)

Theological education for Asian church leaders (summer 2000)

TEACHING COMPETENCY

Systematic, historical and philosophical theology; church history; history of Christian spirituality; Greek language and literature.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Special interest in early Christian spirituality; the history of spiritual direction; Christian responses to the problem of evil; the psychology of temptation; perspectives on suffering and the emotions in Christian spirituality; historical interactions between philosophy and Christian doctrine; Christian responses to other Middle Eastern missionary religions (Manichaeism and Islam)

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

--"The Relationship Between Intellect and Soul in a New Syriac Fragment of Didymus the Blind's *De anima*" (to appear)

--"A New Greek Fragment of Didymus the Blind: *On Incorporeal Substances*" (to appear)

--"Paul the Persian" in Ehsan Yarshater (ed.), [Encyclopedia Iranica](#), vol. 15, New York:

Bibliotheca Persica, forthcoming

- Also available online at <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/paul-the-persian> and http://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/Religions/non-iranian/paul_persian.htm

--"The Sources on Manichaeism: Church Fathers, Greek," "The Manichaean Mission in Roman Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine and Arabia," "Manichaeism in the Roman East," "The Eclipse of Manichaeism in the Roman Empire," in *Handbook of Manichaeism*, ed. Johannes van Oort, *Handbuch der Orientalistik/Handbook of Oriental Studies*, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming

- “The Invention of the Greek Christian Anti-Manichaean Dialogue,” in *Patterns of Argumentation and Exchange of Ideas in Late Antiquity and Early Islam*, ed. Yannis Papadogiannakis and Barbara Roggema, Publications of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King’s College London, Routledge/CRC Press, forthcoming in 2020
- “Augustine’s Theology as a Resource for Reconciling the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches in the Post-Byzantine Period: Maximus Margunius’ Greek and Latin Works on the Holy Spirit,” in *Post-Byzantine Latinitas: Latin in Post-Byzantine Scholarship (15th-19th Centuries)*, ed. Vasileios Pappas, Ioannis Deligiannis and Vaios Vaiopoulos, Corpus Christianorum Lingua Patrum/Latin in and After Byzantium, Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming in 2019
- “Theodore Abū Qurrah (c. 750-c. 820): Defending Christian Doctrines During the Rise of Islam” and “Gregory Palamas: Defending the Authority and Evidential Value of Religious Experience in the Byzantine World” in *The Legacy of Apologetics*, ed. Benjamin Forrest, Joshua Chatraw and James Dew, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, forthcoming in 2019
- “Johannes Tauler” in *A Legacy of Preaching: Historical and Theological Introductions*, ed. Benjamin K. Forrest, Kevin King, Dwayne Milioni and Bill Curtis, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, forthcoming in December 2018
- “[Ancient Church of the East](#),” “[Beissel, Conrad Georg](#),” “[Church of the Brethren](#),” “Orthodox Anglican Church,” “[Hoge, Moses Drury](#),” “Mar Thoma Syrian Church,” “[Netherlands Reformed Congregations](#),” “[Old German Baptist Brethren](#),” in *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, 5 vols., ed. George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016
- “Anselm of Canterbury: Educating for the Love of God,” in *Historical and Theological Foundations of Religious Educators*, ed. Elmer L. Towns and Benjamin K. Forrest, Lynchburg, VA: Liberty University Press, 2016, 51-63
- “[Catechumenate](#),” “[Desert Fathers and Mothers](#),” “[Mystagogy](#),” “[Origen](#),” “Spiritual Direction, Early Development” in *Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, 3 vols., ed. George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015
- “[The Physics of Light, Darkness and Matter in John the Grammarian’s First Homily against the Manichaeans: Early Byzantine Anti-Manichaean Literature as a Window on Controversies in Later Neoplatonism](#),” in S.G. Richter (ed.) *Mani in Dublin: Selected Papers from the Seventh International Conference of the International Association of Manichaean Studies in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin 8-12 September 2009*, Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies, Leiden: Brill, 2015, 19-33
- “*Globus horribilis*: The Role of the *Bolos* in Manichaean Eschatology and Its Polemical Transformation in Augustine’s Anti-Manichaean Writings” in S. van den Berg, A. Kotzé, T. Nicklas, and M. Scopello (eds.), *In Search of Truth: Augustine, Manichaeism and Other Gnosticism. Studies for Johannes van Oort at Sixty*, Leiden: Brill, 2011, 427-440
- “Didymus the Blind” in Daniel Patte (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010, 324
- The bibliography from the dictionary article is available online separately at <http://discoverarchive.vanderbilt.edu/bitstream/handle/1803/4144/DIDYMUS%20THE%20BLIND%20OF%20ALEXANDRIA.pdf?sequence=218>
- “[The Person Speaking: Prosopopoeia as an Exegetical Device in Didymus the Blind’s Interpretation of Romans 7](#)” in J. Baun, A. Cameron, M. Edwards and M. Vinzent (eds.), *Studia Patristica XLVII: Proceedings of the Fifteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies (Oxford 2007)*, Leuven: Peeters, 2010, 173-177
- “The Conversation of John the Orthodox with a Manichaean: An Analysis of Its Sources and Its Significance for Manichaean Studies” in Jason BeDuhn (ed.), *New Light on Manichaeism: Papers from the 6th International Congress on Manichaeism*, [Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies](#) 64, Leiden: Brill, 2009, 29-44
- Also available from Brill Online in E-Book format: <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/9789047426325>
- “[Basilides’ ‘Barbarian Cosmogony’: Its Nature and Function within the Acta Archelai](#)” in Paul Mirecki and Jason BeDuhn (eds.), *Frontiers of Faith: The Christian-Manichaean Encounter in the Acts of Archelaus*, [Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies](#) 61, Leiden: Brill, 2007, 157-166

- Also available from Brill Online in E-Book format:
<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/books/9789047421535>

--“The Soiling of Sinful Flesh: Primordial Sin, Inherited Corruption and Moral Responsibility in Didymus the Blind and Origen,” *Adamantius* 11(2005), 77-92

--“A Fragment of Didymus the Blind in Nikon of the Black Mountain” *Hellenika* 51:1 (June 2001), 69-73

--“Didymus the Blind’s Knowledge of Manichaeism” in Paul Mirecki and Jason BeDuhn (eds.), *The Light and the Darkness: Studies in Manichaeism and Its World*, Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies 50, Leiden: Brill, 2001, 38-67

--“*Juxta unum latus erat terra tenbrarum: The Division of Primordial Space in Anti-Manichaean Writers’ Descriptions of the Manichaean Cosmogony*” in P. Mirecki and J. BeDuhn (eds.) *The Light and the Darkness: Studies in Manichaeism and Its World*, Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies 50, Leiden: Brill, 2001, 68-78

--“Holy Laughter in Didymus the Blind” in Pauline Allen, Wendy Mayer and Lawrence Cross (eds.), *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church. Volume 2*, Everton Park, Queensland: Centre for Early Christian Studies, Australian Catholic University, 1999, 301-313

BOOK REVIEWS

--Review of Jason David BeDuhn, *Augustine’s Manichaean Dilemma, 2: Making a “Catholic” Self, 388-401 CE*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013, in *Augustinian Studies* 45:2 (2014): 300-305

--Review of G. Zago, *Sapienza filosofica e cultura materiale. Posidonio e le altri fonti dell’Epistola 90 di Seneca*, Bologna: Società Editrice il Mulino, 2012, in *The Classical Review (New Series)* 64:1 (2014): 138-140

--Review of Terryl L. Givens, *When Souls Had Wings: Pre-Mortal Existence in Western Thought*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010 in *Journal of Religion in Europe* 4:2 (2011): 360-361

--Review of Jason David BeDuhn, *Augustine’s Manichaean Dilemma: 1. Conversion and Apostasy, 373-388 C.E.*, Divinations: Rereading Late Ancient Religion, Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2010 in *Journal of Religion in Europe* 3:3 (2010):1-3

--Review of Henny Fiskå Hägg, *Clement of Alexandria and the Beginnings of Christian Apophaticism*, Oxford Early Christian Studies, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2006 in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 15:3 (Fall 2007), 425-426 (available online in PDF format from Project Muse via ECO)

--Review of Adele Monaci Castagno (ed.), *La biografia di Origene fra storia e agiografia. Atti del VI Convegno di Studi del Gruppo Italiano di Ricerca su Origene e la Tradizione Alessandrina (Torino 11-13 settembre 2002)*, Biblioteca di Adamantius 1, Villa Verruchio (Rimini): P.G. Pazzini, 2004 in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 15:2 (Summer 2007), 279-280 (available online in PDF format from Project Muse via ECO)

--Review of Richard A. Layton, *Didymus the Blind and His Circle in Late-Antique Alexandria. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2004* in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 12:3 (Fall 2004), 367-369 (available online in PDF format from Project Muse via ECO)

--Review of Emanuela Prinzivalli, *Magister ecclesiae: Il dibattito su Origene fra III e IV secolo*, Studia Ephemeridis Augustinianum 82, Rome: Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, 2002 in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 11:4 (Winter 2003), 568-570 (available online in PDF format from Project Muse via ECO)

--Review of Louis Doutreleau (ed.), *Origène. Homélie sur les Nombres III: Homélie XX-XXVIII, Sources Chrétiennes 461*, Paris: Cerf, 2001, in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 10:4 (Winter 2002), 528-529 (available online in PDF format from Project Muse via ECO)

--Review of Richard Sorabji, *Emotion and Peace of Mind. From Stoic Agitation to Christian Temptation*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2001.10.38 (available online at <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2001/2001-10-38.html>)

--Review of John Clark Smith (tr.), *Origen. Homilies on Jeremiah. Homily on 1 Kings 28, Fathers of the Church 97*, Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1998 in *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 7:3 (Fall 1999). pp. 469-471 (available online in HTML format from Project Muse via ECO)

PAPERS DELIVERED

--"John the Grammarian's *First and Second Homilies against the Manichaeans*: An Early Sixth-Century Christian Neoplatonist on the Problem of Evil." Paper delivered to the Sixteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, 2011.

--Paper delivered in a panel discussion of Jason David BeDuhn, *Augustine's Manichaean Dilemma: 1. Conversion and Apostasy, 373-388 C.E.*, *Divinations: Rereading Late Ancient Religion*, Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2010 at the annual meeting of the North American Patristic Society, 2010.

- The paper is available online at http://cornerstone.academia.edu/ByardBennett/Papers/182310/Review_of_Jason_David_BeDuhn_Augustines_Manichaean_Dilemma_for_North_American_Patristic_Society_panel_2010

--"The Physics of Light, Darkness and Matter in John the Grammarian's *First Homily against the Manichaeans*: Early Byzantine Anti-Manichaean Literature as a Window on Controversies in Later Neoplatonism." Paper Presented to the Seventh International Conference of Manichaean Studies, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, Ireland, 2009.

- Abstract available online at <http://www.cbl.ie/getdoc/5ace5784-60ff-4f24-973b-2d7c82d1b077/Mani-Conference-Abstracts-Bennett.aspx>

--"The Person Speaking: Prosopopoeia as an Exegetical Device in Didymus the Blind's Interpretation of Romans 7." Paper delivered to the Fifteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, 2007.

--"*The Conversation of John the Orthodox with a Manichaean*: An Analysis of Its Sources and Its Significance for Manichaean Studies." Paper delivered to the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2006.

- Abstract available online at http://www.sbl-site.org/Meetings/Congresses_Abstracts.aspx?MeetingId=5

--"Basilides as a Precursor of Mani in the *Acta Archelai*." Paper delivered to the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2002.

- Abstract available online at <http://www4.nau.edu/manichaean/2002abstracts.htm>

--"*Globus horribilis*: The Role of the *Bolos* in Manichaean Eschatology and Its Polemical Transformation in Augustine's Anti-Manichaean Writings." Paper delivered to the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2000.

--"A New Fragment of Didymus the Blind: *On Incorporal Substances*." Paper delivered to the Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, 1999.

--"Defending the Goodness of God When Faced with the World's Evils: Some Early Christian Approaches." Paper delivered to the Baylor Graduate Theological Fellowship, 1998.

--"The Ps.-Athanasius *Sermo contra omnes haereses* and Its Treatment of Manichaeism." Paper delivered to the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 1998.

--"Didymus the Blind's Knowledge of Manichaeism." Paper delivered to the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 1996.

--"Narrative and History: An Assessment of Hans Frei's Christology." Paper delivered to the International Congress for the Study of Religion, Melbourne, Australia, 1992.

--"Toward a Regulative Theory of Doctrine?: Lindbeck, Chomsky and Wittgenstein on Rules, Representation and Religious Language." Paper delivered to the American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting, 1992.

--"Ps.-Basil *Adversus Eunomium* IV-V: A Work of Didymus the Blind?" Paper delivered to the American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting, 1991.

THESES DIRECTED

--Kathleen J. Mateer, "Anne Bradstreet's Reinterpretation of the Three Domestic Virtues," M.A. Historical Theology thesis, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2005.

--Adriana Reasner, "An Examination of John Hick's Theocentric Approach to Religious Pluralism," M.T.S. thesis, Tyndale Seminary, 2002 (Winner of the 2002 Victor Adrian Award)

SOCIETIES

[American Academy of Religion](#)

[Society of Biblical Literature](#)
[North American Patristic Society](#)
[Association Internationale d'Études Patristiques](#)
[Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy](#)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Dr. John F. VerBerkmoes
Executive Vice-President for Academics and Academic Dean
Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
1001 E. Beltline Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-5897
phone: (616) 222-1422
e-mail: john.verberkmoes@cornerstone.edu

Dr. Jason BeDuhn
Professor of Comparative Cultural Studies
Box 6031
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6031
phone: (928) 523-8892
email: Jason.BeDuhn@nau.edu
<http://nau.edu/cal/ccs/faculty-and-staff/beduhn/>

Dr. Paul Mirecki
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Department of Religious Studies
Smith Hall 205
1300 Oread Ave.
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045-7615 USA
e-mail: pmirecki@ku.edu
phone: (785) 864-7252
<https://religiousstudies.ku.edu/paul-mirecki>