

Science and Religion with a Southern Accent: Scripture, Science, and Southern Identity in the Shadow of the Civil War

A free lecture sponsored by Messiah College Ministries and
The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

Speaker: Dr. Monte Hampton, historian and pastor

Southern Presbyterian theologians enjoyed a prominent position in antebellum southern culture. Beginning in the 1840s, Southern Presbyterian theologians like Robert L. Dabney, Benjamin M. Palmer, John L. Girardeau, and James Woodrow (an uncle of future president Woodrow Wilson) identified biblical orthodoxy as the basis of southern culture and southern culture as the protector of the authority of scripture. They brought their perspective to bear on such diverse concerns as racial amalgamation, Yankee commercialism, radical democracy, women's rights, public schools, philosophical empiricism, higher criticism of the Bible—but especially natural science. Developments within modern science seemed to express the rationalistic spirit of the age and to threaten the long-held Protestant conviction that science was the faithful “handmaid” of theology. They saw threats in polygenist anthropology (the popular mid-nineteenth century hypothesis that human races were in fact distinct, separately created species), geology, and evolution. While seeing themselves as defenders of the developing myth of the Lost Cause and guardians of southern culture, they experienced a crisis about modernity as they grappled with the nature of scientific and religious knowledge and how to relate them to a Southern culture in the shadow of the Civil War and reconstruction.

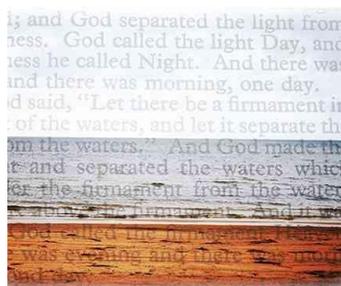


Wednesday, 22 March 2017, at 7:00 pm.

Location: Hostetter Chapel, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are here <http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Storm of Words

SCIENCE, RELIGION,
and EVOLUTION
in the CIVIL WAR ERA



MONTE HARRELL HAMPTON

Monte Hampton is a historian whose interests focus on religion, science, and the American South, especially in the years after the Civil War. His recent book, *Storm of Words: Science, Religion, and Evolution in the Civil War Era*, (University of Alabama Press, 2014) brings these themes together. He also serves as a pastor in the Raleigh, North Carolina area and occasionally teaches as a visiting lecturer at both the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.