

For Immediate Release

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President Pinson Speaks at New Orleans Seminary

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Matt Pinson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, delivered an Arminian presentation titled “Thomas Grantham’s Theology of the Atonement and Justification” during a special event sponsored by the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS). He spoke to an audience of students and faculty from NOBTS and several guest Christian colleges and universities Friday afternoon, February 25 at the Nelson Price Center.

Dr. Pinson said, “What a joy it was for me to participate in this unusual event at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and present the Arminian views of an early scholar whose writings and theological works helped formulate Free Will Baptist teachings. I was delighted with the warm and courteous reception by the faculty, students, and guests. I appreciate the way NOBTS has responded to our FWBBC faculty and their theological writings.”

The program included responses to Dr. Pinson’s presentation by three scholars: Clint Bass, Church History professor at Southwest Baptist University who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Grantham; Rhyne Putnam, Theology instructor at NOBTS; James Leonard, visiting Cambridge scholar at the NOBTS Center for New Testament Textual Studies and an FWBBC graduate who is completing doctoral studies. The address and the three responses will be published in the upcoming issue of the *Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry*.

NOBTS Provost Dr. Steve Lemke said, “Many of our students know little about Thomas Grantham’s theology, and we wanted to highlight Grantham in the annual conference sponsored by the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry. When I thought of an expert on Thomas Grantham, I immediately thought of my friend Matt Pinson, who has made scholarly presentations and publications on Grantham. Dr. Pinson has participated in our events before, and he always brings excellent

scholarship and thoughtful presentation to the discussion. This recent presentation on Grantham was just such an excellent scholarly presentation.”

Six FWBBC students and two professors (Missions Program Coordinator Ron Callaway and Campus Pastor/Biblical and Theological Studies Coordinator Matthew McAfee) traveled to New Orleans to attend the event, hear President Pinson speak, and participate in the February 25-26 Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum at NOBTS. The forum featured a debate between Bart Ehrman and Craig A. Evans on the subject, “Can We Trust the Bible on the Historical Jesus?”

Ron Callaway said, “The New Orleans conference was a great time for all of us. The FWBBC students attended theological conferences, had a guided tour of the NOBTS campus, enjoyed a pizza dinner to promote enrollment, and took in hours of presentations and debate and counter-point discussions. After Dr. Pinson’s presentation, one of the visiting professors said he would be proud to serve on a faculty where Dr. Pinson was president.”

President Pinson continues to be in demand as a conference speaker, professional educator, and theologian. During a 2009 conference engagement, he delivered an address on Free Will Baptist theology at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama.



Photo: FWBBC President Matt Pinson at the podium addressing NOBTS audience.