

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! Most Thursdays I try to make it to Greek study with the brother pastors from the area. Though I am no linguist, I want to keep up the little bit that I do remember from Seminary, and to get ideas for properly preaching and teaching the lessons for the coordinating Sunday. Why do I say this? Because I do not desire to be a false preacher—a blasphemer according to the Second Commandment. Just take a look at what Luther has to say of it in his explanation from the Book of Concord!



Law and Gospel or ...?

Beware false preachers! That is the very message of this section of the Second Commandment. “The great abuse, however, is in spiritual matters, which affect the conscience, when false preachers arise and present their lying nonsense as God’s Word (Book of Concord (BoC), p.393).”

False preachers are everywhere. They're on TV; they're on the radio; they're on the internet; and they even live nearby. Just listen to a preacher speak for a while and see what happens. Does he remain faithful to the Word of God, or does he use God's Word as a starting off point for making some point that he or society wants to make—whether Godly, or, more likely, not?

It is my goal to present you with God's Word, nothing more, nothing less. In the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, that is our collective goal. That is why we take to heart Walther's Law and Gospel: the two main doctrines of Scripture. Why do we need a Savior? Because the Scriptures tell us we have sinned and are no longer right with God. We have failed to uphold God's Law. If that Law were no longer preached, then where would be the need for a Gospel? Where would be the need for a Savior? But, as sinners, we need a Savior—a Savior who has been provided and presented in the Scriptures.

Watch out for false preachers who “deck (themselves) out with God's name to put up a good front and justify (themselves) with his name, whether in ordinary worldly affairs or in sophisticated and difficult matters of faith and doctrine (BoC, p.393).” Pray that your pastor would continue to preach and teach not as a “good front” as though somehow to justify myself but for your sake and for your proper learning. Pray for all the pastors of this circuit, District, and Synod that we might not be led astray to false teaching, but that we might keep teaching you and your brothers and sisters in Christ God's good Law, and especially His gracious Gospel.

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh