

# Interim Ministry Resources

## Chapter 4 Preaching

Contents	1
Introduction	2

### Reflections and Resources (1)

#	Page	Topic
1)	17	Who am I to preach?
2)	18	Formative influences for preaching
3)	25	Faithful or successful or effective?
4)	30	Law/Gospel
5)	31	Description of the human condition
6)	32	When law/gospel preaching lapses into scolding
7)	33	Do the text to the hearers
8)	33	What difference does faith make?
9)	35	Preaching and the Post-Modern Condition
10)	35	Kerygma <i>and</i> apologetics
11)	42	Making an argument
12)	43	On avoiding the pendulum swing from legalism to antinomianism
13)	46	Preaching Christ Crucified
14)	49	Passion of Our Lord
15)	51	An idle tale
16)	51	Is self-help the way to go?
17)	52	Theology or therapy?
18)	55	Messed life and blessed life
19)	55	Preaching the foolishness of the cross
20)	56	Preaching in the age of the new Gnosticism
21)	58	A new works righteousness
22)	59	Preaching in the age of Oprah
23)	60	Small Catechism of Martin Luther
24)	61	What's the point?
25)	61	What do you see?
26)	62	What preachers are up against
27)	63	Oral culture
28)	66	Pastor's study or office?
29)	66	An esteemed pastor

# Introduction

## Built on a Rock | Hymnary.org

4 Thro' all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
Many may come to **hear God's Word** where He the promise is bringing;  
"I know my own, my own know Me, you, not the world, My face shall see;  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

[https://hymnary.org/text/built\\_on\\_the\\_rock\\_the\\_church\\_doth\\_stand](https://hymnary.org/text/built_on_the_rock_the_church_doth_stand)

[Images for Built on a Rock | Hymnary.org](#)

## God's Glory in Creation and the Law

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

[oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 19:14](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=277945916>

[Images for God's Glory in Creation and the Law images](#)

## Jew and Gentile Called

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Every one who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to **proclaim** him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

[oremus Bible Browser: Romans 10:12-15](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=174215282>

[Images for How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!](#)

## Letter of Agreement for Interim Pastoral Ministry

The Interim Pastor will:

B. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the ELCA.

[Call Process Booklet EDITED - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)

[http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call\\_process\\_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf](http://www.nwswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/call_process_rev11.17.09smaller.pdf) Page 42

[Call Process Booklet - Yumpu](#)

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/53432941/call-process-booklet>

[Images for The Interim Pastor will: B. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the ELCA.](#)

## Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and **preach** the word."  
Lest the Church neglect its mission and the Gospel go unheard,  
Help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

<http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/l/1520.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG36MuVpmGk> Lord, You Give the Great Commission - YouTube

[Images for Lord, You Give the Great Commission](#)

[\[DOC\]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository](#)

## Chapter 9.

### ROSTERED MINISTER

\*C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every ordained minister shall:

- 1) **preach** the Word;
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository > Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER preach the word](#)

## The Purpose of John's Gospel

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

[oremus Bible Browser: John 20:30-31](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John%2020:30-31&version=nrsv>

## [Images for Purpose of John's Gospel](#)

### THE SMALL CATECHISM

#### THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall keep the day of rest holy.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise **preaching** and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for THE SMALL CATECHISM THE THIRD COMMANDMENT You shall keep the day of rest holy.](#)

#### The Suffering Servant

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who **announces** peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

oremus Bible Browser: [Isaiah 52:7](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Isaiah+52:7-10>

[Images for Suffering Servant](#)

#### What in God's Name is Going on Here? Rev. Robert J. Voyle

Have you ever walked into a church and thought to yourself, What in God's Name is Going on Here? As an interim minister and as a church consultant, I find myself asking this question everywhere I go. I also use it as the title and theme for one of the first sermons I **preach** when beginning a new ministry.

<http://www.clergyleadership.com/tm-resources/aim-articles.cfm#what>

[Images for What in God's Name is Going on Here? Rev. Robert J. Voyle](#)

### Moses

#### Moses Farewell Address

<sup>4</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

oremus Bible Browser: [Deuteronomy 4:1-2](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Deuteronomy+4%3A1-2&vnum=yes&version=nrsv>

[Images for Moses Farewell Address](#)

### Resources

#### A Model of Interim Pastoral Coaches for Ohio Assemblies of God

Much of the Old Testament deals with the story of a congregation (the nation of Israel) in transition. Exodus documents the exemplary pastoral leadership of **Moses** from Egypt to Canaan. Deuteronomy documents his interim pastoral leadership, which started as God announced to Moses that he would not enter Canaan, and Moses was to prepare Israel to enter the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. Many of the same dynamics of congregational transition that emerged among the Hebrews also occur today in church congregations.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0549678808>

Page 18

[Images for Moses from Egypt to Canaan](#)

#### Biblical Models of Interim Ministry

Several Biblical expressions of ministry capture the spirit of interim ministry. From a theological perspective, transitional times are primarily wilderness times. The great story of **Moses** and the people of Israel in the wilderness is an archetypal expression for the community in transition. In the wilderness, faced with uncertainty, the people grieve for what they have left behind, even if it was a life of hardship. They may grumble and seek to hold fast to temporal realities and forget the God who has liberated and sustained them. Yet in the midst of the wilderness the people encounter God anew and find a new identity that it is not limited by the past. And Moses, the one who has led the people through the wilderness to this new understanding, does not get to enter the promised land.

<http://www.clergyleadership.com/resources/aim-articles.cfm#biblical>

[Images for Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness](#)

#### Deuteronomy: God's People Challenged

Deuteronomy records **Moses'** farewell address to Israel on the plains of Moab. Moses rehearsed God's law to the new generation of Israelites to prepare them for life in the Promised Land, which they were about to enter. We are reminded that the Israelites spent 40 years on a journey that should have lasted 11 days (verse 2). "The journey from Jebel Musa (traditional site of Mt Sinai/Horeb) to Kadesh [an oasis on the border of Canaan]...has recently been shown to take just this time" (*Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*, p. 195).

<http://www.gci.org/bible/torah/deut1>

## [Images for Moses rehearsed God's law](#)

### [PDF]DEUTERONOMY – Moses' farewell speech to his people

The title of the next book, Deuteronomy, means 'repetition of the Law'. Moses' life was ending. He knew from bitter experience that without his firm hand on the reins, the people he had encouraged in the way of the Lord would rebel and go back to idol worship. Like a good advertising agency, he was going to run through for a second time all the important points of the Law they needed to remember. He would finish with a national anthem, that would cement his warnings into their memory. We can imagine them gathered in front of the old man, tears in their eyes, as he spoke to them for the last time.

<http://www.coffschristadelphians.org/biblebooks/deuteronomy.pdf>

[Images for DEUTERONOMY – Moses' farewell speech to his people](#)

### Excellent Advice from Moses' Farewell Address

Moses was old and near death. He had been forbidden to enter the Promised Land (see Deut. 4:21-22). He brought the people together and gave his farewell address, filled with the good advice of a wise and faithful leader. He is both prophetic and pastoral in his parting words, being able to see beyond the time when they settle into the new land to a time when they will be scattered again and exiled from the Promised Land. In his impassioned speech before them, he is both loving pastor and unmistakable prophet. But the major gist of his message reverberates even to us today; Seek the Lord with all your heart and soul; turn to Him; in distress, He will help you; obey Him, for He will not forsake you; there is no other God besides Him; He will remember His covenant with you. Moses called for faithfulness. He stood firmly on all that the Lord had taught Him and wanted to impart to the people the necessity to be true to God and serve Him faithfully.

<http://frommydailydevotionaljournal.blogspot.com/2010/11/excellent-advice-from-moses-farewell.html>

[Images for Seek the Lord with all your heart](#)

### FAREWELL ADDRESSES Deuteronomy 31; Joshua 23-24; Acts 2

For my final two messages, I wanted to deal with leadership transitions from a biblical perspective. So, last Sunday we looked at the portion of scripture in the Book of Kings related to the leadership transition between Elijah and Elisha. That was a very relevant passage. Today in this concluding message, I want to draw some lessons from three farewell messages given by **Moses**, Joshua and Paul. Moses and Joshua addressed the congregation of Israel, and, Paul, en route to Rome via Jerusalem, addressed the Ephesian elders. Each of these messages contains both challenges and personal words.

[http://c696bbf28125df269edd-d20bf38be1a900e34f7e2f446b65fa25.r69.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/2/0e1300713\\_20120909-txt.pdf](http://c696bbf28125df269edd-d20bf38be1a900e34f7e2f446b65fa25.r69.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/2/0e1300713_20120909-txt.pdf)

[Images for FAREWELL ADDRESSES Deuteronomy 31; Joshua 23-24; Acts 2](#)

### Moses Miraculous Power

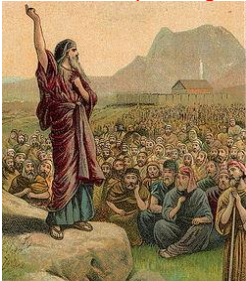
But Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak."

### Exodus 4:10-12

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=176793299>

[Images for Moses Miraculous Power](#)

### Moses - Simple English Wikipedia



Moses pleading with the [Children of Israel](#), lithography from a Bible card published in 1907.

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses>

[Images for Moses](#)

### John the Baptist

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

## Resources

### A Model of Interim Pastoral Coaches for Ohio Assemblies of God

While many powerful transitional leaders appear in the Old Testament, none are more poignantly engaged in interim ministry than the New Testament's **John the Baptist**, who, coming from the Judean desert, started his prophetic interim mission in the first century A.D.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0549678808>

Page 27

[Images for John the Baptist prophetic interim mission](#)

### A Study of the Effectiveness of Interim Pastors – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

In many ways, an interim pastor is a modern day **John the Baptist**. As we know, John the Baptist had several missions. Two of these missions were: 1. to get the people of Israel to repent of their sins and be baptized and 2. to prepare the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah. Likewise, the interim pastor has many missions. Two of them are: 1. to provide a church with the necessary day to day leadership during the period of transition and 2. to enable the Pastor or Associate Pastor Nomination to perform its important task of finding the next "shepherd" for the church. We praise God, the Commissions on Ministry, and our Presbyteries for our interim "shepherds". They fulfill a vital function within the church.

<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/study-effectiveness-interim-pastors/>

[Images for Effectiveness of Interim Pastors](#)

### Biblical Models of Interim Ministry

The other great transitional ministry in the Bible also took place in the wilderness and was that of **John the Baptist**. He stood between the Old and New. He prepared a way for the new by calling the people to repentance, to make a heartfelt change in the way they perceived themselves and God. Like Moses he did not get to see the fruits of his labor but saw that it was necessary for himself to diminish that Christ may increase.

These two stories capture some of the essence of interim ministry. It is a time of calling a people to leave behind the known-ness of the past, which may be secure or in turmoil, to examine who they are and the direction they are going, and to prepare for the future. Like John the Baptist interim clergy need to assist in the transition of leadership rather than establish themselves as leaders.

<http://www.clergyleadership.com/resources/aim-articles.cfm#biblical>

[Images for Biblical Models of Interim Ministry](#)

### Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future

**John the Baptist** also spoke of the joy in preparation and celebration of a wedding (John 3:28-29). The interim pastor can use this reference to help the congregation to compare welcoming a new pastor to a joyful wedding that requires much preparation. The effective interim shares the joy of the congregation and models the humility of John the Baptist. He or she will step into the background with a feeling of happiness for the congregation and for the new pastor.

### The Interim Pastor's Manual - Page 49 - Google Books Result

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664500021>

[Images for Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future](#)

### Pastoral Transition - The Western PA Conference

For the departing pastor, the central task is to leave well and prepare the way for a successor. **John the Baptist** often is cited as a model.

"His total life in ministry was preparing the way for another, even to the point where he tells his disciples to 'Quit following me and follow him,'" said the Rev. Kenneth Lambert, former coordinator for interim ministry training at the United Methodist-affiliated Intentional Growth Center in Lake Junaluska, N.C. "That is literally what the departing pastor has to say: 'Turn me loose and follow him.' But not many of us are humble enough to do that."

<http://www.wpaumc.org/pastoraltransition>

[Images for john the baptist prepare the way](#)

### Preaching During the Interim | Preaching.com

**John the Baptist** becomes the prototype of the Interim Minister whose mission is described in the words of the prophet of the exile, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mark 1:2, 3). His ministry was to prepare the people for the new day and new leadership.

<http://www.preaching.com/resources/preaching-online/11563501/page-2/>

[Images for Preaching During the Interim](#)

### [PDF]THE INTERIM PASTOR - PSWD

**John the Baptist** is an excellent model of an interim pastor. His ministry had a specific purpose and time frame. He was called upon to "prepare the way" of the one who would follow. He immediately removed the focus from self and put it on the one who was to follow. He knew when his ministry was completed. When Jesus came, John gracefully bowed out of the picture. In this biblical understanding of the interim pastor, there are some basics that can be useful today.

<http://www.pswdcob.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/om280interim-ministry.pdf>  
[Images for John the Baptist model of an interim pastor](#)

What Scriptural Application is there for Interim Ministry?

There is biblical precedent for the use of Interim Ministers? There was **John the Baptizer** who in accordance with prophecy prepared the people for the Savior:

[Intentional Interim Ministry | Michigan District, LCMS](#)

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/congregations/vacancies/interim#scriptural>

[Images for Scriptural Application for Interim Ministry](#)



[File:Titian - St John the Baptist in the Desert](#)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Titian\\_-\\_St\\_John\\_the\\_Baptist\\_in\\_the\\_Desert\\_-\\_WGA22807.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Titian_-_St_John_the_Baptist_in_the_Desert_-_WGA22807.jpg)

[Images for St John the Baptist in the Desert](#)

## Jesus

### Sermon on the Mount

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely\* on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[oremus Bible Browser: matthew 5:1-12](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=matthew+5:1-12>

[Images for sermon on the mount](#)

## Resources

[Here is Your Son. Here is Your Mother. - SermonsFromSeattle](#)

**Jesus preached his most powerful sermon from the cross.** The first three statements from the cross reveal an enormous and incredible love for others. In all three statements, Jesus was thinking of others. Jesus said, "Father, forgiven them, for they know not what they do" and in this statement Jesus was focusing on the needs of the soldiers and crowds who were ridiculing him and not on his own pain. In the second statement, Jesus was focusing on the thief on the cross when he said to the thief, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." And the same quality of love for another is found in the third statement when Jesus was concentrating on the needs of his mother and best friend. He simply said to his mother, "Here is your son." He said to his best friend, "Here is your mother." Jesus was telling the both of them: Take care of one another in the future when I am physically gone from you.

[http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/lenten\\_series\\_here\\_is\\_your\\_son.htm](http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/lenten_series_here_is_your_son.htm)

[Images for Here is Your Son. Here is Your Mother. Jesus.](#)

[Jesus' Preaching Ministry Begins | The New Bible.com](#)

Turning to the words from Isaiah 61, Jesus begins His official ministry at the temple in his hometown of Nazareth.

<https://www.bible.com/videos/85>

[Images for Jesus' Preaching Ministry Begins](#)

[Jesus the Greatest Preacher - Pentecostal Pioneers](#)

What exactly does it mean when Scriptures says that Jesus preached? This word 'preached' means to be a herald; to proclaim aloud like a town crier; to publish or make known widely or everywhere. This is no quiet hidden secret polite act! It is a public proclamation; it is broadcasting a message for all to hear.

<http://www.pentecostalpioneers.org/JesusPreacher.html>



## [Images for Jesus the Greatest Preacher](#)

### **Martin Luther: Commentary on The Sermon on the Mount**

“During Bugenhagen’s absence Luther preached a long while for him, regularly, on the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of Matthew, beginning Nov. 9, 1530. These sermons were then published, first in 1532, at Wittenberg, under Joseph Klug, in quarto; in 1533 at Marburg, in octavo; and in 1539, again in Wittenberg, in quarto, under Johann Weiss. In 1533 they were also translated into Latin by Vincent Obsopoeus.”

In this Irmischer edition these sermons are thrown into the form of a running commentary, and as such they are now presented to the English reading public by the Lutheran Publication Society.

When requested by a committee of this Board to translate this work, I called attention to the peculiar roughness and even fierceness of Luther’s way of expressing himself and of denouncing the minions of the papacy. But the committee judged it best that Luther should be allowed to speak for himself, presuming that intelligent English readers will make due allowance for the style of speech common in that day, and for the peculiarly aggravating circumstances under which that noble man of God was called to labor. An admirable vindication of these “Asperities” appeared in the ninth volume of our excellent Quarterly Review, in 1881; it is from the pen of Rev. Dr. Morris, one of Luther’s most enthusiastic admirers.

Charles A. Hay.

Gettysburg, Feb. 11, 1892.

<http://www.amazon.com/Martin-Luther-Commentary-Sermon-Mount-ebook/dp/B007JPNFO2>

[Images for Martin Luther: Commentary on The Sermon on the Mount](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9a6FhH2OM8> Martin Luther - Sermon on the Mount Commentary – Preface – YouTube

<http://www.godrules.net/library/luther/37luther0.htm> Translator’s Preface

### **Ministry of Jesus - Wikipedia**

In the Christian gospels, the ministry of Jesus begins with his baptism in the countryside of Roman Judea and Transjordan, near the river Jordan, and ends in Jerusalem, following the Last Supper with his disciples.<sup>[1]</sup> The Gospel of Luke (3:23) states that Jesus was “about 30 years of age” at the start of his ministry.<sup>[2][3]</sup> A chronology of Jesus typically has the date of the start of his ministry estimated at around 27-29 AD/CE and the end in the range 30-36 AD/CE.<sup>[2][3][4][5]</sup>

Jesus’ *Early Galilean ministry* begins when after his Baptism, he goes back to Galilee from his time in the Judean desert.<sup>[6]</sup> In this early period he preaches around Galilee and recruits his first disciples who begin to travel with him and eventually form the core of the early Church<sup>[1][7]</sup> as it is believed that the Apostles dispersed from Jerusalem to found the Apostolic Sees.

The *Major Galilean ministry* which begins in Matthew 8 includes the commissioning of the Twelve Apostles, and covers most of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee.<sup>[8][9]</sup> The *Final Galilean ministry* begins after the death of John the Baptist as Jesus prepares to go to Jerusalem.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry\\_of\\_Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Jesus)

[Images for Ministry of Jesus](#)

### **Sermon on the Mount - Wikipedia**

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament, and occupies chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew. The Sermon has been one of the most widely quoted elements of the Canonical Gospels.<sup>[2]</sup> To most believers in Jesus, the Sermon contains the central tenets of Christian discipleship.<sup>[2]</sup>

This is the first of the *Five Discourses of Matthew*, the other four being Matthew 10, Matthew 13 (1–53), Matthew 18 and the Olivet discourse in Matthew 24.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup>

The Sermon takes place relatively early in the Ministry of Jesus, after he has been baptized by John the Baptist in chapter 3 of Matthew and gathered his first disciples in chapter 4.

Before this episode, Jesus had been “all about Galilee” preaching, as in Matthew 4:23, and “great crowds followed him” from all around the area. The setting for the sermon is given in Matthew 5:1-2. Jesus sees the multitudes, goes up into the mountain, is followed by his disciples, and begins to preach.



*Sermon on the Mount* by [Carl Bloch](#)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon\\_on\\_the\\_Mount](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon_on_the_Mount)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon\\_on\\_the\\_Mount](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon_on_the_Mount)

[Images for Sermon on the Mount](#)

## Paul

### Admonition of Paul to Timothy

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: **proclaim** the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

oremus Bible Browser: [2 Timothy 4:1-8](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=2+Timothy+4:1-8>

[Images for Admonition of Paul to Timothy](#)

## Resources

### Paul the Apostle - Wikipedia

E.P. Sanders finds three major emphases in Paul's writings:<sup>[6]</sup>

His strongest emphasis was on the death, resurrection, and lordship of Jesus Christ. He **preached** that one's faith in Jesus assures that person a share in Jesus' life (salvation). He saw Jesus' death as being for the believers' benefit, not a defeat. Jesus died so that believers' sins would be forgiven.



Saint Paul arrested, early 1900s Bible illustration

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_the\\_Apostle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle)

[Images for Paul the Apostle](#)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_the\\_Apostle](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle)

### paul's preaching ministry - Abilene Christian University

Paul as Evangelistic Preacher

Despite the differences between Acts and the epistles, both witnesses indicate that Paul's aim is to lay the foundation rather than build onto the work of others (cf. Rom 15:20). Moreover, a careful analysis of Acts reveals that Luke shares Paul's understanding of the missionary task. Like Paul, Luke depicts missionary preaching as both initial proclamation and pastoral instruction. In this article I shall examine Luke's portrait of Paul as missionary, giving special attention to his instruction to the churches.

[http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/restoration\\_quarterly/archives/2000s/vol\\_42\\_no\\_1\\_contents/thompson.html](http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/restoration_quarterly/archives/2000s/vol_42_no_1_contents/thompson.html)

[Images for paul's preaching ministry](#)

### The Gospel Preached by Paul - STEM Publishing

The Gospel of the Grace of God

Speaking to the elders of Ephesus, Paul said that he desired to finish his course, and the ministry that he had received from the Lord Jesus, "to testify the Gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). The Apostle had learned in the Lord's dealings with him how rich God's grace is, and was eminently suited to make it known to others. The rich grace of God that had taken all his sins away, and brought him into God's favor, was the grace available for the blessing of all who would trust in the Son of God whom Paul preached. To Jews and Greeks the Apostle preached the same message, showing that the way into divine blessing was by "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

Included in Paul's message was "preaching the kingdom of God" (Acts 20:25), and the declaration of "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Those who accepted the word of divine grace came under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, being translated into the "kingdom of God's dear Son," and from Him learning of all that God had in store for the blessing of His own, according to His counsel of eternal love. The counsel of God brings before us the wonderful truths of "the riches of His grace," and "the glory of His grace," and all these wondrous things are part of the Gospel of the grace of God.

<http://www.stempublishing.com/magazines/OSW/81-90/osw84d.html>

[Images for Gospel Preached by Paul](#)

### The "why" of Paul's preaching! - Ministry Magazine

I am captivated by the "why" of the apostle Paul's preaching. His motivation to preach was so compelling in him that twice he refers to his appointment as "a herald and an apostle," placing his call to preach or be a herald, ahead of his call to apostleship (1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11). Paul has a lot to say about preaching. He mentions it at least 45 times in his epistles. To understand his motivation to preach, we need to consider two related matters.

<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2003/05/the-why-of-pauls-preaching.html>

[Images for Paul a herald and an apostle](#)



Word (Fall 2012) - Word & World (Fall 2012) - Luther Seminary

- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3658](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3658) The Heresy of Infallibility, Revisited. Frederick J. Gaiser
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3666](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3666) How My Mind Has Been Changed Regarding the Bible. John P. Milton
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3660](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3660) Lost in the Good Book: Learning to Read with Thursday Next. Frederick J. Gaiser
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3664](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3664) Reflections on the Meaning of Life in Light of Word as Logos Charles Taliaferro
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3661](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3661) The Bible as Word of God. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3662](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3662) The Pastor as Wordsmith. Herbert Anderson
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3663](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3663) Thinking with Luther about Jesus (aka SweetLips). Gary M. Simpson
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3659](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3659) Transforming Word. William Willimon
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3665](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3665) Why Words Matter: Twelve Good Reasons and One Caution L. DeAne Lagerquist
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3668](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3668) Dwelling in the Word: Affirming Its Promise. Dwight Zscheile
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3669](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3669) Dwelling in the Word: Recognizing Its Risks. Mary Hinkle Shore
- [http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3667](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3667) Telling the Christmas Story with No Shepherds and Angels (John 1:1-14). Susan E. Hylan

**Word & World - Luther Seminary**

<http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/> Issues

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue\\_id=128](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=128)

[Images for Word \(Fall 2012\) - Word & World \(Fall 2012\) – Luther Seminary](#)

## Martin Luther

**Martin Luther - Wikiquote**

If you are a preacher of mercy, do not **preach** an imaginary but the true mercy. If the mercy is true, you must therefore bear the true, not an imaginary sin. God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners. Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world. We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides. We, however, says Peter (2. Peter 3:13) are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where justice will reign.

Letter 99, Paragraph 13. Erika Bullmann Flores, Tr. from: Dr. Martin Luther's Saemmtliche Schriften Dr. [Johann Georg Walch](#) Ed. (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, N.D.), Vol. 15, cols. 2585-2590. [12]

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Martin_Luther)

[Images for martin luther the reformer preaching the gospel](#)

## Resources

**Martin Luther on Preaching - by Patrick Ferry - Mtio.com**

Promises and Problems of the Sermon as a Source of Reformation History and as an Instrument of the Reformation  
Luther always returned to the pulpit because he believed it was his office. If it were not for God's own order and institution, Luther insisted, "I would not want to preach another sermon to the end of my days."<sup>59</sup> As mentioned above, Luther did continue to preach to the end of his days. But the optimism he felt about what could be done through preaching was always restrained by the reality of what was or, indeed, was not actually being accomplished. Theoretically he believed that the sermon could be a vital and useful instrument of reform, but in practice its impact often seemed minimal at best. He reconciled himself to the fact that no preacher would be able to remove or change all that was wrong with the church.<sup>60</sup> Nevertheless, he still held out hope and encouraged fellow preachers to believe that they were not preaching in a void even though "barely two listened to their sermons."<sup>61</sup> He compared their predicament to a fire that could not be controlled or extinguished and said that their task was to try to rescue a few. Luther would not quit and he urged others not to give up either:

For one should not quit simply because so few are changed for the better in hearing the preaching of the gospel. But do what Christ did: He rescued the elect and left the rest behind. This is what the apostles did also. It will not be better for you.<sup>62</sup>

Neither, it seems, was it any better for Luther. The sermon, for all of its promise and all of its promises, was reaching only the few rather than the many. Luther seemed to derive consolation from the fact that it reached any at all.

<http://www.mtio.com/articles/bissar31.htm>

[Images for Martin Luther on Preaching](#)

**Martin Luther Sermons - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

Martin Luther Sermons (117 Sermons)

The following sermons of Martin Luther are taken from *The Sermons of Martin Luther*, published by Baker Book House (Grand Rapids, MI), 1983. This 8-volume set was itself a reprint of John Nicholas Lenker translation of Luther's Church Postil. Lenker's edition originally appeared in 1905 - as "The Precious and Sacred Writings of Martin Luther," volumes 1-14, published by Lutherans in all Lands. These sermons were scanned and edited by The Dr. Richard Bucher and are in the public domain.

<http://www.ourlutheran.com/html/mlserms.html>

[Images for German Reformer Martin Luther Sermons](#)

### Martin Luther Text Sermons - Sermon Index

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=category&cid=510>

[Images for Martin Luther Text Sermons - Sermon Index](#)

### Martin Luther's Sacristy Prayer

Lord God, You have appointed me as a Bishop and Pastor in Your Church, but you see how unsuited I am to meet so great and difficult a task. If I had lacked Your help, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore, I call upon You: I wish to devote my mouth and my heart to you; I shall teach the people. I myself will learn and ponder diligently upon Your Word. Use me as Your instrument -- but do not forsake me, for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily wreck it all.

<https://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/prayers/sacristy.txt>

[Images for Martin Luther's Sacristy Prayer](#)

### Of the Office of Preaching – Sacred Texts

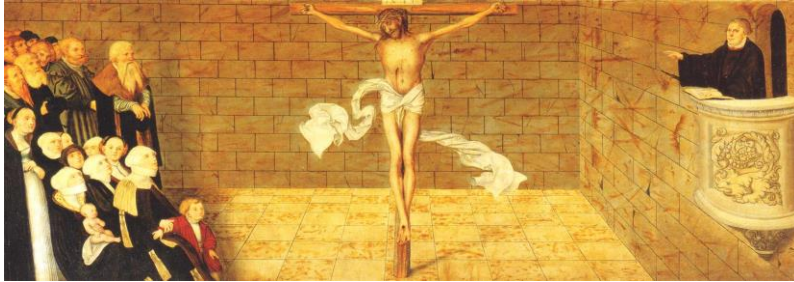
It is indeed very necessary to know these things, **for the office of preaching** is second to none in Christendom.

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/luther/preoff.htm>

[Images for Martin Luther Of the Office of Preaching](#)

### Sermon - Wikipedia

The [Reformation](#) led to [Protestant](#) sermons, many of which defended the [schism](#) with the Roman Catholic Church and explained beliefs about the Bible, theology, and devotion. The distinctive doctrines of Protestantism held that [salvation](#) was by [faith alone](#), and convincing people to believe the Gospel and place trust in God for their salvation through Jesus Christ was the decisive step in salvation.



“The certain mark by which a Christian community can be recognized is the preaching of the gospel in its purity.”

Martin Luther Tappert, T.G., [Selected Writings of Martin Luther](#), Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007, p. 325

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sermon>

[Images for martin luther reformer preaching](#)

### [PDF]Theology of Preaching in Martin Luther - BiblicalStudies.org.uk

Luther elevated preaching as an indispensable means of grace, seeing it as central to the church liturgy.

[http://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/luther\\_ngien.pdf](http://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/luther_ngien.pdf)

[Images for Theology of Preaching in Martin Luther](#)

### Quotes about Preaching

Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God; such alone will shake the gates of hell. -John Wesley

### John Wesley - Wikipedia

A key step in the development of Wesley's ministry was, like Whitefield, to travel and [preach outdoors](#). In contrast to Whitefield's [Calvinism](#), Wesley embraced the [Arminian doctrines](#) that dominated the [Church of England](#) at the time.<sup>[citation needed](#)</sup> Moving across Great Britain and Ireland, he helped form and organise small Christian groups that developed intensive and personal accountability, [discipleship](#) and religious instruction. Most importantly, he appointed [itinerant](#), unordained [evangelists](#) to travel and preach as he did and to care for these groups of people. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues of the day, including [prison reform](#) and the [abolition of slavery](#).



Portrait of Wesley by Frank O. Salisbury

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Wesley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wesley)

[Images for John Wesley](#)

People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, blaming or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; he (the preacher) is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines.  
-Soren Kierkegaard

### Søren Kierkegaard - Wikipedia

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (/ˈsɔːrən ˈkɪərkɛɡɑːrd/ *SORR-ən KEER-ke-gard*; Danish: [søːɐ̃n ˈkie̝kəɡ̊ˀˀˀ] ⓘ (listen); 5 May 1813 – 11 November 1855<sup>[a]</sup>) was a Danish [philosopher](#), theologian, poet, [social critic](#) and religious author who is widely considered to be the first [existentialist](#) philosopher.<sup>[7][8]</sup> He wrote critical texts on [organized religion](#), [Christendom](#), [morality](#), [ethics](#), [psychology](#), and the [philosophy of religion](#), displaying a fondness for metaphor, [irony](#) and [parables](#). Much of his philosophical work deals with the issues of how one lives as a "single individual", giving priority to concrete human reality over abstract thinking and highlighting the importance of personal choice and commitment.<sup>[9]</sup>



Unfinished sketch of Kierkegaard by his cousin Niels Christian Kierkegaard, c. 1840

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren\\_Kierkegaard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren_Kierkegaard)

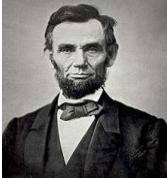
[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren\\_Kierkegaard](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren_Kierkegaard)

[Images for Søren Kierkegaard](#)

I don't like to hear cut and dried sermons. No—when I hear a man preach, I like to see him act as if he were fighting bees.  
-Abraham Lincoln

### Abraham Lincoln - Wikipedia

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was an American statesman and [lawyer](#) who served as the [16th President of the United States](#) from March 1861 until [his assassination](#) in April 1865. Lincoln led the [United States](#) through the [American Civil War](#)—its bloodiest war and perhaps its greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis.<sup>[2][3]</sup> In doing so, he preserved the [Union](#), [abolished slavery](#), strengthened the [federal government](#), and modernized the [economy](#).



Lincoln in 1863 at the age of 54

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham\\_Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham\\_Lincoln](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln)

[Images for Abraham Lincoln](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gettysburg\\_Address](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gettysburg_Address)

[Images for abraham lincoln gettysburg address](#)

The gospel is preached in the ears of all men; it only comes with power to some. The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher otherwise men would be converters of souls. Nor does it lie in the preacher's learning; otherwise it could consist of the wisdom of men. We might preach till our tongues rotted, till we should exhaust our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless there were mysterious power going with it – the Holy Ghost changing the will of man. O Sirs! We might as well preach to stone walls as preach to humanity unless the Holy Ghost be with the word, to give it power to convert the soul.

-Charles H. Spurgeon

### Charles Spurgeon - Wikipedia

Spurgeon was a great author of many types of works including [sermons](#), one autobiography, commentaries, books on prayer, devotionals, magazines, poetry, hymns, and more.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Many sermons were transcribed as he spoke and were translated into many [languages](#) during his lifetime. Spurgeon produced powerful sermons of penetrating thought and precise exposition. His oratory skills held his listeners spellbound in the Metropolitan Tabernacle and many Christians hold his writings in exceptionally high regard among devotional literature.<sup>[6]</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Spurgeon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Spurgeon)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Spurgeon](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Spurgeon)

[Images for Charles Spurgeon](#)

So many people come to church with a genuine desire to hear what we have to say, yet they are always going back home with the uncomfortable feeling that we are making it too difficult for them to come to Jesus. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

### Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Wikipedia

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German: [ˈdiːtʁɪç ˈboːnhœfɐ]; 4 February 1906 – 9 April 1945) was a German pastor, [theologian](#), anti-Nazi dissident, and key founding member of the [Confessing Church](#). His writings on [Christianity's](#) role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book [The Cost of Discipleship](#) has become a modern classic.<sup>[1]</sup>



Dietrich Bonhoeffer on a weekend getaway with [confirmands](#) of Zion's Church congregation (1932)<sup>[2]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich\\_Bonhoeffer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich\\_Bonhoeffer](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietrich_Bonhoeffer)

[Images for Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

When God breaks in, the only thing you can do is believe it or not. You cannot ask for a receipt of the transaction or a sign for the dubious. God does not offer to cover your backside. -Anna Carter Florence, *Preaching as Testimony*

### Speaker Profile: Anna Carter Florence - Festival of Homiletics

Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale College and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Anna served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Florence is interested in historical, theological, aesthetic, and performative dimensions of preaching and the ways preaching engages other fields and different traditions.



<https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/blog.aspx?m=4349&post=2866>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAdVwsk6KOU> Anna Carter Florence - The Craft of Preaching 2016 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Co25U4mc78c> 2010 Celebration of Biblical Preaching - Plenary Session - Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

[Images for Anna Carter Florence – YouTube](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKY59g\\_1RZA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKY59g_1RZA) 2014 Celebration of Biblical Preaching - Anna Carter Florence - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2unLoAMPN9Y> Preaching Moment 042: Anna Carter Florence - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZettmwoMY6s> Preaching Moment 060: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr7bpUC3JfI> Preaching Moment 83: Anna Carter Florence - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmezcnTqb5E> Preaching Moment 98: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gVQKqEfguq> Preaching Moment 125: Anna Carter Florence - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MM\\_NIBHDAHs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MM_NIBHDAHs) Preaching Moment 153: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rGgQSYXkpc> Preaching Moment 176: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QngH04pvGI> Preaching Moment 193: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwswjbr8ffw> Preaching Moment 211: Anna Carter Florence - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQilpXSN7TQ> Preaching Moment 238: Anna Carter Florence – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGYCM8QvQWs> The Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence - Day1 Conversations with Peter Wallace

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by\\_UQdEfhqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by_UQdEfhqY) Anna Carter Florence, "This Foreigner" - PG# 5411 – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbSkkCXplmU> Anna Carter Florence lecture, "Come Back When You've Found Something True"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IsM-Kh74gA> Anna Carter Florence - A New Thing - Program 5013 – YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GFsfh\\_FIYI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GFsfh_FIYI) The Word in the Repertory Church - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQRVkt36prw> It Could Have Gone Differently": Repertory Readings of Texts of Terror

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTfUMgftYZs> Old Texts, New Works: The Repertory Preacher and the Company of Grace

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by\\_UQdEfhqY&t=43s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by_UQdEfhqY&t=43s) Anna Carter Florence, "This Foreigner" - PG# 5411- YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbSkkCXplmU&t=58s> Anna Carter Florence lecture, "Come Back When You've Found Something True" – YouTube

[Images for Anna Carter Florence - YouTube](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1606085212> 7 Preacher as One "Out of Your Mind" Page 144

<http://www.ctsnet.edu/faculty/florence-anna/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_Carter\\_Florence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Carter_Florence)

[http://day1.org/367-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_anna\\_carter\\_florence](http://day1.org/367-the_rev_dr_anna_carter_florence)

[https://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong\\_learning/downloads/florence.aspx](https://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/downloads/florence.aspx)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/158494.Ann\\_Carter\\_Florence](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/158494.Ann_Carter_Florence)

[Images for Anna Carter Florence preaching](#)

[Preaching Quotes \(178 quotes\) - Goodreads](#)

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/preaching>

[Images for Preaching Quotes](#)

### **Engaging Scripture for the Sake of the World with Heart, Mind and Spirit**

Jan. 14-16, 2009 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN

Keynote speakers:

Karoline Lewis, preaching

[Watch](#)

Terrence Fretheim

[Watch](#)

Walter Brueggemann

[Watch](#)

Greg Mortenson, Three Cups of Tea

[Watch](#)

Rolf Jacobson, preaching

[Watch](#)

Terrence Fretheim

- "Job's Suffering, Natural Disasters and the Will of God"

[Watch](#)

Walter Brueggemann

- "Holiness as Ground for Knowing Mercy"

[Watch](#)

Panel discussion: Terrence Fretheim and Walter Brueggemann

- "What does God have to do with me?"

[Watch](#)

Kathryn Schifferdecker, preaching

[Watch](#)

<https://www.luthersem.edu/convo/archives.aspx?m=6137>

[Images for Engaging Scripture for the Sake of the World with Heart, Mind and Spirit Jan. 14-16, 2009 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN](#)

### **Engaging Scripture in a Community of Faith with Heart, Mind and Spirit**

Jan. 13-15, 2010 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN

Keynote speakers:

Mark Allan Powell

- "The Promise and Peril of Polyvalence"

[Download](#)

[2010 Mid-Winter Convocation - Mark Allan Powell - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUJyh5WRufU>

[Download](#)

Mike Housholder

- "Watering the World: Biblical Fluency and Hundredfold Returns"

[Watch](#)

Mary Hinkle Shore

- "Worship as Welcome into Scripture's Story"

[Download](#)

[Watch](#)

[2010 Mid-Winter Convocation – Mary Shore - YouTube](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzYgirXrAGY&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=27>

Mark Allan Powell

- "Word of God as Transforming Power: The Potential for Scripture to Shape Communities and Change Lives"

[Download](#)



## Watch

Panel discussion: Mark Allan Powell, Mike Housholder and Mary Hinkle Shore, moderated by David Lose

## Watch

2010 Convo Panel Discussion - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut-Tk-mA6Lw&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=28>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053> Mid-Winter Convocation - YouTube

[Images for Engaging Scripture in a Community of Faith with Heart, Mind and Spirit Jan. 13-15, 2010 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN](#)

## **Engaging Scripture as Communities of Moral Deliberation**

Feb. 2-4, 2011 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN

Keynote speakers:

Will Willimon

- "Engaged by Scripture: The Challenge of Being a Biblical Preacher"

## Watch

2011 Mid-Winter Convocation - Will Willimon - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2j\\_SsjDPo4&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2j_SsjDPo4&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=24)

Matthew Skinner

- "Creating a Community Capable of Discussing Difficult Issues without Destroying Itself, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Potluck"

## Watch

2011 Mid-Winter Convocation – Matt Skinner - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuVklUfK4D8&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=25>

Thursday, February 3

Martha Stortz

- "Reading Luther Reading Paul -- and the Reformer's Insights for Today"

## Watch

2011 Mid-Winter Convocation - Martha Stortz - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur322\\_CjNdY&t=0s&index=27&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur322_CjNdY&t=0s&index=27&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053)

Friday, February 4

Will Willimon

- "Preaching as Moral Deliberation: Jesus Style"

## Watch

2011 Mid-Winter Convocation - Will Willimon - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijJ4po9rnUU&list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053&index=23>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9A9B3D64A34FB053> Mid-Winter Convocation - YouTube

[Images for Engaging Scripture as Communities of Moral Deliberation Feb. 2-4, 2011 – Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN](#)

## **Luther Seminary**

### **Preaching at the Crossroads: How the World—and Our Preaching Is Changing by David J. Lose (Author)**

Postmodernism. Secularism. Pluralism. These are the words often used to describe the tumultuous changes that have affected our culture and our churches. But what do they really mean? More importantly, what challenges and opportunities do they provide today's preachers? David Lose takes preachers on a tour of the major cultural influences of the last century, explaining how they have contributed to the diminishment of the church and exploring how they also offer opportunities to cultivate a more vibrant and relevant faith in the twenty-first century. Filled with lucid analysis and practical suggestions, *Preaching at the Crossroads* invites preachers to reclaim the art of preaching the timeless Gospel in a timely and compelling manner.



<http://www.amazon.com/Preaching-Crossroads-World-Preaching-Is-Changing/dp/0800699734>

[Images for Preaching at the Crossroads: How the World—and Our Preaching Is Changing by David J. Lose \(Author\)](#)

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17466659-preaching-at-the-crossroads>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/preaching-crossroads-how-world%E2%80%94and-our-preaching%E2%80%94changing>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0800699734>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451452292>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching\\_at\\_the\\_Crossroads.html?id=2YNdAAAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching_at_the_Crossroads.html?id=2YNdAAAAQBAJ)

<http://www.davidlose.net/2013/12/preaching-at-the-crossroads-is-here/>



<http://pomomusings.com/2013/12/06/preaching-at-the-crossroads/>

Page 94

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=083087867X>

Page 162

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0830897127>

[http://day1.org/374-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_david\\_lose](http://day1.org/374-the_rev_dr_david_lose)

[http://day1.org/5511david\\_lose\\_preaching\\_at\\_the\\_crossroads\\_postmodernism\\_and\\_the\\_bible\\_i\\_their\\_importance\\_for\\_preaching](http://day1.org/5511david_lose_preaching_at_the_crossroads_postmodernism_and_the_bible_i_their_importance_for_preaching)

[http://day1.org/5512david\\_lose\\_preaching\\_at\\_the\\_crossroads\\_postmodernism\\_and\\_the\\_bible\\_ii\\_reading\\_scripture\\_from\\_the\\_center](http://day1.org/5512david_lose_preaching_at_the_crossroads_postmodernism_and_the_bible_ii_reading_scripture_from_the_center)

[http://day1.org/5513-david\\_lose\\_preaching\\_at\\_the\\_crossroads\\_the\\_interactive\\_sermon\\_i\\_preaching\\_upstream](http://day1.org/5513-david_lose_preaching_at_the_crossroads_the_interactive_sermon_i_preaching_upstream)

[http://day1.org/5514-david\\_lose\\_preaching\\_at\\_the\\_crossroads\\_the\\_interactive\\_sermon\\_ii\\_web\\_20](http://day1.org/5514-david_lose_preaching_at_the_crossroads_the_interactive_sermon_ii_web_20)

<http://www.patheos.com/Books/Book-Club/David-Lose-Preaching-at-the-Crossroads.html>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/livingaholyadventure/2013/12/preaching-as-an-adventure-of-the-spirit-a-response-to-david-loses-preaching-at-the-crossroads/>

<http://pomomusings.com/2013/12/06/preaching-at-the-crossroads/>

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/people-news/writers/david-lose>

[http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/author/david\\_j\\_lose](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/author/david_j_lose)

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue\\_id=102](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=102) The Need and the Art of Biblical Preaching

<http://www.davidlose.net/tag/preaching/>

<http://www.davidlose.net/topics/preaching-2/>

<http://www.davidlose.net/2014/01/the-question-and-challenge-of-preaching-today/>

<http://www.davidlose.net/2014/01/what-is-preaching/>

<http://www.davidlose.net/2012/03/from-performative-to-participatory-preaching/>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1549> Our Road to Emmaus by David Lose - Working Preacher

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1483> Preaching 2.0

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTL08EcR86A> Preaching at the Crossroads: A Conversation on Preaching in a Postmodern World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbR-Fka7bhc> David Lose: An Evolution in Preaching - from Performative to Participative - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dE4xB1pOxpc> Opening Worship Sermon - the Rev. Dr. David Lose – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uRCELvRUJU> Bible Study: Living as God's Free People - The Rev. Dr. David Lose – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8okHGpccK6E> Preaching Moment 034: David Lose - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvsECqkVLFq> Preaching Moment 054: David Lose - YouTube

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=2144> Preaching Moment 92: David Lose by David Lose - Craft of Preaching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOTw631j0U> Preaching Moment 146: David Lose - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a-8JwFYELc> Preaching Moment 232: David Lose - YouTube

[Images for David Lose - YouTube](#)

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2145> Preaching Moment 262: David Lose by David Lose - Craft of Preaching

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=b7cc0fec827096b2504c5164ecc9831028ee1cfc87caab27e817dcd7c6ba625>

<https://www.luthersem.edu/cbp/>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/authors/david-lose-articles-526>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/david-lose>

<https://lts.edu/President>

<http://www.mtolivet.org/files/News%20and%20Updates/Candidate/Dr.%20Lose%20Senior%20Pastor%20Candidate%20Profile.pdf>

<https://lts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/davidlosecv2014.pdf>

<http://homiletix.com/preaching-resources/reviews/>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/david-j-lose>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-J.-Lose/e/B001KHP2DW>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/375536.David\\_J\\_Lose](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/375536.David_J_Lose)

[Images for David J. Lose \(Author\) preaching](#)

### Preaching Moment 261: Mary Hinkle Shore – Working Preacher

Mary Hinkle Shore talks about what it means for a preacher to “show up for work.”



[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preachingmoments.aspx?video\\_id=79](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preachingmoments.aspx?video_id=79)

[Images for Preaching Moment: Mary Hinkle Shore – Working Preacher](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obGnrZz3IAY> Preaching Moment 261: Mary Hinkle Shore - YouTube

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=2168> Preaching Moment 039: Mary Hinkle Shore

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=2169> Preaching Moment 050: Mary Hinkle Shore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT5mkkVtbiE> 2011 Celebration for Biblical Preaching - Plenary - Mary Hinkle Shore - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB-Wz3RN5wk> 2011 Celebration for Biblical Preaching - Sermon - Mary Hinkle Shore - YouTube

[http://day1.org/376-the\\_rev\\_dr\\_mary\\_hinkle\\_shore](http://day1.org/376-the_rev_dr_mary_hinkle_shore)

<http://www.luthersem.edu/profile/default.aspx?uid=c2f385a22d5aae58494f3b4a52e09d9a8de6b353fe9dbbc97b7a6853057691a2>

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue\\_id=103](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?issue_id=103) Preaching Mission: Call and Promise in Matthew 28:16-20

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/760381.Mary\\_Hinkle\\_Shore](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/760381.Mary_Hinkle_Shore)

[Images for Mary Hinkle Shore, author preaching](#)

### Preaching to a TV Generation: The sermon in an electronic age by Michael Rogness (Author)

The gospel has always been conveyed primarily by speaking it to people. The problem is that in today's world of television people listen and hear differently than they listened and heard in the past.

""When preachers understand the dynamics of this new world, then the gospel can ring with new vigor and life in our preaching,"" writes the author. *Preaching to A TV Generation* explores the changes brought to our society by television. It suggests what preachers can do in the face of these changes -- in terms of language, structure, creativity and delivery.



<https://www.amazon.com/Preaching-TV-Generation-Michael-Rogness/dp/1556738382>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1556738382>

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=3431](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=3431) Review

<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-Rogness/e/B001K8R8M4>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1032703.Michael\\_Rogness](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1032703.Michael_Rogness)

Images for Michael Rogness (Author) preaching

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/LP\\_Modern\\_Media\\_Sermon.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/LP_Modern_Media_Sermon.pdf)

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=mrogness](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=mrogness)

[https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=228&issue\\_id=24](https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=228&issue_id=24)

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=c947e10adacf966fe1352bfe3181d1685a0816bae11acd3b919606c91fcd4310>

[http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=39](http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=39) Seven Marks of a Good Sermon by Homiletics Professor Michael Rogness

and Assistant Professor David Lose – Story Magazine - Luther Seminary

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article\\_id=1040](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1040) Proclaiming the Gospel on Mars Hill by Michael Rogness

[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/27-3\\_What\\_is\\_a\\_Christian/27-3\\_Rogness.pdf](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/27-3_What_is_a_Christian/27-3_Rogness.pdf)

[http://www.luthersem.edu/elerts/article.aspx?article\\_id=113&elert\\_id=16](http://www.luthersem.edu/elerts/article.aspx?article_id=113&elert_id=16) Michael Rogness Gives Aus Lectures on Evangelism

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=mrogness](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=mrogness)

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=c947e10adacf966fe1352bfe3181d1685a0816bae11acd3b91960>

[https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=228&issue\\_id=24](https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=228&issue_id=24) Gifted Preaching Teacher Retires

Images for Michael Rogness (Author)

Images for Preaching to a TV Generation: The sermon in an electronic age by Michael Rogness (Author)

### What's So Good about a Shepherd? by Karoline Lewis - Working Preacher

A faithful sermon will tend the following aspects with rigor: the biblical text, the multiple contexts into which a text comes alive, the human condition and God's response, theological imagination, the mind of the listener, the heart of the listener, and orientation to living a life of faith in God's world. I think this is what our parishioners mean by "that was a good sermon, Pastor."



<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3590>

Images for faithful sermon by Karoline Lewis - Working Preacher

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=klewis001](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=klewis001)

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=e4ea3d323087b46b43d0fd3959dfc65894fe13cd23a703f380aad5273affea4d>

<http://day1.org/3637-the-rev-dr-karoline-lewis>

<https://www.enterthebible.org/blog.aspx?m=3783&post=3655>

<https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/blog.aspx?m=4349&post=2909>

<https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/blog.aspx?m=4349&post=4658>

<http://www.karolinelewis.com/>

<http://www.karolinelewis.com/blog>

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2177> Karoline Lewis on "reincarnating" the word of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3hn7o7kv4s> Preaching Moment 015: Karoline Lewis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7jJ7s-ffEM> Preaching Moment 046: Karoline Lewis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OfIHb1P87U> Preaching Moment 129: Karoline Lewis - YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twys\\_DUOW2U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twys_DUOW2U) Preaching Moment 187: Karoline Lewis - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni8C10KOSIA> Karoline Lewis - 2015 Celebration of Biblical Preaching - YouTube

Images for Karoline Lewis - YouTube

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/brainwave.aspx?podcast\\_id=458](http://www.workingpreacher.org/brainwave.aspx?podcast_id=458)

[http://www.dllc.org/blogarchive.aspx?author=Pastor%20Karoline%20Lewis&blog\\_id=318555&site\\_id=10923](http://www.dllc.org/blogarchive.aspx?author=Pastor%20Karoline%20Lewis&blog_id=318555&site_id=10923)

<https://www.amazon.com/Karoline-M.-Lewis/e/B001JS1BXM>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8265541.Karoline\\_Lewis](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8265541.Karoline_Lewis)

Images for Karoline Lewis, author preaching

## Reflections and Resources

### 1) Who am I to preach?

Of all the tasks of pastoral ministry, the one that brings me up short the most is the task of preaching. I ask, "Who am I to preach?" I take comfort that certain biblical characters have asked the same question.

#### Resources

God commissions Moses

Then Moses answered, 'But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, "The LORD did not appear to you."<sup>2</sup>The LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A staff.'<sup>3</sup>And he said, 'Throw it on the ground.' So, he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it.<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail'—so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand—<sup>5</sup>so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.'

<sup>6</sup>Again, the LORD said to him, 'Put your hand inside your cloak.' He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow.<sup>7</sup>Then God said, 'Put your hand back into your cloak'—so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body—<sup>8</sup>'If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign.<sup>9</sup>If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.'

<sup>10</sup>But Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.'<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?'<sup>12</sup>Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.'<sup>13</sup>But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else.'<sup>14</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad.<sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you what you shall do.<sup>16</sup>He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him.<sup>17</sup>Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'

[oremus Bible Browser: Exodus 4:1-17 - Oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Exodus+4:1-17)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Exodus+4:1-17>

[Images for God commissions Moses](#)

Jeremiah's call and related visions

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.'<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.'

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.'

[oremus Bible Browser: Jeremiah 1:4–8](http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Jeremiah+1:4%E2%80%938)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Jeremiah+1:4%E2%80%938>

[Images for Jeremiah's call and related visions](#)

I also take comfort that other practitioners ask the same question.

#### Resources

[Who Am I? | CT Pastors - Christianity Today](#)

Am I a visionary, an innovator, a leader boldly calling people on an adventure of change and mission? Or am I selfishly ambitious? Do I want to be pastor of a large church, so I can feel successful and significant? Or am I both? And if I am—what are the percentages?

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2011/march-online-only/whoami.html>

[Images for Who Am I? | CT Pastors - Christianity Today](#)

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/browse/>

[Who am I to preach? | The Christian Century](#)

As a working preacher, week after week I am called to share a healthy theological/spiritual diet: not the only possible diet, but the one that emerges in the weekly interaction of my spiritual journey, the lives of congregants and the local and global worlds which touch them. Perhaps it is enough to preach boldly while recognizing I will always be partly wrong and must listen to the voices of others,

including people in my congregation, as I seek to grow in faith and wisdom.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2010-01/who-am-i-preach>  
[Images for Who am I to preach? | The Christian Century](#)  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/magazine>

While God uses human vessels, I remind myself that preaching is not about me. Preaching is the proclamation of the good news of God in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith.

[What Does the Bible Say About Preaching the Gospel? - OpenBible.info](#)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/preaching\\_the\\_gospel](https://www.openbible.info/topics/preaching_the_gospel)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/spreading\\_the\\_gospel](https://www.openbible.info/topics/spreading_the_gospel)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/spreading\\_the\\_word](https://www.openbible.info/topics/spreading_the_word)

[Images for Bible and Preaching the Gospel](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Preaching-The-Gospel/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Preaching,-Importance-Of>

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/004057369405100108?journalCode=ttja>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2016/02/20/top-7-bible-verses-about-preaching/>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-20-why-we-must-proclaim-gospel-acts-84-25>

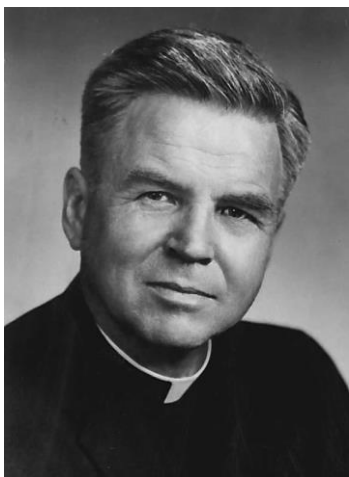
[Images for why-we-must-proclaim-gospel-acts-84-25](#)

## 2) Formative influences for preaching

When I was studying at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 1975-79, I admired the *for you* and *because/therefore* theological perspective of **Gerhard Forde**, systematics professor, and the *conversational* style of preaching of **Alvin N. Rogness** former president of the seminary.



Gerhard Forde



Alvin Rogness



Sheldon Tostegard

[Remembering Gerhard Forde - Story Magazine – Luther Seminary](#)

[http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=165](http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=165)

<https://www.revolv.com/main/index.php?s=Gerhard+Forde>

[Images for Gerhard O. Forde](#)

### Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde

An introduction to the teaching and witness of the late Gerhard O. Forde, written by his wife of forty years.

In his long academic career at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Gerhard O. Forde was known for his life-changing teaching and preaching, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for you. Forde taught that theology is for proclamation. His classes were his form of evangelism. Avoiding secondary discourse, or philosophical mode, in classroom teaching and preaching, he used first order, primary discourse to speak directly to his hearers, not about God, but for God, declaring the justifying word as clearly as possible.

He showed the difference between law and gospel and how to do the text to the hearer. He taught students to be preachers who would speak the unqualified word of grace and forgiveness. This book is an introduction to his teaching and witness.

Fellow faculty members comment on the significance of Dr. Forde's teaching.

First, from Dr. James Nestingen, Luther Seminary (retired):

*Two qualities distinguished Gerhard's teaching. First, he had an uncanny ability to cut through the complexities of a theological argument, to make the driving force of it accessible but not in oversimplified terms. . . . But the second quality was even more dramatic and I would say in the fullest sense of the word, unique. Gerhard refused to . . . move into secondary discourse about the gospel in a way that undermines or obviates the primary. . . .*



*theology is for proclamation, as he put it in the book title, and it loses its character when it becomes an end in itself.*

From Dr. Hans Wiersma, Augsburg College:

*I've said for some time, publicly, that I was born again under the teaching of Gerhard Forde. That may sound dramatic but it's true.*

From Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Luther Seminary:

*He refused to write his theology for that guild [of academic theologians]. Instead, he wrote for preachers. He could have written for the guild, of course. His mind was first class, and he wrote beautifully. But, like St. Paul, he came to preach Christ and him crucified. Toward that goal, he was steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord.*

<http://www.amazon.com/Gerhard-O-Forde-A-Life/dp/193268896X>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23631517-gerhard-o-forde>  
[http://www.lutheranupress.org/Books/Gerhard\\_O\\_Forde](http://www.lutheranupress.org/Books/Gerhard_O_Forde)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerhard\\_Forde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerhard_Forde)  
[http://www.luthersem.edu/memorybook/default.aspx?memory\\_person\\_id=3](http://www.luthersem.edu/memorybook/default.aspx?memory_person_id=3)  
<https://blogs.lcms.org/2015/historical-institute-presents>  
[Images for Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde](#)

### **Justification by Faith: A Matter of Death and Life [Gerhard O. Forde]**

"Justification by faith alone" labels theologically the motor that energizes the Reformation. The dynamic behind the language can still mean renewal for theology and church today, but only if that legal metaphor is not left to stand alone. Gerhard Forde calls for a recovery of Paul's equally vital metaphor of death-resurrection, which speaks of our dying to the old and being raised to new life in Christ. Justification, he contends, is death and rising, and where these complementary metaphors are allowed to interpret one another the Gospel can once again explode with all its original power. This fresh appropriation of the confessional witness contributes not only to an enhanced understanding of Reformation teachings, but also to an ecumenical dialogue that is zeroing in more closely on the catholic provenance and current vitality of the Augsburg Confession.

<http://www.amazon.com/Justification-Faith-Matter-Death-Life/dp/1620322102>  
[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/justification-by-faith-a-matter-of-death-and-life\\_gerhard-o-forde/509323/#isbn=0800616340](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/justification-by-faith-a-matter-of-death-and-life_gerhard-o-forde/509323/#isbn=0800616340)  
<http://www.siglerpress.com/Forde.htm>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1620322102>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802841368>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=080103180X>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0810874822>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1532609698>  
<http://www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/KilcreaseFordesDoctrineOfTheLaw.pdf>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Gerhard-O-Forde-18721949300/>  
<https://www.ivpress.com/gerhard-o-forde>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Gerhard-O.-Forde/e/B001JS8B12>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115013.Gerhard\\_O\\_Forde](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115013.Gerhard_O_Forde)  
[Images for Justification by Faith: A Matter of Death and Life \[Gerhard O. Forde\]](#)

Page 500

Page 135

### **On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518 (Theology) - by Mr. Gerhard O. Forde.**

While there is increasing interest in the "theology of the cross," few people have specific knowledge of what makes it different from other kinds of theology. In *On Being a Theologian of the Cross*, Gerhard O. Forde provides an introduction to this theological perspective through an analysis of Luther's Heidelberg Disputation of 1518, the classic text of the theology of the cross. The book first clarifies the difference between a theology of glory and a theology of the cross and explains how each perspective shapes the very nature of being a theologian. The main body of the book provides commentary on the Heidelberg Disputation—the only complete analysis of this document currently available. Underlying Forde's exposition is the contention that one ought not to speak of the theology of the cross merely as another item among a host of theological options; instead, one must pursue what it means to be a theologian of the cross and to look at all things through suffering and the cross.

<http://www.amazon.com/Being-Theologian-Cross-Reflections-Disputation/dp/080284345X>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/190968-on-being-a-theologian-of-the-cross-reflections-on-luther-s-heidelberg-d>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197426.On\\_Being\\_a\\_Theologian\\_of\\_the\\_Cross](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197426.On_Being_a_Theologian_of_the_Cross)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/115013.Gerhard\\_O\\_Forde](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/115013.Gerhard_O_Forde)  
<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/4345/on-being-a-theologian-of-the-cross.aspx>  
<https://www.logos.com/product/53598/on-being-a-theologian-of-the-cross-reflections-on-luthers-heidelberg-disputation-1518>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/On\\_Being\\_a\\_Theologian\\_of\\_the\\_Cross.html?id=t8rYYWXfkgC](https://books.google.com/books/about/On_Being_a_Theologian_of_the_Cross.html?id=t8rYYWXfkgC)

<https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross>  
<https://www.slideshare.net/MercedesHanson/on-being-a-theologian-of-the-cross-reflections-on-luthers-heidelberg-disputation-1518-60052417>  
<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=320>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS0BEVdkqCk> Christian Book Review: On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518 - YouTube  
<http://derevth.blogspot.com/2007/08/gerhard-fordes-on-being-theologian-of.html>  
<http://justandsinner.blogspot.com/2013/05/a-review-of-on-being-theologian-of.html>  
<http://www.mbird.com/2009/06/theologian-of-glory-vs-theologian-of/>  
<https://lutherananglican.com/gerhard-forde/>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/On\\_Being\\_a\\_Theologian\\_of\\_the\\_Cross.html?id=t8rYYWXfkgpC](https://books.google.com/books/about/On_Being_a_Theologian_of_the_Cross.html?id=t8rYYWXfkgpC)  
<http://justandsinner.blogspot.com/2013/05/a-review-of-on-being-theologian-of.html>  
[Images for On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518 \(Theology\) - by Mr. Gerhard O. Forde.](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)

### Radical Lutheranism

Radical Lutheranism? Is there, and can there be such? That depends, of course. It depends, for our part, at least, on whether or not we are "en-couraged" enough to preach that radical and unconditional gospel. Beyond that, of course, it depends on the Spirit. But after all, in spite of our reluctance and timidity, it isn't some herculean task we are being asked to do. It has all been done. All we have to do is say it; just let the bird fly!  
<http://www.pseudepigraph.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Forde-%2522Radical-Lutheranism%2522.pdf>  
[Images for Radical Lutheranism by Gerhard O. Forde](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)

### The Preached God: Proclamation in Word and Sacrament (Lutheran Quarterly Books) [Gerhard O. Forde, Mark C. Mattes, Steven D. Paulson]

*The Preached God* speaks directly to preachers, calling them to deliver the truths of forgiveness, life, and salvation through both word and sacrament to all who listen. Closely tying preaching to theology and vice versa, Forde argues that preaching itself is a sacrament and is, moreover, "God's election of the ungodly." These chapters provide a window into the way that Forde taught others to do the kind of preaching in which God himself is brought to hearers by word and sacrament. It also provides, through a selection of Forde's own sermons, a model for pastors today and an inspiring look into the mind and preaching of one of the twentieth century's great theologians.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Preached-God-Proclamation-Sacrament-Quarterly/dp/0802828213>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197425.The\\_Preached\\_God](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197425.The_Preached_God)  
<http://fortresspress.com/product/preached-god-proclamation-word-and-sacrament>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-preached-god-gerhard-o-forde/1111010734>  
[https://www.logos.com/resources/LLS\\_PREACHEDGOD/the-preached-god-proclamation-in-word-and-sacrament](https://www.logos.com/resources/LLS_PREACHEDGOD/the-preached-god-proclamation-in-word-and-sacrament)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802828213>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/mark-c-mattes>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Mark-C.-Mattes/e/B001JP12IO>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115014.Mark\\_C\\_Mattes](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115014.Mark_C_Mattes)  
[Images for Mark C. Mattes, author proclamation](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1506427286>  
<http://fortresspress.com/author/steven-d-paulson>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Steven-D.-Paulson/e/B001IODPUE>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/64988.Steven\\_D\\_Paulson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/64988.Steven_D_Paulson)  
[Images for Steven D. Paulson, author](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)  
[Images for The Preached God: Proclamation in Word and Sacrament \(Lutheran Quarterly Books\) \[Gerhard O. Forde, Mark C. Mattes, Steven D. Paulson\]](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)  
<http://fortresspress.com/projects/lutheran-quarterly-books>  
<http://www.lutheranquarterly.com/>  
[Images for Lutheran Quarterly Books](https://www.prc.org/prti/apr98.html#TheologianOfCross)

### Theology Is for Proclamation [Gerhard O. Forde]

"Gerhard Forde makes a dashing bold move to construct a whole systematic theology on the model of Martin Luther's *Bondage of the Will*. Forde continues Luther's polemic against every theology that fools with God apart from the Word. . . Forde writes a theology that is good for nothing but proclaiming the living Word of God."  
--Carl E. Braaten  
Professor of Systematic Theology  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

"Here is a theologian, who believes in proclamation! Working from a distinction between God preached and the hidden God not preached, Gerhard Forde develops a theology for preachers. The thought is edgy; the style is exciting."  
--David G. Buttrick



The Divinity School  
Vanderbilt University

<http://www.amazon.com/Theology-Is-Proclamation-Gerhard-Forde/dp/080062425>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/699635.Theology\\_Is\\_for\\_Proclamation](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/699635.Theology_Is_for_Proclamation)  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/1921/Theology-Is-for-Proclamation>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/theology-is-for-proclamation-gerhard-o-forde/1100608990>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451408749>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Theology\\_is\\_for\\_Proclamation.html?id=dLI4JOeELkAC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Theology_is_for_Proclamation.html?id=dLI4JOeELkAC)  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/theology-is-for-proclamation-gerhard-o-forde/1100608990>  
<https://www.logos.com/products/search?Author=Forde%2c+Gerhard+O>  
[http://www.lutheranquarterly.com/uploads/7/4/0/1/7401289/radical\\_lutheranism.pdf](http://www.lutheranquarterly.com/uploads/7/4/0/1/7401289/radical_lutheranism.pdf)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498294537> Page 86  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0802871852> Page 286  
[Images for Theology Is for Proclamation \[Gerhard O. Forde\]](#)

#### Where God Meets Man [Gerhard O. Forde]

This book about Luther's theology is written out of a two-fold conviction. First, that many of our problems have arisen because we have not really understood our own traditions, especially in the case of Luther; and second, that there is still a lot of help for us in someone like Luther if we take the trouble to probe beneath the surface. It is an attempt to interpret Luther's theology for our own day.

The fundamental theme of the book is the "down-to-earth" character of Luther's theology. In using this theme, Forde points out that we have failed to understand the basic thrust or direction of Luther's theology and that this failure has caused and is still causing us grief. Modern scholarship has demonstrated that Luther simply did not share the views on the nature of faith and salvation that subsequent generations have foisted upon him and used to interpret his thinking. This book attempts to bring the results of some of that scholarship to light and make it more accessible to those who are searching for answers today.

The central questions of Christianity are examined in this fresh restatement of Luther's thought—the God-man relationship, the cross, the sacraments, this world and the next, and the role of the church. The author presents the "down-to-earth" character of Luther's theology in the hope that it will help individual Christians today to be both faithful to God and true to their human and social responsibilities.

<http://www.amazon.com/Where-God-Meets-Gerhard-Forde/dp/0806612355>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197424.Where\\_God\\_Meets\\_Man](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197424.Where_God_Meets_Man)  
<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5247/Where-God-Meets-Man-Luther-Down-to-Earth-Approach-to-the-Gospel>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/where-god-meets-man-gerhard-o-forde/1100608871>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451408757>  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=oFY2zAmTmsIC>  
[Images for Where God Meets Man \[Gerhard O. Forde\]](#)

#### Alvin N. Rogness | Fortress Press

The late Alvin N. Rogness was a pastor and seminary president, a popular speaker and the author of many books. When his *Book of Comfort* was first published in 1979, it won the Book-of-the-Year Award from the Academy of Parish Clergy.

<http://fortresspress.com/author/alvin-n-rogness>  
<http://fortresspress.com/product/living-kingdom-reflections-luthers-catechism-revised-edition>  
<http://theoldadam.com/category/dr-alvin-rogness/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Alvin-N.-Rogness/e/B001KICDS8>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/298967.Alvin\\_N\\_Rogness](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/298967.Alvin_N_Rogness)  
[Images for Alvin N. Rogness](#)

I recall the rule of thumb from homiletics professor **Sheldon A. Tostengard** who advised those who tend to get carried away that they should use a manuscript and those who need to loosen up should preach without a manuscript. At the same time, I now adapt to the different congregations with their various sizes and personalities.

#### Sheldon A. Tostengard Professor - Luther Seminary

In 1977, Tostengard joined the Luther Seminary faculty and was named professor of pastoral theology and ministry in homiletics in 1987. He previously served as professor of religion at Augustana College from 1967-75.

[https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=448&issue\\_id=44](https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=448&issue_id=44)  
[https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=13&issue\\_id=3](https://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=13&issue_id=3)  
[http://www.holcombhenryboom.com/home/index.cfm/obituaries/view/fh\\_id/11195/id/1468861](http://www.holcombhenryboom.com/home/index.cfm/obituaries/view/fh_id/11195/id/1468861)  
[Images for Sheldon A. Tostengard Professor - Luther Seminary](#)

#### The Spoken Word (Fortress Resources for Preaching) [Sheldon A. Tostengard]

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful

By [S. Whelan](#) on February 6, 2007

This text comes as a fine stand-alone example of Lutheran homiletics. It doesn't get too technical, yet the reader can find something on nearly every page which will beg to be read again and again. Many of Tostengard's

statements must have had quite a life in his classroom for a time before they were put down in ink, for I could fairly “hear” him saying things about the inherently spoken nature of the Gospel. The expression of the Gospel as a “spoken word, which is expended completely upon hearing” caught me smiling at my own tendencies as a “reader/writer” of theology. Instead, by virtue of the living nature of this Word, we are all made “hearers and speakers” of the Gospel.

Tostengard's text can hold its own in any collection of more well-known works on the subject. It contains a lovely exposition of Paul's “preaching texts” in Romans 10:14 and elsewhere... a major source for most Lutheran homiletical ponderings. The work even has room in its efficient delivery to offer some concrete instruction to those who would wish to prepare for preaching, or those seeking additional resources in their current ministries. I've read Wingren's “The Living Word,” Forde's “Theology is for Proclamation,” and I'm chipping away at Barth's “Homiletics,” and I greatly value these and other books for my own reflection, but I often come back to this work by a lesser known Lutheran teacher of the church.

Lastly, no book should ever substitute for going out and hearing preaching actually being done... I think Tostengard may agree. So, I would propose for anyone reading this material to include a practice of attending a “live hearing” while working through the text. Wingren and Forde both have mentions of Luther's assessment of the church as a “mouth house, not a pen house” smattered through their work. I think Tostengard's collection of impish musings on the subject (he also gives attention to that statement by Luther) adds something quite helpful to the gathering body of work on preaching the justification of the ungodly (*iustificatio impij*).

<http://www.amazon.com/Spoken-Word-Fortress-Resources-Preaching/dp/0800611497>

[Images for The Spoken Word \(Fortress Resources for Preaching\) \[Sheldon A. Tostengard\]](#)

[http://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp\\_27%3ASheldon%20A.%20Tostengard](http://www.amazon.com/s?ie=UTF8&page=1&rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ASheldon%20A.%20Tostengard)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664256589> Bibliography Page 153

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Fortress+Resources+for+Preaching>

[Images for Fortress Resources for Preaching](#)

I have employed both the kerygmatic role of preaching with a *for you* and *because/therefore* format and the apologetics role of preaching with Martin Luther's question from the catechism of “What does this mean?” Particularly with the context becoming increasingly post-Christendom, I have been using the latter to make the case for being and living as a person and community of faith.

### **Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings [Eric W. Gritsch, Robert W. Jensen]**

**Because/therefore proposition**

Page 42

This useful guide offers a critical appraisal of a theological movement within the church catholic. The authors, a church historian and a systematic theologian, describe Lutheranism as centered in the fundamental principle of the Reformation, “justification by faith apart from works of law.”

The book focuses on the emergence of this chief article of faith as a proposal of dogma to the church ecumenical, its theological formulation, and its significance for the shaping of piety and doctrine. Each issue is treated in terms of both confessional history and systematic theology. Seminarians, pastors, teachers, and interested laypersons of all traditions will gain ecumenical insights as well as pertinent information from this work.

<http://www.amazon.com/Lutheranism-Theological-Movement-Confessional-Writings/dp/0800612469>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/lutheranism-theological-movement-and-its-confessional-writings>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/lutheranism-robert-w-jensen/1126720194>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451417470>

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kCA5W9uQ6lKc&hl=en>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Lutheranism.html?id=kCA5W9uQ6lKc>

[Images for Lutheranism: The Theological Movement and Its Confessional Writings \[Eric W. Gritsch, Robert W. Jensen\]](#)



Eric W. Gritsch, 2009

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric\\_W.\\_Gritsch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_W._Gritsch)

[Images for Eric W. Gritsch, author](#)



Robert W. Jensen

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Jensen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Jensen)

[Images for Robert W. Jensen, author](#)

Early on in my pastoral ministry I typed my sermons on a Portable Smith Corona Galaxie II Typewriter and memorized them. Later, I made it a point to not to bring any written material into the pulpit. When I was studying at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, I admired how the debaters were able to hold their note cards and respond to the situation. I now carry this image with me in adjusting the message to the assembly. Now, I occasionally bring articles from which I may or may not read excerpts. For instance, I remember

how in the manuscript days, I used an illustration that would probably have worked in any other situation but there was a couple in the assembly that day for whom I'm guessing that illustration was not helpful. Now that I do not memorize a manuscript, I am not tied to an illustration but have a variety of materials in mind from which to choose depending on what direction I feel moved in a particular setting. I figure out the start and end of the message and then allow myself latitude in between.

## Resources

### Advice What "Style" of preaching do you prefer?

Still preaching the word but the style has radically changed to fit my congregation. One of the things I say when I teach preaching is "The **Word** determines what you say. The **Audience** determines how you say it."

<http://www.naznet.com/community/showthread.php/8943-What-quot-Style-quot-of-preaching-do-you-prefer>

[Images for Advice What "Style" of preaching do you prefer?](#)

[Images for Preaching The Word determines what you say. The Audience determines how you say it.](#)

### Creative Styles of Preaching by Mark Barger Elliott (Author)

This useful book on newer preaching styles is designed for students and experienced clergy alike. It consists of nine chapters, each treating a different contemporary approach to preaching, such as Narrative, Evangelistic, African American, Topical, Pastoral, Biblical, Literary, and Imaginative styles. Each chapter is illustrated by sermons from well-known preachers. This book will prove an invaluable travel guide to the homiletical landscape, and it will aid pastors who want to keep their sermons fresh, invigorating, and relevant to the life experiences of their congregations.

Elliott describes several different styles of contemporary preaching. A discussion about each style--such as narrative, evangelistic, African American and topical--is followed by two example sermons from such preachers as Tony Campolo, Barbara Brown Taylor, Sam Proctor, Fred Craddock and William Willimon.

<https://www.amazon.com/Creative-Styles-Preaching-Barger-Elliott/dp/066422296X>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2245312.Creative\\_Styles\\_of\\_Preaching](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2245312.Creative_Styles_of_Preaching)

<http://www.booksamillion.com/p/Creative-Styles-Preaching/Mark-Barger-Elliott/9780664222963>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/creative-styles-of-preaching-mark-barger-elliott/1004004114>

<https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/creative-styles-of-preaching-mark-barger-elliott/569416/#isbn=066422296X>

<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/066422296X/creative-styles-of-preaching.aspx>

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Creative\\_Styles\\_of\\_Preaching.html?id=EvvAuovHJM8C](http://books.google.com/books/about/Creative_Styles_of_Preaching.html?id=EvvAuovHJM8C)

[Images for Creative Styles of Preaching by Mark Barger Elliott \(Author\) i](#)

### Exploring Sermon Styles - SlideShare

Apr 15, 2012 - This slide show is from a class I taught at the Liverpool Mission Academy 'Pastoral Pathway' course entitled Exploring Sermon Styles.

<http://www.slideshare.net/bigineurope/pp100-exploring-sermon-styles>

[Images for Exploring Sermon Styles](#)

### 4 kinds of Preaching Style | Dennis Sy

My suggestion is that as preachers of the Word we use different styles of preaching and not get stuck with one. We cannot be legalistic on what we should use but be adaptable and open to what the Spirit leads as you prepare your messages.

<http://www.dennisy.com/4-kinds-of-preaching-style/>

[Images for 4 kinds of Preaching Style | Dennis Sy](#)

### 4 Types of Preachers: Which Style Are You?

Most preachers use one of four dominant **styles of preaching: devotional, essay, exposition, or exhortation.**

<http://www.lawrencewilson.com/4-types-of-preachers-which-style-are-you/>

[Images for styles of preaching: devotional, essay, exposition, or exhortation](#)

### Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler: Dr. Ronald J. Allen

This useful collection draws on both contemporary and classical styles of preaching to illustrate thirty-four different ways of conceiving sermons. Each sermon is annotated with comments about the purpose of the sermon and the setting in which it was preached.

<https://www.amazon.com/Patterns-Preaching-Dr-Ronald-Allen/dp/0827229534>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/85040.Patterns\\_of\\_Preaching](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/85040.Patterns_of_Preaching)

<https://www.christianbook.com/patterns-of-preaching-sermon-sampler-ebook/ronald-allen/9780827229938/pd/29639EB>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/patterns-of-preaching-ronald-j-allen/1122975493>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0827229933>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Patterns\\_of\\_Preaching.html?id=yJOfobvYkOYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Patterns_of_Preaching.html?id=yJOfobvYkOYC)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0820486108>

Page 160 11

<http://www.cts.edu/faculty/cts-faculty.aspx?StaffId=5>

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-allen\\_ron](https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2-allen_ron)

<https://www.amazon.com/Ronald-J.-Allen/e/B001IXMTT8>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/109608.Ronald\\_J\\_Allen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/109608.Ronald_J_Allen)

[Images for Dr. Ronald J. Allen, author](#)

[Images for Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler: Dr. Ronald J. Allen](#)

### Preaching Without a Net: Delivering Sermons Without Notes by Bruce Salmon

Now I preach the sermon for the early service every week without notes. I have learned a few things along the way to make it better, if not easier.

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/bruce-salmon-preaching-without-a-net-delivering-sermons-without-notes-768>

[Images for Preaching Without a Net: Delivering Sermons Without Notes by Bruce Salmon](#)

### Six Types of Sermons | Developing Leadership Teams in the Bivocational Church

Each type of sermon has its own strengths and weaknesses. Each can be used effectively, and each can be abused. Though most preachers will have a particular style that they feel most comfortable using, the effective preacher will learn to use all the types above at the right time and in the right place.

<https://drterrywdorsettbooks.wordpress.com/2011/10/10/six-types-of-sermons/>

[Images for Types of Sermons](#)

### Speaking the Word Freely: Writing with Purpose, Preaching with Power by Jerry Larson

*Speaking the Word Freely* introduces a system for extemporaneous preaching called Process Preaching. Process Preaching is a simple system for delivering sermons freely without reading a manuscript or speaking off the cuff. The system emphasizes the importance of first creating the sermon by writing a full manuscript. Without reading or memorizing the manuscript, pastors learn to speak freely what they have written through a specific kind of oral rehearsal. Process Preaching enables a pastor to use oral language to express the thoughts and ideas of a written text.

Accompanying the book is a DVD in which Pastor Larson demonstrates how the oral rehearsals are done. In the course of 60 to 90 minutes of oral rehearsal, a four-page manuscript can be converted into a 20-minute extemporaneous sermon. Although the book focuses on the delivery of sermons, its principles can be applied to other kinds of public speaking as well. The Process Preaching system can be used wherever the extemporaneous delivery of a speech is desired.

<http://extemporaneouspreaching.wikispaces.com/>

<http://extemporaneouspreaching.wikispaces.com/Speaking+the+word+Freely>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11092171-speaking-the-word-freely>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/speaking-the-word-freely-jerry-larson/1029278667?ean=9781934690437>

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1998> Process Preaching: The Written and the Oral Word by Jerome Larson

<http://preachfreely.blogspot.com/2011/03/speaking-word-freely.html>

<http://www.gcsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Speaking-the-Word-Freely-ONE-SHEET-2017.pdf>

<http://www.na-weekly.com/religion/by-what-authority/>

<http://www.na-weekly.com/religion/pastor-larsons-corner-forgiveness/>

[Images for Speaking the Word Freely: Writing with Purpose, Preaching with Power by Jerry Larson](#)

### Speaking the Word Freely

Have you ever tried to move from reading your sermons? Over the years, you have honed your writing skills and are able to fill your sermons each week with creative and inspiring material. The problem comes with delivering your carefully crafted messages in a powerful way. Perhaps you would like to speak your sermon freely without reading it word-for-word but have not been able to figure out a method for doing so. Pastor Jerry Larson has developed a process that can help you speak your sermon manuscripts freely in the extemporaneous mode. Pastor Larson has taught this method to more than 300 pastors in the KAIROS program during the past 11 years under the name Process Preaching.

Students say:

"This process is the missing piece I've been looking for. It's a game changer for me. I am energized because it is challenging to write the sermon and then prepare to speak it freely."

"Since taking the workshop, many people have commented to me about how much of a difference they see and how much better my preaching is now."

"I continue to be inspired by your class and feel that I have been given a fresh, engaging approach to sermon delivery."

"Thank you for the workshop. I think I've had good content in my preaching, but this goes to the next level."

*Tuition includes a copy of Larson's book, "Speaking the Word Freely"*

### Courses - Luther Seminary

[http://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong\\_learning/kairos/courses.aspx?course\\_id=768](http://www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/kairos/courses.aspx?course_id=768)

<https://spiritinthedesert.org/jan-31-feb-2-2017-speaking-the-word-freely/>

[Images for Pastor Jerry Larson speaking the word freely](#)

### Understanding Your Preaching Style | Preaching.com

One of the most interesting and practical preaching books I've seen in some time is *Refining Your Style: Learning from Respected Communicators* (Group) by Dave Stone. Dave, who shares preaching responsibilities with Bob Russell at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, has identified 13 communication styles that characterize preachers. He cites the Creative Storyteller, Direct Spokesperson, Scholarly Analytic, Revolutionary Leader, Engaging Humorist, Convincing Apologist, Inspiring Orator, Practical Applicator, Persuasive Motivator, Passionate Teacher, Relevant Illustrator, Cultural Prophet and Unorthodox Artist.

<http://www.preaching.com/resources/articles/11656845/>

[Images for Understanding Your Preaching Style | Preaching.com](#)



### 3) Faithful or successful or effective?

When I was ordained on May 18, 1980 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City, Iowa, Rev. Paul C. Nelson, whom I first met when I worked as a junior counselor at Riverside Bible Camp the summer of 1971, gave the message. He counseled that I aim to be “faithful rather than successful.” That advice has proven to be instructive down through the years.



The author front row far right. Paul Nelson back row 6<sup>th</sup> from left.

#### Leviticus 8 - The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Bible Gateway

**8** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Bring Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anointing oil, the bull for the sin offering,<sup>[a]</sup> the two rams and the basket containing bread made without yeast,<sup>3</sup> and gather the entire assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting.” <sup>4</sup>Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the assembly gathered at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>5</sup>Moses said to the assembly, “This is what the LORD has commanded to be done.” <sup>6</sup>Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water. <sup>7</sup>He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash around him, clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him. He also fastened the ephod with a decorative waistband, which he tied around him. <sup>8</sup>He placed the breast piece on him and put the Urim and Thummim in the breast piece. <sup>9</sup>Then he placed the turban on Aaron’s head and set the gold plate, the sacred emblem, on the front of it, as the LORD commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup>Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them. <sup>11</sup>He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them.<sup>12</sup> He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him to consecrate him. <sup>13</sup>Then he brought Aaron’s sons forward, put tunics on them, tied sashes around them and fastened caps on them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus%208>

[Images for Leviticus 8 - The Ordination of Aaron and His Sons - Bible Gateway](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAf8bL0ekFw> Leviticus 8 (New International Version) - YouTube

#### What Does the Bible Say About Ordination? - OpenBible.info

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/ordination>

[Images for bible and ordination](#)

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Ordination>

<http://www.pastor-gifts.com/wording-ideas-for-pastor-ordination>

[Images for pastor ordination](#)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/ordination.html>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/ordain-ordination/>

[Images for biblestudy/ordain-ordination](#)

I was introduced to Hammer of God by Bo Giertz while in college, which was to prepare me for seminary and the ministry.

#### Hammer of God [Bo Giertz]

In this bestselling novel, three pastors learn the necessity of relying on God’s grace. They fall short of their pastoral duties through public humiliation, self-doubt, inability to accept God’s promises in their own lives, and divisions and quarreling

among their parishioners. Ultimately each man rejects temptations and permits the Holy Spirit to work through him. This revised edition includes the final chapter, never before published in English. The new introduction provides historical and theological background to deepen the reader's understanding of the stories.



<http://www.amazon.com/Hammer-God-Bo-Giertz/dp/080665130X>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90006.Hammer\\_of\\_God](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90006.Hammer_of_God)  
<http://www.goodshepherd.nb.ca/x/ForTranslation/HAMMER%20OF%20GOD.pdf>  
<http://www.ctsfw.edu/document.doc?id=269>  
<http://www.lutheranquarterly.com/uploads/7/4/0/1/7401289/lq- imberg.pdf>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90006.Hammer\\_of\\_God](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90006.Hammer_of_God)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzjAwjM1Nlw> Law and Gospel from the Hammer of God author Bo Giertz – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MXQZAmAjsx> The Hammer of God-the Movie – YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk6xZY\\_8BWk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk6xZY_8BWk) Father Brown - Hammer of God – Clip - YouTube  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2011/07/a-prominent-evangelical-discovers-bo-giertz/>  
<http://www.partialobserver.com/article.cfm?id=1736>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Hammer\\_of\\_God\\_\(Bo\\_Giertz\\_novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hammer_of_God_(Bo_Giertz_novel))  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bo\\_Giertz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bo_Giertz)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Bo-Giertz/e/B001JSCC30>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/51693.Bo\\_Giertz](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/51693.Bo_Giertz)  
[Images for Bo Giertz author](#)  
[Images for Hammer of God \[Bo Giertz\]](#)

In addition to being faithful, I aim to be *effective* in preaching especially in this rapidly changing context. While it is hard to measure success, at least I can seek to be the best possible steward of the mysteries of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to work through me and by making use of recommended best practices.

## Resources

### **Christ-Based Leadership: Applying the Bible and Today's Best Leadership Models to Become an Effective Leader [David Stark]**

Stark, a workshop leader and seminar speaker who is director of Changing Church ministries in Minnesota, offers readers an exhaustive treatise on developing a Christ-based leadership model by making comparisons to current business methods. Stark lends his personal and professional expertise to this biblically based text that delineates how to create teams of men and women that intentionally focus upon the “whole work” rather than on individual players. According to Stark, the Bible recognizes that believers, though individually specialized, can function successfully as one unit without division. He believes that the Christian church has arrived at a crossroads whereby leadership must become more “market driven and niche sensitive.” Just as successful businesses have learned to adapt to “people-niches” and “people-needs,” so churches should follow suit, though Stark cautions that secular models aren't always fully adequate for the church's needs and mission. He coaches church leaders to define success, ambition, focus and to learn to play to people's strengths instead of wasting effort on overcoming weaknesses. While this resource is comprehensive, its dry presentation sadly guarantees that only the most determined reader will make it to the book's end.

<http://www.amazon.com/Christ-Based-Leadership-Appling-Todays-Effective/dp/0764204823>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1926290.Christ\\_Based\\_Leadership](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1926290.Christ_Based_Leadership)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1441202773>  
<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/christ-based-leadership-P005580393>  
<http://www.cbn.com/entertainment/Books/ChristBasedLeadership.aspx>  
<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-author.php?isbn=0764201417>  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/book-review-christ-based-leadership/>  
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/david-stark.html>  
<http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-author.php?isbn=0764201417>  
<http://represent.church/>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidjamesstark>  
<https://www.stthomas.edu/media/catholicstudies/center/ryan/publications/publicationpdfs/trueleadership/TrueLeadershipFinal.pdf>  
<https://www.amazon.com/David-Stark/e/B00288DQ1C>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/70842.David\\_Stark](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/70842.David_Stark)  
[Images for David Stark, author](#)  
[Images for Christ-Based Leadership: Applying the Bible and Today's Best Leadership Models to Become an Effective Leader \[David Stark\]](#)

### **Dr. Paul's Prescription for a Servant's Sanity**

4) Popularity wasn't Paul's chief objective. **Faithfulness** to Christ was.

[http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh\\_articles/159\\_wd\\_dr\\_paul\\_prescription\\_sanity.html](http://www.ministryhealth.net/mh_articles/159_wd_dr_paul_prescription_sanity.html)



[Images for Paul's Prescription for a Servant's Sanity 4\) Popularity wasn't Paul's chief objective. Faithfulness to Christ was.](#)

### Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance by Bob P. Buford (Author), Jim Collins (Foreword)

Is there life after success? 'One of the most common characteristics of a person nearing the end of the first half (of the game of life) is that unquenchable desire to move from success to significance.'

Are you ready to move into the second half of your life?

Bob Buford believes the second half of your life can be better than the first. Much better. But first, you need time to figure out what you want to *do* with the rest of your life.

In *Halftime*, Buford focuses on this important time of transition—the time when, as he says, a person moves beyond the first half of the game of life. It's halftime, a time of revitalization and for catching a new vision for living the second half, the half where life can be lived at its most rewarding. As Buford explains, "My passion is to multiply all that God has given me, and in the process, give it back."

To help people at midlife to embark on their 'personal renaissance,' Buford lifts up the important questions we need to ask: What am I really good at? What do I want to do? What is most important to me? What do I want to be remembered for? If my life were absolutely perfect, what would it look like? Buford fills *Halftime* with a blend of personal insight, true-life examples, and hit-the-nail-on-the-head quotes from men who have successfully navigated the exhilarating and potentially dangerous shoals of midlife.

The real test of a man is not when he plays the role that he wants for himself, but when he plays the role destiny has for him.-- Vaclav Havel

The thing to understand is myself, to see what God really wishes me to do . . . to find the idea for which I can live and die.-- Soren Kierkegaard Midlife.

Halftime. It doesn't need to be a time of crisis; it can be a catalyst. Bob Buford provides the encouragement and insight to propel your life on a new course away from mere success to true significance--and the best years of your life.

Features of this newly updated and expanded 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition include a foreword by Jim Collins, the bestselling author of *Good to Great*; new questions for reflection or discussion at the end of each chapter; brand new "halftime" stories of men and women enjoying a second half of significance; specific halftime assignments to guide readers into their second-half mission; an essay by Bob on "The Wisdom of Peter Drucker"; a special update from the author on how the halftime movement is growing nationally, and links to outstanding resources.

<https://www.amazon.com/Halftime-Significance-Bob-P-Buford/dp/0310344441>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/174111.Halftime>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/halftime-bob-buford/1101953474>

<https://www.christianbook.com/halftime-moving-success-significance-unabridged-audio/bob-buford/9781501281433/pd/281432>

<https://books.google.com/books/about/Halftime.html?id=qy3I9WjMwMoC>

<https://howwelead.org/2018/01/24/moving-from-success-to-significance/>

<https://www.becomingminimalist.com/stop-chasing-success-seek-significance/>

<https://www.inc.com/lee-colan/how-to-move-from-success-to-significance.html>

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/moving-from-survival-through-success-to-significance-paul-fritz-sermon-on-doing-gods-will-93943>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/great-book-half-time-moving-from-success-significance>

<https://www.amazon.com/Bob-Buford/e/B0011R1EZE>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4484914.Bob\\_P\\_Buford](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4484914.Bob_P_Buford)

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/101618.Bob\\_Buford](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/101618.Bob_Buford)

[Images for Bob P. Buford \(Author\)](#)

<https://halftimeinstitute.org/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Buford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Buford)

<http://www.zondervan.com/halftime>

<https://www.amazon.com/Jim-Collins/e/B001H6GSHK>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2826.James\\_C\\_Collins](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2826.James_C_Collins)

[Images for jim collins author](#)

[Images for Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance by Bob P. Buford \(Author\), Jim Collins \(Foreword\)](#)

### Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome [R. Kent Hughes, Barbara Hughes]

Every year thousands of God's servants leave the ministry convinced they are failures. Years ago, in the midst of a crisis of faith, Kent Hughes almost became one of them. But instead he and his wife Barbara turned to God's Word, determined to learn what God had to say about success and to evaluate their ministry from a biblical point of view.

This book describes their journey and their liberation from the "success syndrome"-the misguided belief that success in ministry means increased numbers. In today's world, it is easy to be seduced by the secular thinking that places a number on everything. But the authors teach that true success in ministry lies not in numbers but in several key areas: faithfulness, serving, loving, believing, prayer, holiness, and a Christlike attitude. Their thoughts will encourage readers who grapple with feelings of failure and lead them to a deeper, fuller understanding of success in Christian ministry.

This book was originally published by Tyndale in 1987 and includes a new preface.

<https://www.amazon.com/Liberating-Ministry-Success-Syndrome-Hughes/dp/1581349742>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/313069.Liberating\\_Ministry\\_from\\_the\\_Success\\_Syndrome](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/313069.Liberating_Ministry_from_the_Success_Syndrome)

<https://9marks.org/review/liberating-ministry-success-syndrome-kent-and-barbara-hughes/>

<https://www.crossway.org/books/liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome-tpb/>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome-26-years-later>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjhWfglrDCU> Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome—26 Years Later - Kent Hughes  
<https://vimeo.com/42836233> R. Kent Hughes on “The Preacher’s Personal Life”  
<https://www.namb.net/flourish-blog/liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome/>  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/adrianwarnock/2013/02/liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome-kent-hughes/>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Liberating\\_Ministry\\_from\\_the\\_Success\\_Syn.html?id=Z9afN-EzSXMC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Liberating_Ministry_from_the_Success_Syn.html?id=Z9afN-EzSXMC)  
<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/erikraymond/2008/02/28/book-review-liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome/>  
<http://ebcrochester.org/misc/resources/BookReviews/Liberating%20Ministry%20from%20the%20Success%20Syndrome%20-%20A%20Review%20by%20Adam%20Pohlman.html>  
<https://paulshirley.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/book-review-liberating-ministry-from-the-success-syndrome/>  
<http://barnabas14blog.blogspot.com/2008/03/book-review-liberating-ministry-from.html>  
<http://custardy.blogspot.com/2010/06/kent-barbara-hughes-liberating-ministry.html>  
<https://www.crossway.org/authors/barbara-hughes/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R.\\_Kent\\_Hughes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._Kent_Hughes)  
[https://wiki.faithlife.com/R.\\_Kent\\_Hughes](https://wiki.faithlife.com/R._Kent_Hughes)  
<http://www.preachingtheword.com/kenthughes.asp>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/84383.R\\_Kent\\_Hughes](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/84383.R_Kent_Hughes)  
<http://www.desiringgod.org/authors/kent-hughes>  
<https://www.monergism.com/topics/mp3-audio-multimedia/all-north-american-speakers-messages/r-kent-hughes>  
<http://www.tenth.org/resource-library/sermons/by-author/r-kent-hughes>  
<https://www.logos.com/products/search?Author=13199%7cR.+Kent+Hughes>  
<https://www.amazon.com/R.-Kent-Hughes/e/B000APV8DS>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/84383.R\\_Kent\\_Hughes](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/84383.R_Kent_Hughes)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Barbara-Hughes/e/B001IXTZ72>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6518170.Barbara\\_Hughes](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6518170.Barbara_Hughes)  
[Images for R. Kent Hughes, Barbara Hughes](#)  
[Images for Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome \[R. Kent Hughes, Barbara Hughes\]](#)

#### Plane Thoughts on Parish Ministry – A Flight Plan for Being an Effective and Faithful Pastor by Jerry L. Schmalenberger

This book is for all pastors. It will help new pastors get a good start in their ministry. It will provide new ideas and vision for any pastor’s ministry.

*Plane Thoughts on Parish Ministry* evolved over a period of several years. As the author flew to his many speaking engagements as president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, he jotted down outlines of the thoughts he had about his 29 years as parish pastor. The result is this book.

Schmalenberger covers six major areas of the pastorate: Pastor as pastor. Pastor as public minister. Pastor as **preacher**. Pastor as administrator. Pastor as program resource. When to leave the parish.

<https://store.csspub.com/prod-1556735995.htm>  
<http://www.abebooks.com/Plane-Thoughts-Parish-Ministry-Flight-Plan/597130665/bd>  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1556735995>  
<https://play.google.com/store/books/author?id=Jerry+L.+Schmalenberger>  
<http://www.stjohnsantioch.org/Where%20Are%20They%20Now.htm>  
<https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/jerry-l-schmalenberger/715670/>  
[https://store.csspub.com/products\\_results.php?pageNum\\_WADAProducts=2&totalRows\\_WADAProducts=41&Search=1&ProductCateoryID\[\]=112](https://store.csspub.com/products_results.php?pageNum_WADAProducts=2&totalRows_WADAProducts=41&Search=1&ProductCateoryID[]=112)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Jerry-L.-Schmalenberger/e/B001K8T85E>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1155407.Jerry\\_L\\_Schmalenberger](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1155407.Jerry_L_Schmalenberger)  
[Images for jerry l. schmalenberger \(author\)](#)  
[Images for Plane Thoughts on Parish Ministry – A Flight Plan for Being an Effective and Faithful Pastor by Jerry L. Schmalenberger Pastor as preacher.](#)

#### [PDF]Reflections on Christian Leadership. - Regent University

The temptation to be spectacular leads to a worship of **success** rather than a devotion to **faithfulness**.

[https://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student\\_dev/docs/CLE/ReflectionsChristianLeadership.pdf](https://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_dev/docs/CLE/ReflectionsChristianLeadership.pdf)  
[Images for The temptation to be spectacular leads to a worship of success rather than a devotion to faithfulness.](#)

#### Seven Habits of Highly Effective Preachers - ThomRainer.com

The best I can do is to be a student of these preachers, and to share with you seven key habits I have observed in most of them.

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/03/seven-habits-of-highly-effective-preachers/>  
[Images for Seven Habits of Highly Effective Preachers - ThomRainer.com](#)  
<https://thomrainer.com/2019/03/seven-habits-of-highly-effective-preachers-rainer-on-leadership-523/>  
<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/53-rainer-on-leadershi-28438378/episode/seven-habits-of-highly-effective-preachers-30812491/>  
<https://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/sermoncentral-the-seven-habits-of-highly-effective-preachers-1914>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2009/06/8-traits-of-effective-church-leaders/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/05/how-to-become-a-highly-effective-pastor-rainer-on-leadership-120/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2014/03/10-ways-to-improve-your-ministry-today/>  
<http://thomrainer.com/2015/03/seven-distinguishing-habits-highly-effective-pastors/>

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/06/six-surprising-traits-effective-pastors/>  
<https://thomrainer.com/2013/03/ten-things-pastors-wish-they-knew-before-they-became-pastors/>  
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/08/ten-tough-pieces-advice-pastors-trouble-receiving/>  
<https://thomrainer.com/2017/05/10-things-church-members-want-from-their-pastor-rainer-on-leadership-330/>  
<https://thomrainer.com/2013/01/ten-things-church-members-desire-in-a-pastor/>  
<http://www.lifeway.com/pastors/2014/07/10/what-effective-pastors-do-with-their-time/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Effective-Evangelistic-Churches-Successful-Reveal/dp/0805454020>  
<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/163027-thom-rainer-secret-pain-pastors-revealed-ministry-depression-secret-pain-pastors.html/2>  
<http://www.christianpost.com/news/effective-church-leaders-one-common-factor-mentoring-thom-rainer-155457/>  
<https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/a-simple-and-highly-effective-strategy-to-get-church-guests-to-return>  
<http://eridan.websrvcs.com/clientimages/36689/historyofthesundayschool.pdf>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUeNOeldGTM> Thom Rainer - The First Baptist Church of Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom\\_S.\\_Rainer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thom_S._Rainer)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Thom-S.-Rainer/e/B001IGLMVG>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom\\_S\\_Rainer](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/27470.Thom_S_Rainer)  
[Images for thom rainer \(author\)](#)

## 26 Inspirational Mother Teresa Quotes on Life & Success

“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.” Mother Teresa  
“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” Mother Teresa



<http://awakenthegreatnesswithin.com/26-inspirational-mother-teresa-quotes-life-and-success/>  
[Images for inspirational-mother-teresa-quotes-life-and-success](#)  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mother-Teresa>  
<http://www.moherteresa.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother\\_Teresa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother_Teresa)  
<http://www.catholic.org/clife/teresa/>  
[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1979/teresa-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1979/teresa-bio.html)  
[Images for Mother Teresa](#)

## Why You Should Stop Trying to be Successful – Carey Nieuwhof

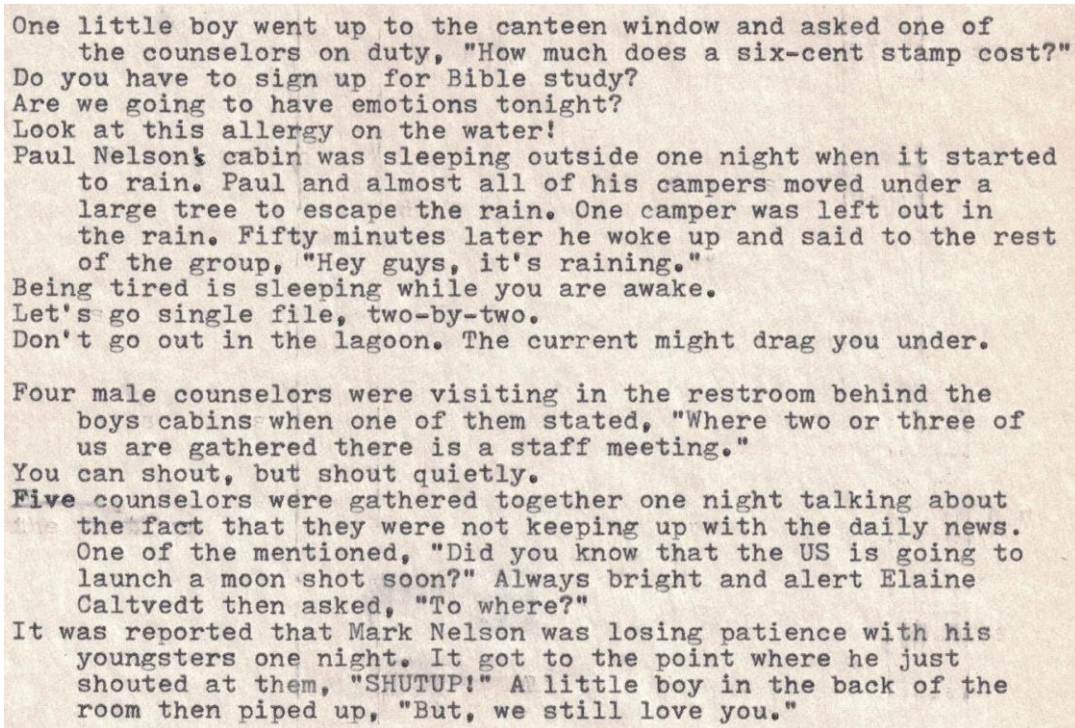
What would the church look like if we just decided to stop chasing success and started chasing the mission?

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2013/03/why-you-should-stop-trying-to-be-successful/>  
[Images for Why You Should Stop Trying to be Successful – Carey Nieuwhof](#)  
[Images for Carey Nieuwhof on stop trying to be successful](#)  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-church-leaders-need-to-stop-fearing-success/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-little-talked-about-insights-behind-north-points-success/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/predictable-success/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode112/> Les McKeown On Getting Your Church Or Organization Into A Place Of Predictable Success  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-help-your-church-through-leadership-transitions/> Jeff Brodie, Carey Nieuwhof And Jeff Henderson On Navigating A Successful Transition: Stepping Out Of And Into The Lead Pastor's Chair  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/spotlight-of-success/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-ways-your-current-success-can-ruin-your-future/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-you-need-to-fail-faster-to-succeed-in-the-future/>  
<http://connexuschurch.com/when-you-chase-success-instead-of-your-mission-youll-find-failure-faster/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/emptiness-of-success/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/tag/success/>  
<https://www.predictablesuccess.com/tag/carey-nieuwhof/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/ultimate-character-tests-leader/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cniewhof/posts/668285696693195>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/5-things-that-can-make-you-feel-like-youre-leading-when-you-arent/>  
<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/04/reinvention-the-5-different-leaders-you-need-to-become-to-stay-effective/>  
<http://visionroom.com/follow-7-steps-effective-leader-church/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-managing-your-energy-can-make-you-a-far-more-effective-leader/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/reinvention-the-5-different-leaders-you-need-to-become-to-stay-effective/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-effective-ways-to-battle-discouragement-in-leadership/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-surprising-endearing-characteristics-highly-effective-church-leaders/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-leaders-who-hold-this-bias-are-the-most-effective-leaders/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/how-to-tell-whether-discipleship-is-actually-effective-in-your-church/>  
<https://careynieuwhof.com/7-simple-but-effective-strategies-to-get-you-through-a-bad-day/>



<https://www.amazon.com/Lasting-Impact-Powerful-Conversations-Church/dp/1941259464>  
<https://prochurchtools.com/the-secret-weapon-of-effective-church-leadership-with-carey-nieuwhof/>  
<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/171803-carey-nieuwhof-stunning-bias-effectives-leaders-share.html>  
<http://briandoddonleadership.com/2013/04/25/51-leadership-quotes-from-carey-nieuwhof-live-notes-from-the-orange-conference/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Carey-Nieuwhof/e/B003GJCLCM>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey\\_Nieuwhof](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3396023.Carey_Nieuwhof)  
[Images for carey nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

I learned at Riverside Bible Camp not to take myself or life too seriously. Following are recollections from that summer originally typed on my Portable Smith Corona Galaxie II Typewriter:



One little boy went up to the canteen window and asked one of the counselors on duty, "How much does a six-cent stamp cost?"  
Do you have to sign up for Bible study?  
Are we going to have emotions tonight?  
Look at this allergy on the water!  
Paul Nelson's cabin was sleeping outside one night when it started to rain. Paul and almost all of his campers moved under a large tree to escape the rain. One camper was left out in the rain. Fifty minutes later he woke up and said to the rest of the group, "Hey guys, it's raining."  
Being tired is sleeping while you are awake.  
Let's go single file, two-by-two.  
Don't go out in the lagoon. The current might drag you under.

Four male counselors were visiting in the restroom behind the boys cabins when one of them stated, "Where two or three of us are gathered there is a staff meeting."  
You can shout, but shout quietly.

Five counselors were gathered together one night talking about the fact that they were not keeping up with the daily news. One of the mentioned, "Did you know that the US is going to launch a moon shot soon?" Always bright and alert Elaine Caltvedt then asked, "To where?"

It was reported that Mark Nelson was losing patience with his youngsters one night. It got to the point where he just shouted at them, "SHUTUP!" A little boy in the back of the room then piped up, "But, we still love you."

#### 4) Law/Gospel

Author Kurt Vonnegut advised fiction writers, "Get someone in trouble. Get them out!" One student, who went on to be a political speechwriter, remembered his advice.

##### The Life of a Political Speechwriter - The New York Times

Kurt Vonnegut once wrote that "only nut cases want to be president." But he helped me become a White House speechwriter. In 1965, Vonnegut was my adviser at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, where I was studying fiction. One day, he said he could get me an assistantship, but I'd have to teach speech.

"I know nothing about speech," I said.

He said something like: "Learn. It's 1,800 bucks."

In class, Kurt had annoyed some students by boiling all fiction down to a diagram: "Get someone in trouble. Get them out!" he would say. "Man-in-the-hole!"

<https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/03/the-political-speechwriters-life/>

When I was studying at Luther Seminary, I recall Gerhard Forde cautioned, "Don't dig such a deep hole you can't get back out."

##### The Law-Gospel Debate: An Interpretation of Its Historical Development by Gerhard O. Forde (Author)

In this early work from "one of the defining theologians of American Lutheranism" (James Arne Nestingen, *Dialog*), Gerhard O. Forde provides a superlative interpretation of more than 150 years of modern law-gospel debate. In presenting this history, he examines the positions of such outstanding theologians as J. C. K. von Hofmann (the "father of Heilsgeschichte"), Theodosius Harnack, Albrecht Ritschl, Karl Barth, Werner Elert, Helmut Thielicke, Gustaf Wingren, and Hans Iwand, before offering his own proposal for an understanding of the gospel as God's final word which "breaks the continuity of the law." Contemporary students of the law-gospel dialectic will find here a wealth of critical background, as well as the groundwork for Forde's mature thinking on the work of Christ, gospel, law, and eschatology.

<http://fortresspress.com/product/law-gospel-debate-interpretation-its-historical-development>

<https://www.amazon.com/Law-Gospel-Debate-Interpretation-Historical-Development/dp/080066230X>

<https://www.logos.com/product/125775/the-law-gospel-debate-an-interpretation-of-its-historical-development>

<http://www.christholdfast.org/blog/10-thoughts-on-law-and-gospel>

<https://philpapers.org/rec/FORLAG> Gerhard O. Forde, Law and Gospel in Luther's Hermeneutic - PhilPapers  
<http://www.mbird.com/tag/gerhard-forde/>  
<https://faithalone.org/journal-articles/jesus-for-you-gerhard-forde-on-proclaiming-the-promises-of-god/>  
[Images for The Law-Gospel Debate by Gerhard O. Forde \(Author\)](#)

David Lose taught preaching at Luther Seminary, served as the president of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, PA, and currently (2020) preaches at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN.

#### Law, Gospel, and Participatory Preaching | ...In the Meantime – David Lose

I am a Lutheran preacher. And when it comes to preaching, the most important thing for Lutherans is to distinguish rightly between law and gospel.

<http://www.davidlose.net/2014/12/law-gospel-and-participatory-preaching/>  
<http://day1.org/6382-david-lose-law-gospel-and-participatory-preaching>  
[https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/21-3\\_The\\_Law/21-3\\_Lose.pdf](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/21-3_The_Law/21-3_Lose.pdf)  
<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=1495> The Law of Love by David Lose - Craft of Preaching - Working Preacher  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=2699> The Law of Love - Workingpreacher.org  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/04/luthers-preaching-still-preach/> Does Luther's preaching still preach? - Living Lutheran  
<http://www.davidlose.net/2015/03/easter-b-only-the-beginning/>  
<http://www.mtolivet.org/files/News%20and%20Updates/Candidate/Pastor%20David%20J.%20Lose%20CV.pdf>  
[Images for Law, Gospel, and Participatory Preaching | ...In the Meantime – David Lose](#)

#### 5) Description of the human condition

Is it appropriate to use the first-person plural in the description of the human condition?

I realize such a practice is quite common.

#### Sign, Sign, Everywhere A Sign by Karoline Lewis - Craft of Preaching

Or maybe Jesus knows **our** nature all too well -- that **we** actively resist going in directions that lead to discomfort and uncertainty. That **we** consistently reject those paths that seem difficult, even disturbing. That **we** ignore the signs in front of **us**. And that **we** are always quick to turn to others' interpretations of Jesus before **we** are willing to listen and be open to Jesus' own.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=5203>

The first-person plural is also used in a critique of preachers.

#### What Not To Wear by Karoline Lewis - Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher

I wonder if the decline of mainline Protestantism is because **we** have been satisfied with just getting people in the pews and once **we** get them there, **we** are so happy they showed up that **we** have forgotten that accountability comes with discipleship. I wonder if people aren't coming to church because **our** preaching perpetuates a passive faith. I wonder if a Christianity, that is not Evangelicalism, has lost its voice in the public sphere because **we** have caved to the idolatry of maintaining the status quo. In other words, "Christians in modernity thought their task was to make the Gospel intelligible to the world rather than to help the world understand why it could not be intelligible without the Gospel."<sup>2</sup>  
**We are preachers** afraid -- afraid of offense. Afraid to ruffle feathers. Afraid that people will leave, especially when the pews are emptier than they ever have been. Afraid to lose donors. Afraid to upset constituencies. Afraid to speak out of **our** own theological convictions. Afraid to challenge the effectiveness of denominational commitments. Afraid to take risks. Afraid of the very thing that got the ill-dressed guest thrown out in the first place.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=4980>  
[Images for Or maybe Jesus knows our nature all too well](#)

I remember the anecdotal statement [for which I cannot find any internet reference]: "Don't say 'we' unless one is the pope or else has a frog in one's pocket." Such first-person plural blanket statements cannot include everyone or everything. I prefer to speak in such a way so as the assembly can overhear the description of the human condition and choose how to identify.

#### inappropriate use of the first-person plural - The Guardian

It may be OK for heads of state such as the Queen to deploy it royally or President Barack Obama, as in "Yes, we can". But perhaps, no, we shouldn't. Therefore, what should we ... sorry ... what should be done to stop us "we"-ing with such abandon.

The reader has this suggestion: "**The principle is simple to the point of triviality: speak for yourselves.**" The Guardian's contract with writers, both staff and freelance, should explicitly say: 'Views expressed in all Guardian articles are those of the writers named in the article's byline and of nobody else.'"

He says that all use of the plural pronouns that suggests otherwise be excised. He adds: "Otherwise, to paraphrase an old Chinese saying, if you sit long enough by the banks of the internet then eventually you will see pass by the line: 'We're getting pregnant later in life.' Written by a bloke."

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/aug/12/inappropriate-use-first-person-plural>  
[Images for inappropriate use of the first-person plural](#)

[Images for The principle is simple to the point of triviality: speak for yourselves.](#)

[Images for old Chinese saying, if you sit long enough by the banks of the internet then eventually you will see pass by the line:](#)

['We're getting pregnant later in life.' Written by a bloke.](#)

Gehard O. Forde argued for a direct style of preaching.

### "Jesus For You"- Gerhard Forde on Proclaiming the Promises of God

#### A. The Grammar of Proclamation

Forde argued that a distinguishing mark of proclamation is its *grammar*. Writers and preachers often like to employ the pronoun "we" as a polite way to include themselves in the admonition made in the sermon. However, as J. C. Ryle cautioned, using "we" leaves a congregation "in a kind of fog."<sup>16</sup> In order to cut through it, we must use a *direct style* of preaching that involves "the practice and custom of saying, 'I' and 'you.'"<sup>17</sup> This is precisely the kind of direct address that Forde thinks distinguishes proclamation from other types of discourse.

As I noted above, systematic, Biblical, and historical theology are all forms of third-person "words *about* God." By contrast, proclamation is first-person "words *from* God."<sup>18</sup> That is the key difference between proclamation and all other types of theological discourse.

Forde claims that in proclamation, God Himself speaks to the people through the preacher. The preacher actually and truly speaks for God, in His name, on His authority, announcing the "present-tense, first-to-second person unconditional promise authorized by what occurs in Jesus Christ according to the scriptures."<sup>19</sup> A direct address from God grabs peoples' attention.

<https://faithalone.org/journal-articles/jesus-for-you-gerhard-forde-on-proclaiming-the-promises-of-god/>

[Images for "Jesus For You"- Gerhard Forde on Proclaiming the Promises of God](#)

## 6) When law/gospel preaching lapses into scolding

Some preachers have given up trying to do law/gospel preaching and have resorted to scolding. Here are some tongue-in-cheek promotional blurbs for such preaching.

### Buck Up

OK. We admit that our preacher rants and raves, taunts and derides the people. But, at least, you'll have to agree nobody sleeps through the sermons.

### Come and Get Your Weekly Scolding

From now on, whenever anybody tries to berate or belittle you, embarrass or diminish you, or speak to you in a patronizing and condescending manner, you can tell them that you have already received your weekly scolding – at church no less – and that once a week is enough.

### Get Used to It

So, our preacher frowns more than smiles and grumbles more than commends. But isn't that better than some of those insufferably cheerful types?

### Give Us Your Poor Huddled Masses

Our preacher claims considerable life experience in suffering indignities and insults of every sort. But our preacher isn't content to be a punching bag. Our preacher has put on the punching gloves. Join the pugilism against all those other people out there with our preacher as your perturbed pugilist.

### Grumpy Old Men and the Women Who Put Up with Them

Tried out all the rest of the churches in town and found yourselves to be like square pegs in round holes? Try out our church, and our preacher will make you feel right at home.

### Such a Deal

Make a deal with the wife that, if you agree to go to church on Sundays and get put in your place, she'll lay off you the rest of the week.

## Resources

### A letter to a young minister, on preaching the Gospel with the power and demonstration of the Spirit

There is another strain of preaching, which, though it wears the garb of zeal, is seldom a proof of any power but the power of self. I mean *angry and scolding preaching*. The gospel is a *benevolent* scheme, and whoever speaks in the power of it, will assuredly speak in love. In the most faithful rebukes of sin, in the most solemn declarations of God's displeasure against it, a preacher may give evidence of a disposition of good-will and compassion to sinners, and assuredly will, if he speaks under the influence of the power of truth. If we can indulge *invective* and *bitterness* in the pulpit, we are but gratifying our own evil tempers, under the pretense of a concern for the cause of God and truth.

<http://gracegems.org/Newton/126.htm>

[Images for angry and scolding preaching](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=HFJ4GayOeoEC>

### Select Notes of the Preaching of the Late Rev. Rowland Hill, A.M.

The reader of the following specimens of Mr. Rowland Hill's preaching, will not fail to be struck with the affectionate earnestness of the more serious passages. But he had the greatest aversion to anything like what has been called **scolding** in



the pulpit, a fault into which some most worthy ministers have occasionally fallen.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=37cSAAAYAAJ> xlv

[Images for scolding in the pulpit, a fault into which some most worthy ministers have occasionally fallen](https://www.amazon.com/Select-Notes-Preaching-Late-Rowland/dp/1173056726)

<https://www.amazon.com/Select-Notes-Preaching-Late-Rowland/dp/1173056726>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Select Notes of the Preaching of the Lat.html?id=37cSAAAYAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Select_Notes_of_the_Preaching_of_the_Lat.html?id=37cSAAAYAAJ)

<https://www.google.com/search?tbo=p&tbn=bks&q=inauthor:%22Rowland+Hill%22>

[Images for Select Notes of the Preaching of the Late Rev. Rowland Hill, A.M.](https://www.google.com/search?tbo=p&tbn=bks&q=inauthor:%22Rowland+Hill%22)

### Should Pastors Rebuke Parishioners from the Pulpit?

An Oklahoma pastor spent five minutes of Sunday worship calling out parishioners by name for their flaws—including sleeping.

“You’re one of the sorriest church members I have—you’re not worth 15 cents,” said Jim Standridge, pastor of Skiatook’s Immanuel Baptist Church, to one attendee.

A recording of the incident has been [watched almost 600,000 times](#) on YouTube. (The [full sermon](#) is on Vimeo.)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/september/should-pastors-rebuke-parishioners-from-pulpit.html>

[Images for Should Pastors Rebuke Parishioners from the Pulpit?](https://www.christianpost.com/news/baptist-preacher-blasts-congregants-during-sermon-for-sleeping-hissy-fit-goes-viral-98872/)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/baptist-preacher-blasts-congregants-during-sermon-for-sleeping-hissy-fit-goes-viral-98872/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSJt-LHMNRY> Jim Standridge Throws a Hissy Fit - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crEyDnlC31w> Pastor Jim Standridge Infamous Ranting Sermon (Full Sermon) – YouTube

[Images for Pastor Jim Standridge Infamous Ranting Sermon – YouTube](https://sharperiron.org/filings/8-19-13/28161)

<https://sharperiron.org/filings/8-19-13/28161>

[Images for pastor jim standridge](https://sharperiron.org/filings/8-19-13/28161)

## 7) Do the text to the hearers

In its simplest form, I remember Gerhard O. Forde stating at seminary that the strategy of preaching is to “do the text to the hearers.”

### Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde

An introduction to the teaching and witness of the late Gerhard O. Forde, written by his wife of forty years.

In his long academic career at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Gerhard O. Forde was known for his life-changing teaching and preaching, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for you. Forde taught that theology is for proclamation. His classes were his form of evangelism. Avoiding secondary discourse, or philosophical mode, in classroom teaching and preaching, he used first order, primary discourse to speak directly to his hearers, not about God, but for God, declaring the justifying word as clearly as possible.

He showed the difference between law and gospel and how to [do the text to the hearer](#). He taught students to be preachers who would speak the unqualified word of grace and forgiveness. This book is an introduction to his teaching and witness.

<http://www.amazon.com/Gerhard-O-Forde-A-Life/dp/193268896X>

[Images for Gerhard O. Forde: A Life by Marianna Forde](https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498202462)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1498202462> Afflicting the Comfortable, Comforting the Afflicted: A Guide to Law and Gospel Preaching Page 12

<https://faithalone.org/journal-articles/jesus-for-you-gerhard-forde-on-proclaiming-the-promises-of-god/> E. The Power of Proclamation

<http://lutheranconfessions.blogspot.com/2012/04/mid-life-lesson-38-how-to-preach-after.html>

[Images for Gerhard O. Forde do the text to the hearer](http://lutheranconfessions.blogspot.com/2012/04/mid-life-lesson-38-how-to-preach-after.html)

## 8) What difference does faith make?

For an increasing number of people in this post-Christendom era, the answer is “Not much if any!” My preaching has shifted through the years to asking the question in such a manner that is meant to be more inductive than deductive. I invite the assembly to wrestle with the question, which is a variation of the catechetical question Martin Luther asks: “What does this mean?” In fact, the question is asked in the first reading for the Day of Pentecost, which Peter addresses.

The day of Pentecost

<sup>2</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, [“What does this mean?”](#) <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

[oremus Bible Browser: Acts 2:1-21](http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrvs&passage=Acts%202:1-21)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrvs&passage=Acts%202:1-21>

[Images for day of Pentecost](#)

[Images for All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"](#)

## Resources

[Acts 2:1-21 Commentary by Matt Skinner - Working Preacher](#)

["What Does This Mean?"](#)

Backwoods Galileans speaking foreign languages attract attention among the other Jews in Jerusalem -- both residents and pilgrims celebrating the Feast of Weeks (also known as the Day of the First Fruits, Shavuot, or Pentecost). Capturing attention is one thing; making sense is another. The cosmopolitan crowd expresses curiosity and scorn. They clamor for an explanation, for meaning. Peter's entire speech in 2:16-36 offers his answer to their foundational question, "What does this mean?" (2:12).

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2837](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2837)

[Images for Acts 2:1-21 Commentary by Matt Skinner - Working Preacher "What Does This Mean?"](#)

[https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac\\_home.aspx?contact\\_id=mskinner](https://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_home.aspx?contact_id=mskinner)

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=82dfbbdbf9b083d0d49f487108293febdbb36a2c2a98cbc43e1d56e77013a7b9> Matt Skinner - Profile - Working Preacher

<https://www.amazon.com/Matthew-L.-Skinner/e/B001JXUIV8>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/419065.Matthew\\_L\\_Skinner](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/419065.Matthew_L_Skinner)

<http://www.matthewskinner.org/>

[Pentecost: What Does This Mean? | sacredmargins](#)

[What does it mean](#) that the Spirit – the same Spirit present in Jesus Christ – now lives among us? [What does it mean](#) that God has poured out his Spirit on men and women, young and old? [What does it mean](#) to how I live my life, my job, my family, my friends?

<https://sacredmargins.com/2014/06/09/pentecost-what-does-this-mean/>

[Images for Pentecost: What Does This Mean?](#)

<https://vimeo.com/128732638> "The Day of Pentecost: What Does This Mean? May 24, 2015

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-bloggers/1840615/posts> "The Day of Pentecost: What Does This Mean?"

[http://www.columbianaucm.org/uploads/5/2/8/0/5280689/what\\_does\\_this\\_mean.pdf](http://www.columbianaucm.org/uploads/5/2/8/0/5280689/what_does_this_mean.pdf)

<http://www.triunemercy.org/ministry/sermons/91-june-8-2014-what-does-this-mean-by-elaine-nocks>

<https://medium.com/@adamnicholasphillips/what-does-this-mean-b058f7627828#.tgpnhi9az>

Paul's sermon at Areopagus provides another biblical example of addressing the question of "what it means".

Paul's address at Athens

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this bab- bler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' <sup>20</sup>It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know [what it means](#). <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

[oremus Bible Browser: Acts 17:16-34](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+17:16-34>

[Images for Paul's address at Athens](#)

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-athens/>

## Resources

[Areopagus sermon - Wikipedia](#)

The background to the sermon is that Paul was distressed to see Athens full of idols and so went to the synagogue and the marketplace to preach about the resurrection of Jesus. Some Greeks took him to a meeting at the Areopagus, the high court in Athens, to explain himself. The Areopagus literally meant the *rock of Ares* in the city and was a center of temples, cultural facilities, and a high court. It was illegal to preach a foreign deity in Athens, so Paul's sermon was in fact a combination of a "guest lecture" and a trial.<sup>[4]</sup>

The sermon addresses five main issues:<sup>[3]</sup>

Introduction: Discussion of the ignorance of pagan worship. (23-24)

The one Creator God being the object of worship. (25-26)

God's relationship to humanity. (26-27)

Idols of gold, silver and stone as objects of false worship. (28-29)

Conclusion: Time to end the ignorance. (30-31)

This sermon illustrates the beginnings of the attempts to explain the nature of Christ and an early step on the path that led to the development of [Christology](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

Paul begins his address by emphasizing the need to know God, rather than worshiping the unknown:

"As I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So, you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you."

Paul then explained concepts such as the [resurrection of the dead](#) and [salvation](#), in effect a prelude to the future discussions

of Christology. According to the [Acts of the Apostles](#), after the sermon, a number of people became followers of Paul. These included a woman named Damaris, and Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus. This latter has at times been suggested as [Dionysius the Areopagite](#), but that may be a historical confusion.<sup>[4]</sup> In the 20th century, [Pope John Paul II](#) likened the modern media to the *New Areopagus*, where Christian ideas needed to be explained and defended anew, against disbelief and the idols of gold and silver.<sup>[5]</sup>



Saint Paul delivering the Areopagus sermon in Athens, by Raphael, 1515.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagus\\_sermon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagus_sermon)  
[Images for Areopagus sermon](#)

[Athens: Apostle Paul Preaches to Philosophers @ BiblicalGreece.com](#)

Although there is no record of a church created at that time and no known letter written later by Paul to the Athenians, [this episode shows the ability of Paul to be culturally relevant](#) and to speak not only to Jews but also to Greeks.

<http://biblicalgreece.com/athens/>  
[Images for Apostle Paul Preaches to Philosophers](#)  
<http://www.padfield.com/2000/unknown.html> Unknown God - Church of Christ  
<https://bible.org/seriespage/27-apostle-athens-preaching-philosophers-acts-1715-34>

## 9) Preaching and the Post-Modern Condition

An article that has been particularly helpful to me is "Preaching and the Post-Modern Condition" by Jay Cooper Rochelle in the November/December 2000 issue of the Lutheran Partners (pages 22-29). Unfortunately, this magazine is no longer in production, and the article is not to be found on the web. He quotes Jean-Francois Lyotard and his book *The Post-Modern Condition* as "the loss of the meta-narrative." In other words, many people of this age are skeptical about any kind of truth claims. He suggests four ways to preach: [1. Invitation. 2. Image. 3. Indwelling. 4. Imitation](#). I keep this article in my Christ the King Year B file in which Pilate asks Jesus: "What is truth?" in the verse following the lectionary text for the day of John 18:33-37.

## 10) Kerygma and apologetics

When I first started in the pastoral ministry, I focused on preaching as kerygma. Now, in this post-Christendom era, my focus has expanded to include apologetics.

### Resources

[Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God \(ConversantLife.com®\) by Sean McDowell \(Author\), David Kinnaman \(Foreword\)](#)

Many teenagers leave home for college but don't take their faith with them. Popular writer and speaker Sean McDowell offers a solution for this problem: a new way of approaching faith that addresses the questions the emerging generation is asking and that incorporates a radically humble and relational approach.

An impressive list of contributors including Dan Kimball (*They Like Jesus but Not the Church*), Brian Godawa (*Hollywood Worldviews*), and Josh McDowell show that today's apologetics must employ...

- a clear connection with everyday life
- an invitation for people to express their doubts and wrestle with tough questions
- a culturally savvy understanding of the way secular people view Christians
- an engaging methodology that captures the imagination before engaging the mind
- a strong emphasis on the resurrection and how it changes everything

This resource is imperative for leaders who are ready to engage a new generation with the claims of Christ.

<https://www.amazon.com/Apologetics-New-Generation-Culturally-ConversantLife-com%C2%AE/dp/0736925201>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5925920-apologetics-for-a-new-generation>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/apologetics-for-a-new-generation-sean-mcdowell/1113794274>

<http://www.lifeway.com/Product/apologetics-for-a-new-generation-P005180765>

<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Contributor/McDowell,%20Sean>

<http://seanmcdowell.org/books>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sean-McDowell/e/B001JS9Z94>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/749803.Sean\\_McDowell](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/749803.Sean_McDowell)

[Images for Sean McDowell \(Author\)](#)

<http://www.lifeway.com/n/Contributor/Kinnaman,%20David>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Kinnaman/e/B001JSDFPE>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/524557.David\\_Kinnaman](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/524557.David_Kinnaman)

[Images for David Kinnaman, author](#)

[Images for Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God \(ConversantLife.com®\) by Sean McDowell \(Author\), David Kinnaman \(Foreword\)](#)

[apologetics.net | Favorite Quotes](#)

[www.apologetics.net/page/Favorite-Quotes.aspx](http://www.apologetics.net/page/Favorite-Quotes.aspx)

[Images for apologetics quotes](#)

### Christian apologetics - Wikipedia

Christian apologetics (Greek: ἀπολογία, “verbal defense, speech in defense”)<sup>[1]</sup> is a field of [Christian theology](#) which presents [reasoned](#) bases for the [Christian faith](#), defending the faith against objections.

Christian [apologetics](#) have taken many forms over the centuries, starting with [Paul the Apostle](#) in the [early church](#) and [Patristic](#) writers such as [Origen](#), [Augustine of Hippo](#), [Justin Martyr](#) and [Tertullian](#), then continuing with writers such as [Thomas Aquinas](#) and [Anselm of Canterbury](#) during [Scholasticism](#). [Blaise Pascal](#) was active before and during the [Age of Enlightenment](#), and in the modern period Christianity was defended through the efforts of many authors such as [G.K. Chesterton](#) and [C.S. Lewis](#). In contemporary times Christianity has been defended through the work of figures such as [J. P. Moreland](#), [Ravi Zacharias](#), [Robert Hutchinson](#), [John Lennox](#), [Doug Wilson](#), [Lee Strobel](#), [Francis Collins](#), [Henry M. Morris](#), [Alister McGrath](#), [Ken Ham](#), [Alvin Plantinga](#), and [William Lane Craig](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_apologetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_apologetics)

[Images for christian apologetics](#)

### 5 Ways Pastors Can Improve Their Apologetic Preaching

Preaching apologetically is tough business, and we shouldn't just read books in order to get better at it. Part of getting better at is *doing apologetics*, not only the pulpit, but also with our neighbors and friends. Nevertheless, reading is a critical part. So here are five reading habits to help develop your apologetics in the pulpit.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-ways-pastors-can-improve-their-apologetic-preaching>

[Images for 5 Ways Pastors Can Improve Their Apologetic Preaching](#)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/fides-quaerens-intellectum-what-is-presuppositionalism/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/questioning-presuppositionalism/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/answering-objections-to-presuppositionalism/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-pastors-can-make-time-to-talk-with-skeptics/>

### How Evangelism and Apologetics Are Changing—Interviews with Ravi Zacharias, Nabeel Qureshi, Alycia Wood and Margaret Manning - Carey Nieuwhof

How do you share your faith in a world in which people seem to be losing interest in Christianity? In this special episode,

Carey interviews four leading apologists, including Ravi Zacharias, about how apologetics is changing and what to do next.

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/09/episode53/>

[Images for How Evangelism and Apologetics Are Changing—Interviews with Ravi Zacharias, Nabeel Qureshi, Alycia Wood and Margaret Manning - Carey Nieuwhof](#)

<https://careynieuwhof.com/cclpepisode015/> CCLP 015: MARK CLARK ON APOLOGETICS FOR UNCHURCHED CANADIANS, THE EXPANSION OF VILLAGE CHURCH AND FINDING PERSONAL MARGIN

<https://careynieuwhof.com/episode151/> CNLO 151: Mark Clark on Apologetics for Post-Christian, Post-Modern Young Adults: Sex, Hell, Science, and So Much More

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/06/a-response-to-christians-who-are-done-with-church/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/2015/03/5-things-people-blame-the-church-for-but-shouldnt/>

<http://careynieuwhof.com/tag/apologetics/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cnieuwhof/posts/731949300326834> Carey Nieuwhof - Can sex be a subject for apologetics?

<https://www.apologeticscanada.com/conference-2016/barrie/breakouts/> How Evangelism is Shifting in a Post-Christian World

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1770693408> Contributors

<http://www.emmanuelbarrie.org/news/events/2016-04-22-190000-2016-04-23-163000/apologetics-canada-conference>

#### BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

<http://careynieuwhof.com/tag/how-to-reach-millennials/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/christa0934/ravi-zacharias-christian-apologetics/>

[Images for Carey Nieuwhof \(author\)](#)

### Justin Martyr - Wikipedia

Justin Martyr (Latin: *Iustinus Martyr*) was an early [Christian apologist](#), and is regarded as the foremost interpreter of the theory of the [Logos](#) in the 2nd century.<sup>[2]</sup> He was [martyred](#), alongside some of his students, and is considered a [saint](#) by the [Roman Catholic Church](#),<sup>[3]</sup> the [Anglican Church](#),<sup>[4]</sup> the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#),<sup>[5]</sup> and the [Oriental Orthodox Churches](#).

Most of his works are lost, but two apologies and a dialogue did survive. The *First Apology*, his most well known text, passionately defends the morality of the Christian life, and provides various ethical and [philosophical](#) arguments to convince the Roman emperor, [Antoninus](#), to abandon the persecution of the fledgling sect. Further, he also indicates, as St Augustine did regarding the "true religion" that predated Christianity,<sup>[6]</sup> that the "seeds of Christianity" (manifestations of the [Logos](#) acting in history) actually predated Christ's [incarnation](#). This notion allows him to claim many historical Greek philosophers (including [Socrates](#) and [Plato](#)), in whose works he was well studied, as [unknowing Christians](#).





[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin\\_Martyr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Martyr)  
 Images for Justin Martyr early Christian apologist

**Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (Author), Kathleen Norris (Foreword)**

In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*, *Mere Christianity* provides an unequal opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful **apologetic** for the Christian faith.



<http://www.amazon.com/Mere-Christianity-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652926>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11138.Mere\\_Christianity](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11138.Mere_Christianity)  
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/801500-mere-christianity>  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/mere-christianity-c-s-lewis/1100549216>  
<http://www.cslewis.org/resources/studyguides/Study%20Guide%20-%20Mere%20Christianity.pdf>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mere\\_Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mere_Christianity)  
[http://wikilivres.ca/wiki/File:Mere\\_Christianity.pdf](http://wikilivres.ca/wiki/File:Mere_Christianity.pdf)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/questionofgod/ownwords/mere2.html>  
<http://www.truthaccordingtoscripture.com/documents/apologetics/mere-christianity/cs-lewis-mere-christianity-toc.php#.VIYTT3arSUK>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/musiciansartistsandwriters/cs-lewis.html>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C.\\_S.\\_Lewis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis)  
<http://www.cslewis.com/us/>  
<http://www.biography.com/people/cs-lewis-9380969>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/j-r-r-tolkien-and-c-s-lewis-legendary-friendship.html>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/julyweb-only/7-15-21.0.html>  
<http://www.truthaccordingtoscripture.com/documents/apologetics/mere-christianity/cs-lewis-mere-christianity-toc.php#.WG0wBhsrKUK>  
<http://www.cslewis.org/resources/studyguides/Study%20Guide%20-%20Mere%20Christianity.pdf>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/questionofgod/ownwords/mere1.html>  
<https://www.cslewis.com/images/ckfinder/642/pdfs/MereChristianity.pdf>  
<http://www.lewissociety.org/merechristianityoutline.pdf>  
[http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm\\_send/756](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/756)  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/musiciansartistsandwriters/cs-lewis.html>  
[http://www.thedeepchurch.com/downloads/dc\\_intro.pdf](http://www.thedeepchurch.com/downloads/dc_intro.pdf)  
[www.kevinhalloran.net/best-c-s-lewis-quotes/](http://www.kevinhalloran.net/best-c-s-lewis-quotes/)  
<https://churchpop.com/2017/02/08/19-powerfully-inspiring-quotes-from-the-master-of-apologetics-c-s-lewis/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/C.-S.-Lewis/e/B000APXBPG>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1069006.C\\_S\\_Lewis](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1069006.C_S_Lewis)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1069006.C\\_S\\_Lewis](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1069006.C_S_Lewis)  
 Images for C. S. Lewis (Author)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen\\_Norris\\_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Norris_(poet))  
<http://barclayagency.com/site/speaker/kathleen-norris>  
<https://www.homileticonline.com/subscriber/interviews/norris.asp>  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/kathleen-norris>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/julyweb-only/7-15-21.0.html>  
<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/la-ca-kathleen-norris21-2008sep21-story.html>  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2013/12/why-cs-lewis-never-goes-out-of-style/282351/>  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/reader/0060652926/ref=sib\\_dp\\_pt#reader-link](https://www.amazon.com/gp/reader/0060652926/ref=sib_dp_pt#reader-link)  
<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/61430/kathleen-norris>  
<http://barclayagency.com/site/speaker/kathleen-norris>  
<https://www.thesophia institute.org/content/kathleen-norris>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Kathleen-Norris/e/B000APAIY>



[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/60394.Kathleen\\_Norris](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/60394.Kathleen_Norris)  
Images for kathleen norris author  
<https://www.pinterest.com/garykovacic/cs-lewis/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/soulart1957/c-s-lewis-quotes/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/ekuhn001/cs-lewis-quotes/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/cslewisdaily/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/TheFelicityBee/faith-cs-lewis/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/artistsway/c-s-lewis-and-other-writers-on-faith/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/cslewisdaily/c-s-lewis-quotes/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/cs-lewis/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/heibein/c-s-lewis/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/taffydog7/c-s-lewis/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/cslewisofficial/mere-christianity-by-c-s-lewis/>  
<https://au.pinterest.com/pin/222646775303339483/> Mere Christianity: C. S. Lewis, Kathleen Norris  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/321866704590372431/> Mere Christianity [C. S. Lewis, Kathleen Norris]  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/102316222756668451/> Discover ideas about Mere Christianity  
Images for C. S. Lewis on Pinterest  
Images for Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (Author), Kathleen Norris (Foreword)

### 197 best Christian Apologetics images on Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/melissaworld29/christian-apologetics/>  
Images for Christian Apologetics on Pinterest  
<https://www.pinterest.com/kilroy85/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/nourishingjoy/christian-apologetics-food-for-thought/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/ljwestbrook65/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/bsdoddnz/christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/jwigent/christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/Ebeth0123/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/ecstaticowlet/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/sarahmalcangi/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/tlr3768/christian-apologetics-defending-your-faith/>  
Images for christian-apologetics-defending-your-faith  
<https://www.pinterest.com/polyxendi/christian-living-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/adrianthoover/books-i-ve-read-on-christian-apologetics/>  
Images for books-on-christian-apologetics  
<https://www.pinterest.com/nparksntx/false-religions-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/yesirgtz/testimony-religion-apologetics-study/>  
Images for testimony-religion-apologetics  
<https://www.pinterest.com/Pinkpepperspray/sermons-christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/patwestfl/appologetics-in-defense-of-the-christian-faith/>  
<https://in.pinterest.com/zansuh/christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.nz/austioh93/christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/lizzzz7777/christian-apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/ryansroop/christian-apologetics-and-philosophy/>  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/kathryinchavez98/christian-apologetics-philosophy/>  
[https://www.pinterest.co.uk/tanner\\_caleb/christian-apologetics-and-philosophy/](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/tanner_caleb/christian-apologetics-and-philosophy/)  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/caseywasser2532/christian-apologetics-and-philosophy/>  
Images for christian-apologetics-philosophy  
<https://www.pinterest.com/crossexamined/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/sabrinamstone/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/gkuhlow/apologetics/>  
<https://www.pinterest.com/4rich2c/apologetics/>

### [PDF]Paul's Sermon on Mars Hill: A Biblical Model for Practical Apologetics

Balance must be maintained between engaging an unbelieving culture and remaining faithful to the written Word of God. The purpose of this paper is to show how such a balance is maintained in the Apostle Paul's sermon at Mars Hill, as well as the results that followed and the implications this account has in our present day apologetic encounters.

<http://jmsmith.org/downloads/Paul-at-Mars-Hill.pdf>

Images for Paul's Sermon on Mars Hill: A Biblical Model for Practical Apologetics

### Sacred Roots: Why the Church Still Matters (Frames) by Barna Group (Author), Jon Tyson (Author)

WHAT IS THE POINT OF CHURCH? REALLY? *Sacred Roots* is for anyone questioning the value of church to their everyday life. 'Why should I invest myself in something I'm not sure does any good?' Many people today are asking this question about the church. Maybe you're asking it too. 'Does church matter?' is an important question. And to answer it, perhaps we need to go back to where it all began. The early church was a powerhouse of communal love, self-giving, and service. So how do we rediscover these sacred roots? And how do we recover the purpose of the church in all its beauty? *Sacred Roots* offers four

personal and communal shifts critical to being the kind of church that transforms people---and renews the world. *Sacred Roots* is part of the FRAMES series - short yet meaningful reads on the top issues facing us in today's complex culture. A new kind of book brought to you by Barna Group, to help you read less, and know more. To sign up for updates about FRAMES, see videos, and learn more about these products, visit [www.BarnaFrames.com](http://www.BarnaFrames.com)

<https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Roots-Church-Matters-Frames/dp/0310433231>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Roots-Frames-eBook-Matters-ebook/dp/B00FJ46X9Y>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20531311-sacred-roots>

[https://www.faithgateway.com/sacred-roots-why-church-still-matters/#.W-m\\_45NKiUk](https://www.faithgateway.com/sacred-roots-why-church-still-matters/#.W-m_45NKiUk)

<https://www.christianbook.com/sacred-roots-church-still-matters-ebook/barna-group/9780310433446/pd/45948EB>

<https://richardburkey.wordpress.com/2014/05/10/book-review-sacred-roots-by-jon-tyson/>

<http://www.windsorumc.com/sermons/sacred-roots-why-the-church-still-matters/>

<http://blackchristiannews.com/2017/06/rev-dr-kelvin-calloway-on-why-the-church-still-matters/>

<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/26324/frames-season-1-the-complete-collection>

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/church-as-entertainment-an-excerpt-from-sacred-roots-frames-series/>

<https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9780310433446/sacred-roots-frames-series-ebook/>

<http://www.booklookbloggers.com/reviews/bybook/9780310433231>

<http://praxislabs.org/academy/individual/jon-tyson>

<https://www.amazon.com/Jon-Tyson/e/B00GTC85WS>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4989827.Jon\\_Tyson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4989827.Jon_Tyson)

Images for Jon Tyson (Author)

Images for *Sacred Roots: Why the Church Still Matters (Frames)* by Barna Group (Author), Jon Tyson (Author)

### Tertullian: *Apology and De Spectaculis*. Minucius Felix: *Octavius*

The African Q. Septimus Florens Tertullianus (ca. AD 150-222), the great Christian writer, was born a soldier's son at Carthage, educated in Greek and Roman literature, philosophy, and medicine, studied law and became a pleader, remaining a clever and often tortuous arguer. At Rome, he became a learned and militant Christian. After a visit to churches in Greece (and Asia Minor?), he returned to Carthage and, in his writings there, founded a Christian Latin language and literature, toiling to fuse enthusiasm with reason; to unite the demands of the Bible with the practice of the Church; and to continue to vindicate the Church's possession of the true doctrine in the face of unbelievers, Jews, Gnostics, and others. In some of his many works he defended Christianity, in others he attacked heretical people and beliefs; in others, he dealt with morals. In this volume, we present *Apologeticus* and *De Spectaculis*.



<https://www.amazon.com/Tertullian-Spectaculis-Minucius-Octavius-Classical/dp/0674992768>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0674992768>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=czMAAAAMAAJ>

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674992764>

[https://www.loebclassics.com/view/LCL250/1931/pb\\_LCL250.iii.xml](https://www.loebclassics.com/view/LCL250/1931/pb_LCL250.iii.xml)

<https://archive.org/details/apologydespectac00tertuoft>

<https://archive.org/details/L250TertullianApologyMarcusMinuciusFelixDeSpectaculisOctavius/page/n3>

[http://www.tertullian.org/articles/reeve\\_apology.htm](http://www.tertullian.org/articles/reeve_apology.htm)

[http://www.tertullian.org/articles/reeve\\_apology.htm](http://www.tertullian.org/articles/reeve_apology.htm)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertullian>

Images for Tertullian: *Apology and De Spectaculis*. Minucius Felix: *Octavius*

### The Early Apologists - CopticChurch.Net

#### THE APOLOGISTS

This name was especially given to Christian writers who first addressed themselves to the task of making a reasoned defense and recommendation of their faith to outsiders. They belonged to the period when Christianity appeared first in converts among the educated classes, and was also in conflict with the State over its very right to exist. Their object was to gain a fair hearing for Christianity, to dispel popular slanders and misunderstandings, and to provide for this purpose some account of Christian belief and practice. They had to meet pagan philosophy and the general outlook which it influenced, specifically Jewish objectors. They devoted much attention to the application of Old Testament prophecy toward Christianity, and to the position of the divinity of Christ in relation to monotheism, and especially in connection with the latter doctrine elaborating the teaching on the Logos and winning its permanent place in Christian theology.

<http://www.copticchurch.net/topics/patrology/schoolofalex/III-Athenagoras-after/chapter1.html>

Images for Early Apologists - CopticChurch.Net

## Tim Keller (pastor) - Wikipedia

**Apologetics**<sup>[edit]</sup>

Another pervasive influence and distinctive characteristic in Keller's preaching and writing is his **apologetics**, which is characterized by a respectful orientation towards an educated and skeptical audience outside the faith. His most explicit work on the subject is *The Reason for God*, which reached #7 on the New York Times bestseller list,<sup>[1]</sup> and which he attributes to thousands of conversations with skeptical New Yorkers over the course of his ministry (*Reason*, xix). Elsewhere he has written about the loss of a **Christian culture** in the West, including in the academic and cultural establishments, and the need for Christians to contextualize to the current secular and anti-religious cultural climate.

On **creationism**, Keller states his view is not strictly **literal** and that **evolution** is "neither ruled in nor ruled out" in his church.<sup>[19]</sup> Keller has written on the topic for the **Biologos Foundation**.<sup>[20]</sup>

Keller's major influences in apologetics include **C.S. Lewis**, **Cornelius Van Til**,<sup>[21]</sup> **John Stott**, **Alvin Plantinga** and **Miroslav Volf**.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim\\_Keller\\_\(pastor\)#Apologetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Keller_(pastor)#Apologetics)

Images for Tim Keller (pastor) Apologetics

### The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism: Timothy Keller

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. **To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism.**

**And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.**

<https://www.amazon.com/Reason-God-Belief-Age-Skepticism/dp/1594483493>

<http://www.timothykeller.com/books/the-reason-for-god>

<https://www.christianbook.com/reason-for-god-belief-age-skepticism/timothy-keller/9781594483493/pd/483493>

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/the-reason-for-god-P005188835>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9fmKSwuoDE> The Veritas Forum: Belief in an Age of Skepticism? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50j2kjlrx-4> The Reason for God Group Bible Study by Timothy Keller – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9jHlrMRJAo> [official] Q&A with Tim Keller - Reason for God? - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxup3OS5ZhQ> Tim Keller: "The Reason for God" – Talks at Google – YouTube

Images for Tim Keller - Reason for God? - YouTube

<https://www.challies.com/book-reviews/book-review-the-reason-for-god-by-tim-keller/>

<https://vialogue.wordpress.com/2013/06/13/the-reason-for-god-notes-review/>

<http://darrowmillerandfriends.com/2012/01/09/tim-keller-young-leaders-and-the-mission-of-the-church/>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-525-95049-3> Nonfiction Book Review

<https://spectrummagazine.org/article/book-reviews/2010/01/25/reason-god>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Reason\\_for\\_God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Reason_for_God)

<https://www.amazon.com/Timothy-Keller/e/B00LIZSGXE>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/847789.Timothy\\_J\\_Keller](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/847789.Timothy_J_Keller)

Images for The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism: Timothy Keller

### What's So Great about Christianity by Dinesh D'Souza (Author)

Is it reasonable to have faith in God? Can intelligent, educated people really believe what the Bible says? Or do the atheists have it right—has Christianity been disproven by science and discredited as a guide to morality? Best-selling author Dinesh D'Souza (*The Enemy at Home*; *What's So Great about America*) responds head-on to the anti-God arguments of prominent atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens and defeats them on their own terms. *What's So Great about Christianity* provides believers with a straightforward tool kit for meeting the challenge of modern atheism and secularism; for nonbelievers, it offers a compelling **apologetic** that will challenge their assumptions and affirm that there really is something great about Christianity.

<https://www.amazon.com/Whats-So-Great-about-Christianity/dp/1414326017>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/884484.What\\_s\\_So\\_Great\\_About\\_Christianity](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/884484.What_s_So_Great_About_Christianity)

<https://www.christianbook.com/whats-so-great-about-christianity/dinesh-dsouza/9781414326016/pd/326016>

[https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/whats-so-great-about-christianity-dinesh-dsouza/1100392304#/#/](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/whats-so-great-about-christianity-dinesh-dsouza/1100392304#/)

<http://www.thedivineconspiracy.org/Z5253P.pdf>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dinesh-dsouza/whats-so-great-about-chri\\_b\\_69614.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/dinesh-dsouza/whats-so-great-about-chri_b_69614.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSFDpEBLhK8> Dinesh D'Souza: Book Discussion on What's So Great About Christianity

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/workcited/2015/04/summer-reading-another-beach-bag-list/>

<https://creation.com/review-whats-so-great-about-christianity-dsouza>

<http://seanmcdowell.org/blog/whats-so-great-about-christianity-book-review>

<https://letterpile.com/books/Whats-So-Great-About-Christianity-by-Dinesh-DSouza-a-Book-Review>

<https://www.tyndale.com/p/whats-so-great-about-christianity/9781414326016>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/march/25.79.html>  
<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/religion-and-philosophy/apologetics/what-s-so-great-about-christianity.html>  
<https://www.dineshdsouza.com/books/whats-so-great-about-christianity/>  
<http://godlesshaven.com/whats-so-great-about-christianity/>  
[https://infidels.org/library/modern/william\\_faris/so-great.html](https://infidels.org/library/modern/william_faris/so-great.html)  
[https://thehumanist.com/magazine/march-april-2008/arts\\_entertainment/whats-so-great-about-christianity](https://thehumanist.com/magazine/march-april-2008/arts_entertainment/whats-so-great-about-christianity)  
[http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/whats\\_so\\_great\\_about\\_christianity.html](http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/whats_so_great_about_christianity.html)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinesh\\_D%27Souza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dinesh_D%27Souza)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Dinesh-DSouza/e/B000AP8156>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3545.Dinesh\\_D\\_Souza](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3545.Dinesh_D_Souza)  
[Images for Dinesh D'Souza \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for What's So Great about Christianity by Dinesh D'Souza \(Author\)](#)

**When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church by Lillian Daniel (Author)**

The phrase "I'm spiritual but not religious" has become a cliché. It's easy to find God amid the convenience of self-styled spirituality--but is it possible (and more worthwhile) to search for God through religion?

Minister and celebrated author Lillian Daniel gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and-roller sexton to a BB gun-toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of church that is flawed, fallible--and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could ever invent.

**Humorous and sincere, this is a book about people finding God in the most unexpected of places: prisons, airports, yoga classes, committee meetings, and, strangest of all, right there in church.**



<http://www.amazon.com/When-Spiritual-but-Religious-Enough/dp/1455523097>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15018796-when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough>  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-lillian-daniel/1111741695>  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lillian-daniel/spiritual-but-not-religio\\_b\\_959216.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lillian-daniel/spiritual-but-not-religio_b_959216.html)  
<http://jerichobooks.com/portfolio/when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough-lillian-daniel/>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/>  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Books/Book-Reviews/2013/0114/When-Spiritual-But-Not-Religious-Is-Not-Enough>  
<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/When-Spiritual-But-Not-Religious-Is-Not-Enough-Interview.aspx>  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/us/examining-the-growth-of-the-spiritual-but-not-religious.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/19/us/examining-the-growth-of-the-spiritual-but-not-religious.html?_r=0)  
<http://jonathanmerritt.religionnews.com/2013/08/13/answering-the-spiritual-but-religious-an-interview-with-lillian-daniel/>  
<http://mcsletstalk.org/18.3/williamson/>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/march-web-only/spirituality-starts-in-pews.html>  
<http://www.adamjcopeland.com/2013/06/10/review-lillian-daniels-when-spiritual-but-not-religious-is-not-enough/>  
<http://www.iwj.org/about/board/rev-dr-lillian-daniel>  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/01/25/january-25-2013-rev-lillian-daniel-on-spiritual-but-not-religious/14570/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ObVdV11-nRWrdAacYuUFPjH-L-l-vO> Lillian Daniel - YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cc3tGZcBCU> Spring 2012 Keynote Address of Lillian Daniel – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBYd6JryA5A> Lillian Daniels Lecture – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx7SJvb4Fu8> Reaching the "Nones" - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWUz7IrTDDA> When Spiritual but Not Religious is Not Enough - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel  
[Images for When Spiritual but Not Religious is Not Enough - Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel - YouTube](#)  
<http://www.lilliandaniel.com/>  
<http://www.lilliandaniel.com/rants>  
<http://www.lilliandaniel.com/videos.html>  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/lillianfdaniel-219>  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/contributor/lillian-daniel>  
<https://www.faihandleadership.com/people-news/writers/lillian-daniel>  
<https://twitter.com/lillianfdaniel?lang=en>  
<http://www.iwj.org/about/board/rev-dr-lillian-daniel>  
<http://day1.org/1182-rev-dr-lillian-daniel>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Lillian-Daniel/e/B001JS2Z3M>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian\\_Daniel](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/794945.Lillian_Daniel)  
[Images for Lillian Daniel \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for When "Spiritual but Not Religious" Is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church by Lillian Daniel](#)



## Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting by Lillian Daniel (Author)

WHEN LILLIAN DANIEL APOLOGIZED to a total stranger for every bad thing that had ever been said or done in the name of Christianity, he was surprised that she was responsible for all that. "The Inquisition? Don't even raise it, I'm way ahead of you. I was mad about it before you even heard of it, that's how open-minded I am. Salem witch trials? I know! So, embarrassing. Can I hang out with you anyway? You're too kind." "Religion is responsible for all the wars in history," they would say, and I'd respond, "You're so right. Don't forget imperialism, capitalism, and racism. Religion invented those problems too. You can tell that because religious people can be found at all their meetings." In this book, Daniel argues that it's time for Christians to stop apologizing and realize that how we talk about Christian community matters. With disarming candor laced with just the right amount of humor, Daniel urges open-minded Christians to explore ways to talk about their faith journeys that are reasonable, rigorous, and real.

AFTER THE PUBLICATION of the much talked about *When Spiritual but Not Religious Is Not Enough: Seeing God In Surprising Places, Even the Church*, Lillian Daniel heard from many SBNRs as well as practicing Christians. It was the Christians who scolded her for her forthright, unapologetic stand as one who believes that religious community matters. The Christians ranted that Christians, by definition, tend to be judgmental, condemning hypocrites, which is why people hate them. By saying religion matters, she was judging those who disagree, they said, proving the stereotype of Christians. Better to acknowledge all that's wrong with Christianity and its history, then apologize.

In this book, Daniel shows why it matters how we talk about Christian community while urging open-minded Christians to learn better ways to talk about their faith.

<https://www.amazon.com/Tired-Apologizing-Church-Dont-Belong/dp/1455595896>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28450869-tired-of-apologizing-for-a-church-i-dont-belong-to>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/tired-of-apologizing-for-a-church-i-dont-belong-to-lillian-daniel/1123291323>

<https://www.christianbook.com/apologizing-spirituality-stereotypes-religion-without-ranting/lillian-daniel/9781455595891/pd/595891>

<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/lillian-daniel/tired-of-apologizing-for-a-church-i-dont-belong-to/9781478912705/>

<https://www.faihwords.com/titles/lillian-daniel/tired-of-apologizing-for-a-church-i-dont-belong-to/9781478912705/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=145559590X>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Tired\\_of\\_Apologizing\\_for\\_a\\_Church\\_I\\_Don.html?id=EUhUCwAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Tired_of_Apologizing_for_a_Church_I_Don.html?id=EUhUCwAAQBAJ)

<https://collegevilleinstitute.org/bearings/multifaith-moment-marshalls/>

[Images for Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting by Lillian Daniel](#)

### 11) Making an argument

On 1 Advent C 2015, I *acknowledged* that culturally more attention is being paid attention to Gray Thursday, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday, not to mention the last weekend of gun deer hunting season in Wisconsin the state of my residence, but I *argued* that, while the previously mentioned events will come and go another year, the message of the texts for the day is to be ready by God's grace for the end of time and to live life in the present accordingly.

#### Resources

##### Making the Argument | Priority of Preaching

The meaning is that every sermon should be making a case, an argument about something, not simply articulating some thoughts or ideas.

[www.priorityofpreaching.com/2016/03/making-the-argument/](http://www.priorityofpreaching.com/2016/03/making-the-argument/)

[Images for Making the Argument | Priority of Preaching](#)

#### Paul's address at Athens

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup> So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

oremus Bible Browser: Acts 17:16-21

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+17>

[Images for Paul's address at Athens](#)

[Images for So he \(Paul\) argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons](#)

#### Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today by James W. Thompson

If Paul is the model, arguments from the preacher's ethos have a place in Christian preaching, for the convincing embodiment of the speaker's message in his own character is an appropriate argument in every generation. Arguments from the church's own foundational convictions that are intended to shape consciousness and draw out the implications of the Christian confession are also an essential part of Christian preaching. In addition, the argument from *pathos* always functions as a demonstration of the life-and-death issues relating to the Christian life.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664222943>

Page 74



[Images for If Paul is the model, arguments from the preacher's ethos have a place in Christian preaching](https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching_Like_Paul.html?id=dEtYeTrZ1AEC)  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching\\_Like\\_Paul.html?id=dEtYeTrZ1AEC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching_Like_Paul.html?id=dEtYeTrZ1AEC)

In contrast with the widely popular interest in narrative styles, James Thompson shows that Paul's letters offer a different model for preaching today. He demonstrates how the manner of preaching used in the pre-Christian culture of Paul is valid and effective in our contemporary post-Christian culture. Unlike most books on preaching, this volume focuses not on technique, but on the goal of preaching--a needed missing component in contemporary homiletic discussion.

<https://www.amazon.com/Preaching-like-Paul-Homiletical-Wisdom/dp/0664222943>

<https://www.christianbook.com/preaching-like-paul-homiletical-wisdom-today/james-thompson/9780664222949/pd/222943#CBD-PD-Description>

<http://www.pcusastore.com/Author/Default.aspx?AuthorId=63689>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/136540.James\\_W\\_Thompson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/136540.James_W_Thompson)

[Images for James W. Thompson \(Author\) apostle paul](#)

[Images for Preaching Like Paul: Homiletical Wisdom for Today by James W. Thompson](#)

**Thoughts on Preaching: Being Contributions to Homiletics by James Waddel Alexander**

**Argument** made red-hot, is what interests people. Generally speaking, nothing interests so much as argument.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=gC0sAAAAYAAJ>

Page 25

[Images for Thoughts on Preaching: Being Contributions to Homiletics by James Waddel Alexander](#)

[Images for Argument made red-hot, is what interests people.](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Thoughts-Preaching-Being-Contributions-Homiletics/dp/1116783401>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/816725.James\\_Waddel\\_Alexander](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/816725.James_Waddel_Alexander)

[Images for James Waddel Alexander homiletics](#)

**Transformational Preaching: Theory and Practice by David M. Brown**

Persuasion brings motivation and **argument** together.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1589392752>

Page 478

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Transformational\\_Preaching.html?id=c4G2RFGwS1QC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Transformational_Preaching.html?id=c4G2RFGwS1QC)

[Images for Persuasion brings motivation and argument together.](#)

*Transformational Preaching: Theory and practice* is a comprehensive textbook for the beginning student of preaching, the graduate student in pulpit discourse, or the seasoned preacher. Seeking to reclaim the pulpit for biblical preaching, the book counteracts the popular "teaching" approach that is common today and argues that preaching must be persuasive rather than informative, that the preacher is central to the act of preaching, and that through the preaching event, both preacher and listener together fashion the "message" and its meaning.

Both theoretical and highly practical, the book offers a challenging look at all aspects of the preaching ministry. It contextualizes preaching in pastoral ministry and congregational worship, but, most significantly, argues that the practice of preaching must be informed and driven by theory. As such, the book draws from a wide perspective of disciplines, including biblical theology, classical rhetoric, contemporary human communication, public discourse, persuasion, linguistics, performance, and orality. The book's wealth of practical guidelines for every step of sermon development encourages students to apply general principles within their own contexts of ministry.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/transformational-preaching-david-m-brown/1017965403>

<https://www.amazon.com/David-M.-Brown/e/B001KHU6SI>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/13503354.David\\_M\\_Brown](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/13503354.David_M_Brown)

[Images for David M. Brown, author transformational preaching](#)

[Images for Transformational Preaching: Theory and Practice by David M. Brown](#)

## 12) On avoiding the pendulum swing from legalism to antinomianism

### Antinomianism - Wikipedia

In Christianity, an antinomian denies the fixed meaning and applicability of moral law and believes that salvation is attained solely through [faith](#) and [divine grace](#). Many antinomians, however, believe that Christians will obey moral law despite being free from it.

The distinction between antinomian and other Christian views on moral law is that antinomians believe that obedience to the law is motivated by an internal principle flowing from belief rather than from any external compulsion.<sup>[1]</sup>

The term *antinomianism* emerged soon after the [Protestant Reformation](#) (c.1517) and has historically been used as a [pejorative](#) against Christian thinkers or sects who carried their belief in justification by faith further than was customary.<sup>[2]</sup> Antinomianism in modern times is commonly seen as the theological opposite to [Legalism](#) or [Works righteousness](#), the notion that obedience to religious law earns salvation. This makes antinomianism an exaggeration of [justification by faith alone](#).

Examples are [Martin Luther's critique of antinomianism](#) and the [Antinomian Controversy](#) of the 17th century [Massachusetts Bay Colony](#). Although the term originated in the 16th century, the topic has its roots in [Christian views on the old covenant](#) extending back to the 1st century. It can also be extended to any individual who rejects a socially established morality.<sup>[3]</sup> Few groups, other than [Christian anarchists](#) or [Jewish anarchists](#), explicitly call themselves antinomian.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antinomianism>  
[Images for Antinomianism](#)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antinomian\\_Controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antinomian_Controversy)  
[Images for Antinomianism Controversy](#)

### Legalism (theology) - Wikipedia

Legalism, in [Christian theology](#), is a usually pejorative<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> term referring to an over-emphasis on discipline of conduct, or legal ideas, usually implying an allegation of misguided rigor, pride, [superficiality](#), the neglect of mercy, and ignorance of the [grace of God](#) or [emphasizing the letter of law at the expense of the spirit](#). Legalism is alleged against any view that obedience to law, not [faith in God's grace](#), is the pre-eminent principle of [redemption](#).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism\\_%28theology%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_%28theology%29)  
[Images for Legalism \(theology\)](#)

When I was studying at Luther Seminary, a professor in pastoral care observed that increasingly in 12-step programs, the importance of the 5th step (make amends) was being diminished.

### Twelve-step program - Wikipedia

A twelve-step program is a set of guiding principles (sometimes accepted by members as being 'spiritual principles') outlining a course of action for tackling problems including alcoholism, drug addiction and [compulsion](#). Originally proposed by [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) (AA) as a method of recovery from [alcoholism](#),<sup>[1]</sup> the original Twelve Steps were first published in the 1939 book *Alcoholics Anonymous: The Story of How More Than One Hundred Men Have Recovered from Alcoholism*.<sup>[2]</sup> The method was adapted and became the foundation of other [twelve-step programs](#).

As summarized by the [American Psychological Association](#), the initial 12 steps involved the following:<sup>[1]</sup>

- admitting that one cannot control one's alcoholism, addiction or compulsion;
- recognizing a higher power that can restore sanity;
- examining past errors with the help of a sponsor (experienced member);
- [making amends for these errors;](#)
- [learning to live a new life with a new code of behavior;](#)
- helping others who suffer from the same alcoholism, addictions or compulsions.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve-step\\_program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve-step_program)  
[Images for twelve-step program](#)

The presenting problem, the professor suggested, is not neurosis where people are bound by remorse, but psychosis in which people refuse to take responsibility. Increasingly now, it seems, that in order to avoid debasement, the pendulum is swinging towards entitlement. One preacher was heard to assert, "I just preach the gospel. I don't preach the law."

### A quivering mass of availability - DashHouse

Will Willimon writes in *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*

The pastor is [often] reduced to the level of the soother of anxieties brought on by the dilemmas of affluence, rather than the caller of persons to salvation. [My colleague Stanley Hauerwas has accused the contemporary pastor of being little more than "a quivering mass of availability."](#) Practicing what I call "promiscuous ministry"- ministry with no internal, critical judgment about what care is worth giving- we become victims of a culture of insatiable need. We live in a capitalist, consumptive culture where there is no purpose to our society other than "meeting our needs." The culture gives us the maximum amount of room and encouragement to "meet our needs" without appearing to pass judgment on which needs are worth meeting... In this vast supermarket of desire, we pastors must do more than simply "meet people's needs." The church is also about giving people the critical means of assessing which needs give our lives meaning, about giving us needs we would not have had if we had not met Jesus.

<http://dashhouse.com/dashhouse/2006/11/2/a-quivering-mass-of-availability.html>  
<https://reformedreader.wordpress.com/2012/04/06/pastoral-ministry-meeting-peoples-needs/>  
<http://www.johnpiippo.com/2017/11/pastors-dont-become-quivering-mass-of.html>  
<https://www.thebtscenter.org/point-of-a-pastor/>  
<https://sonscaperetreats.org/a-quivering-mass-of-availability/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fQo7047k54> 2013 02 03 'A Quivering Mass Of Availability' by Dr Robert T Baggott x264  
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7439825-the-american-male-is-a-quivering-mass-of-insecurities-if>  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ryan-reeves/the-call-to-be-a-reformed-pastor/>  
<http://www.amazon.com/Pastor-Theology-Practice-Ordained-Ministry/dp/0687045320>

[Images for Pastor-Theology-Practice-Ordained-Ministry images](#)  
[Images for Will Willimon](#)  
[Images for Stanley Hauerwas](#)  
[Images for A Quivering Mass of Availability](#)

In this kind of preaching, God becomes the cosmic therapist conveying unconditional positive regard.

### Moralistic therapeutic deism - Wikipedia

The remoteness of God in this kind of theism explains the choice of the term *deism*, even though "the Deism here is revised from its classical eighteenth-century version by the therapeutic qualifier, making the distant God selectively available

for taking care of needs." It views God as "something like a combination Divine Butler and **Cosmic Therapist**: he's always on call, takes care of any problems that arise, professionally helps his people to feel better about themselves, and does not become too personally involved in the process."<sup>[9]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic\\_therapeutic\\_deism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic_therapeutic_deism)  
[Images for Moralistic therapeutic deism](#)

Among other things, one unintended result from diminishing the law is for people to disregard the third commandment and, in the words of Luther's explanation of the Third Commandment to "despise preaching and His Word."

## Resources

### The Small Catechism - Book of Concord

The Third Commandment

Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.

*What does this mean?* – Answer

We should fear and love God that we may not **despise preaching and His Word**, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.

<http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>

[Images for The Small Catechism - Book of Concord The Third Commandment](#)

### The Large Catechism - Book of Concord

The Third Commandment.

**78]** Thou shalt sanctify the holy day. [Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.]

**79]** The word holy day (Feiertag) is rendered from the Hebrew word *Sabbath* which properly signifies to rest, that is, to abstain from labor. Hence, we are accustomed to say, Feierabend Machen [that is to cease working], or heiligen Abend geben [sanctify the Sabbath].

**80]** Now, in the Old Testament, God separated the seventh day, and appointed it for rest, and commanded that it should be regarded as holy above all others. As regards this external observance, this commandment was given to the Jews alone, that they should abstain from toilsome work, and rest, so that both man and beast might recuperate, and not be weakened by unremitting labor. Although they afterwards restricted this too closely, and grossly abused it, so that they traduced and could not endure in Christ those works which they themselves to do on that day, as we read in the Gospel; just as though the commandment were fulfilled by doing no external [manual] work whatever, which however, was not the meaning, but, as we shall hear, that they sanctify the holy day or day of rest.

**82]** This commandment, therefore, according to its gross sense, does not concern us Christians; for it is altogether an external matter, like other ordinances of the Old Testament, which were attached to particular customs, persons, times, and places, and now have been made free through Christ.

**83]** But to grasp a Christian meaning for the simple as to what God requires in this commandment, note that we keep holy days not for the sake of intelligent and learned Christians (for they have no need of it [holy days]), but first of all for bodily causes and necessities, which nature teaches and requires; for the common people, man-servants and maid-servants, who have been attending to their work and trade the whole week, that for a day they may retire in order to rest and be refreshed.

**84]** However, this, I say, is not so restricted to any time, as with the Jews, that it must be just on this or that day; for in itself no one day is better than another; but this should indeed be done daily; however, since the masses cannot give such attendance, there must be at least one day in the week set apart. But since from of old Sunday [the Lord's Day] has been appointed for this purpose, we also should continue the same, in order that everything be done in harmonious order, and no one create disorder by unnecessary innovation.

**86]** Therefore this is the simple meaning of the commandment: since holidays are observed anyhow, such observance should be devoted to hearing God's Word, so that the special function of this day should be the ministry of the Word for the young and the mass of poor people; yet that the resting be not so strictly interpreted as to forbid any other incidental work that cannot be avoided.

**87]** Accordingly, when asked, What is meant by the commandment: Thou shalt sanctify the holy day? Answer: To sanctify the holy day is the same as to keep it holy. But what is meant by keeping it holy? Nothing else than to be occupied in holy words, works, and life. For the day needs no sanctification for itself; for in itself it has been created holy [from the beginning of the creation it was sanctified by its Creator]. But God desires it to be holy to you. Therefore, it becomes holy or unholy on your account, according as you are occupied on the same with things that are holy or unholy.

**88]** How, then, does such sanctification take place? Not in this manner, that [with folded hands] we sit behind the stove and do no rough [external] work, or deck ourselves with a wreath and put on our best clothes, but (as has been said) that we occupy ourselves with God's Word, and exercise ourselves therein.

**89]** And, indeed we Christians ought always to keep such a holy day, and be occupied with nothing but holy things, i.e., daily be engaged upon God's Word, and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips. But (as has been said) since we do not at all times have leisure, we must devote several hours a week for the sake of the young, or at least a day for the sake of the entire multitude, to being concerned about this alone, and especially urge the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and thus direct our whole life and being according to God's Word.

**90]** At whatever time, then, this is being observed and practiced, there a true holy day is being kept; otherwise its shall not be called a Christians' holy day. For, indeed, non-Christians can also cease from work and be idle, just as the entire swarm of our ecclesiastics, who stand daily in the churches, singing, and ringing bells but keeping no holy day holy, because they neither preach nor practice God's Word, but teach and live contrary to it.

**91]** For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have. For though we had the bones of all the saints or all holy and consecrated garments upon a heap, still that would help us nothing;

for all that is a dead thing which can sanctify nobody. But God's Word is the treasure which sanctifies everything, and by which even all the saints themselves were sanctified. At whatever hour, then, God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or meditated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all.

92] Therefore, I constantly say that all our life and work must be ordered according to God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled.

93] On the contrary, any observance or work that is practiced without God's Word is unholy before God, no matter how brilliantly it may shine, even though it be covered with relics, such as the fictitious spiritual orders, which know nothing of God's Word and seek holiness in their own works.

94] Note, therefore, that the force and power of this commandment lies not in the restringing, but in the sanctifying, so that to this day belongs a special holy exercise. For other works and occupations are not properly called holy exercises, unless the man himself be first holy. But here a work is to be done by which man is himself made holy, which is done (as we have heard) alone through God's Word. For this, then, fixed places, times, persons, and the entire order of worship have been created and appointed so that it may be publicly in operation.

95] Since, therefore, so much depends upon God's Word that without it no holy day can be sanctified, we must know that God insists upon a strict observance of this commandment and will punish all who **despise His Word** and are not willing to hear and learn it, especially at the time appointed for the purpose.

96] Therefore not only those sins against this commandment who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, as those who on account of their greed or frivolity neglect to hear God's Word or lie in taverns and are dead drunk like swine; but, also, that other crowd, who listen to God's Word as to any other trifle, and only from custom come to preaching, and go away again, and at the end of the year know as little of it as at the beginning.

97] For hitherto the opinion prevailed that you had properly hallowed Sunday you had heard a mass or the Gospel read; but no one cared for God's Word, as also no one taught it. Now, while we have God's Word, we nevertheless do not correct the abuse; we suffer ourselves to be preached to and admonished, but we listen without seriousness and care.

98] Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word.

99] Likewise those fastidious spirits are to be reprovved who, when they have heard a sermon or two, find it tedious and dull, thinking that they know all that well enough, and need no more instruction. For just that is the sin which has been hitherto reckoned among mortal sins, and is called "ajkhdia", i.e., torpor or satiety, a malignant, dangerous plague with which the devil bewitches and deceives the hearts of many, that he may surprise us and secretly withdraw God's Word from us.

100] For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the forgoing and all the commandments. Therefore, you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware.

101] On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words.

102] And even though no other interest or necessity impel us, yet this ought to urge everyone thereunto, because thereby the devil is put to Right and driven away, and, besides, this commandment is fulfilled, and [this exercise in the Word] is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.

<http://bookofconcord.org/lc-3-tencommandments.php>

[Images for The Large Catechism - Book of Concord The Third Commandment](#)

### 13) Preaching Christ Crucified

**Sundays and Seasons | Augsburg Fortress** has proven to be most helpful through the years, and I have made numerous references to those resources especially in Chapter 3. Worship, but one suggestion proved to be problematic for me:

Holy Cross Day and Reformation Sunday?

Autumn includes options for celebrating two festival days, Holy Cross Day on September 14 and Reformation Sunday on October 26. Unless these festival days are deeply ingrained in the piety of your local community, **consider skipping these days** and continuing with the assigned lectionary texts for "extraordinary time." Both Sundays include crucial readings from the Gospel of Matthew that otherwise are lost. Page 275

**Sundays and Seasons Year A: 2014 [Augsburg Fortress] on Amazon.com.**

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/17494/Sundays-and-Seasons-Year-A-2014>

[Images for Holy Cross Day](#)

[Images for Reformation Sunday](#)

Call me anachronistic if you must, but I still prefer to observe Holy Cross Day (1 Corinthians 1:18-24 and John 3:13-17) and Reformation Day. I value the Lutheran tradition's emphasis on preaching Christ crucified and a theology of the cross.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of



the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

oremus Bible Browser: [1 Corinthians 1:18-24](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=88450377>

[Images for Christ the Power and Wisdom of God](#)

John 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>\*</sup> <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>-</sup>

<sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

oremus Bible Browser: [John 3:13-17](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+3:13-17>

[Images for john 3:16](#)

## Resources

### Cross-Shaped Leadership: On the Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice [John A. Berntsen]

For Lutheran pastor John Berntsen, the cross is about more than the crucifixion on Good Friday. It is shorthand for the whole drama of salvation – God’s decisive act of reconciling the world to God’s own self. The cross is dying and rising with Christ, but at a deeper level it is the story of the world’s resistance to grace. Those who lead are subject to the cross no less than others. In contrast with the current fashion for “visionary” or “purpose-driven” leaders, cross-shaped leaders are not primarily the providers of master plans, nor are they master builders. Cross-shaped leadership is provisional, contextual, and fallible—open-ended ministry that has the character of a pilot project. It is always under construction and revision.

Our moment-by-moment functioning in ministry is subject to countless deaths and resurrections, few of which are heroic or glorious. But Berntsen offers good news within this potentially dismal perspective. He writes, “Once we’ve accepted the truth that ministry is hard, even impossible - once we’ve stopped living in denial of this reality, or perhaps whining about it - it becomes the truth that sets us free. We cease being gloomy servants, weighed down by our resentful conviction that we are all alone in our work - the closet atheism born of the worry, ‘If I don’t do it, nobody will’ - and instead become joyful coworkers of a strong, wise, and consoling Lord.” With optimism, humor, and deep empathy, Berntsen’s *Cross-Shaped Leadership* offers hope and challenge in the midst of the rough and tumble of parish practice.

For Lutheran pastor John Berntsen, those who lead are subject to the cross no less than others. Cross-shaped leaders are not primarily the providers of master plans, nor are they master builders. Cross-shaped leadership is provisional, contextual, and fallible—an open-ended ministry that is always under construction and revision. Our moment-by-moment functioning in ministry is subject to countless deaths and resurrections, few of which are heroic or glorious. But Berntsen offers good news within this potentially dismal perspective.

<http://www.amazon.com/Cross-Shaped-Leadership-Tumble-Parish-Practice/dp/156699375X>

<https://alban.org/archive/the-impossible-task-of-ministry/>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995043>

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/paperbacktheology/2009/12/cross-shaped-leadership-review.html>

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/berntsen-cross-shaped-leadership.html>

<http://tspmedia.tsp.edu/2010/02/veteran-pastor-john-berntsen-appointed.html>

<http://alivenow.upperroom.org/2016/04/05/meet-the-writers-john-berntsen/>

[Images for Cross-Shaped Leadership: On the Rough and Tumble of Parish Practice \[John A. Berntsen\]](#)

### Divine foolishness – The Lutheran

STORY BY

ELIZABETH A. EATON

*Christ crucified is God’s clearest and most complete act of love*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart ([1 Corinthians 1:18-19](#)).

Uh oh.

Paul wrote this to the Corinthians who were going astray. They were quite smitten with the elegant formulas of the Greek philosophers. The wisdom of the wise was a good thing. Foolishness, on the other hand, was considered a moral defect. They had become boastful, and Paul had to remind them that not many of them were wise or powerful or noble according to the standards of the world.

The Corinthians had begun to believe that their own effort and understanding was the basis of their life and faith. It’s clear they had not read Martin Luther’s explanation of the third article of the Apostles’ Creed.

Their cultural context is not so different from our own. We value knowledge and power and privilege. And while it might have been true that not many in the Corinthian church were “wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of



noble birth” (verse 26) we are now. We can’t claim to be the 99 percent. We are the 1 percent. So what does that mean for the church today?

I remember the moment in a lecture hall in divinity school when I came to the abrupt and shocking realization that theology was not rocket science. This was quite disappointing because I was in a university full of actual rocket scientists. How could I hope to be taken seriously by other disciplines in the university — by the law school, the medical school, the business school — when what I was studying was the life and times of a Galilean preacher? I longed for a lab coat, a briefcase, even a calculator — anything that would demonstrate that my discipline was just as sophisticated, and therefore valuable, as any other. I wonder, sometimes, if the church is a little embarrassed by the foolishness of the cross. The foolishness is not just that the brutal and humiliating crucifixion of Jesus is actually the way God’s love was manifested, but that God’s love is so complete. This is the overwhelming simplicity of God. God loves us completely. There is no way or any need to dress that up. It just is. A contemporary Christian mystic said, “The relationship with God is so simple and deep and true and the church just wants to glitz it up.” Because this simple, deep, true relationship does not rise to the level of a complicated, technical, theoretical system.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=12155](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12155)

[Images for Divine foolishness – The Lutheran - STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=11932](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=11932)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/contact-us/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/issues/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/elizabeth-a-eaton/>

<https://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Churchwide-Officers/Presiding-Bishop>

[Images for ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_Eaton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Eaton)

<https://www.pinterest.com/neohiosynodelca/presiding-bishop-elizabeth-eaton/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/elcalutherans/installation-of-presiding-bishop-elizabeth-eaton/>

- **Theology of the cross**

The theology of the cross refers not just to the events of Good Friday. It also refers to a **cross-centered approach to theology** that stands in opposition to a “theology of glory” focused on the power and majesty of God abstracted from God’s action in history.

A theology of glory looks up and says, “God’s in heaven and all’s well with the world.” A theology of the cross, in contrast, keeps its feet firmly planted on our broken Earth and says, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to God.” The incarnation witnesses to a God who puts aside divine characteristics to become human, to suffer and to die.

The God who chooses to come down from heaven chooses not to come down from the cross. The theology of the cross is a constant critique of human expectations. While the cross is a scandal to nonbelievers, Christians confess that God’s saving power works precisely through such weakness ([1 Corinthians 1:23-25](#), [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5895&key=34751023](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5895&key=34751023) Lutheranism 101: Culture or confession?

[Images for Lutheranism 101: Culture or confession? | The Lutheran • Theology of the cross](#)

[Images for cross-centered approach to theology](#)

### **Feast of the Cross - Wikipedia**

This feast is called in **Greek** “Υψωση τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ<sup>[1]</sup> (“Raising Aloft of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross”) and in **Latin** *Exaltatio Sanctae Crucis*. In **English**, it is called The Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the official translation of the **Roman Missal**, while the 1973 translation called it The Triumph of the Cross. In some parts of the **Anglican Communion** the feast is called Holy Cross Day, a name also used by **Lutherans**. The celebration is also sometimes called Feast of the Glorious Cross.<sup>[2]</sup>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast\\_of\\_the\\_Cross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_the_Cross)

[Images for Feast of the Cross](#)

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Commentary - Working Preacher**

The core of Paul’s preaching is the word of the cross (1:18) and the **proclamation of Christ crucified** (1:23). Yet this is not a message geared to win friends or influence people. The cross was a lousy marketing tool in the first century world (as it most likely remains in the twenty-first century). Here it is important to realize fully the first century realities of crucifixion. This was the enactment of capital punishment meted out by the forces of the Roman Empire. It was reserved for those disreputable individuals or groups such as rebellious slaves, insurrectionists, pirates, or brigands who had threatened the divinely sanctioned social order of the Empire. Thus, the cross was the imperial instrument used to suppress subversion.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=259](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=259)

[Images for proclamation of Christ crucified](#)

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - Textweek**

["Foolishness,"](#) sermon discussion from Frederick Buechner, Frederick Buechner Blog.

"The message that a convicted felon was the bearer of God’s forgiving and transforming love was hard enough for anybody to swallow and for some especially so. For hellenized sophisticates—the Greeks, as Paul puts it - it could only seem absurd."

<http://www.textweek.com/pauline/1cor1c.htm>

[Images for 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - Textweek "Foolishness"](#)

#### H. Richard Niebuhr Quotes (Author of Christ and Culture) – Goodreads

A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross.

— H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Kingdom of God in America*

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/41386.H\\_Richard\\_Niebuhr](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/41386.H_Richard_Niebuhr)

[Images for H. Richard Niebuhr Quotes](#)

[Images for A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross. — H. Richard Niebuhr, The Kingdom of God in America](#)

#### Teacher Jokes at WorkJoke.com - Profession Jokes

The son looked at mom and dad and said, "Well, on the first day when I walked into the classroom, I saw a guy nailed to the plus sign at the back of the room behind the teacher's desk and I knew they meant business."

<http://www.workjoke.com/teachers-jokes.html>

[Images for The son looked at mom and dad and said, "Well, on the first day when I walked into the classroom, I saw a guy nailed to the plus sign at the back of the room behind the teacher's desk and I knew they meant business."](#)

#### The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology by Jurgen Moltmann (Author)

"This is Jürgen Moltmann's best and therefore most important book. He has substantially changed the central thrust of his theology without sacrificing its most vital element, its passionate concern for alleviation of the world's suffering." -Langdon Gilkey

"The Crucified God rewards, as it demands, the reader's patient and open-minded attention, for its theme is nothing other than the "explosive presence" of the sighting and liberating Spirit of God in the midst of human life." -The Review of Books and Religion

<https://www.amazon.com/Crucified-God-Foundation-Criticism-Christian/dp/0800628225>

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197365.The\\_Crucified\\_God](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/197365.The_Crucified_God)

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/190907-der-gekreuzigte-gott>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Crucified\\_God.html?id=fu5YdjDbas0C](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Crucified_God.html?id=fu5YdjDbas0C)

<https://sojo.net/magazine/august-september-1975/crucified-god-jurgen-moltmann>

<http://moltmanniac.com/the-crucified-god/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCrgen\\_Moltmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCrgen_Moltmann)

<https://www.logos.com/product/30952/the-crucified-god-the-cross-of-christ-as-the-foundation-and-criticism-of-christian-theology>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/crucified-god-40th-anniversary-edition>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/j%C3%BCrgen-moltmann>

<https://www.tyndale.ca/seminary/mtsmodular/reading-rooms/theology/moltmann>

<https://www.amazon.com/J%C3%BCrgen-Moltmann/e/B001H6OCL0>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/52217.J\\_rgen\\_Moltmann](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/52217.J_rgen_Moltmann)

[Images for Jurgen Moltmann \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Crucified God by Jurgen Moltmann \(Author\)](#)

[Images for The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology by Jurgen Moltmann](#)

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/clintbaldwin/jurgen-moltmann/>

#### The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible- Augsburg Fortress

How to Become a Theologian of the Cross (and Avoid Being a Theologian of Glory) Page 136

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/productgroup/535/The-Lutheran-Handbook>

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Lutheran-Handbook-Church-Everyday/dp/0806651792>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/317165.The\\_Lutheran\\_Handbook](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/317165.The_Lutheran_Handbook)

<https://www.logos.com/product/125780/the-lutheran-handbook-a-field-guide-to-church-stuff-everyday-stuff-and-the-bible>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/lutheran-handbook-augsburg-fortress-publishers/1100072853>

[Images for The Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible- Augsburg Fortress](#)

[Images for How to Become a Theologian of the Cross \(and Avoid Being a Theologian of Glory\)](#)

#### 14) Passion of Our Lord

My most meaningful service of worship of the year is Good Friday. It makes John 3:16 come alive. In addition, it is the service of worship when the faithful show up as contrasted to Christmas and Easter when cultural Christians show up. Sometimes, the congregation I am serving joins together with other congregations for a joint service of worship, and I adapt to the common service of worship for the day. But, when the congregation I am serving holds its own Good Friday worship, I use the order of worship provided in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 262. Instead of preaching a sermon, I believe it is sufficient to enact an assembly reading of the Passion of Our Lord according to John.

##### GATHERING

*All gather in silence.*

Prayer of the day

##### WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm

Psalm 22

Second Reading	Hebrews 10:16-25
Gospel	Passion Narrative John 18:1-40
Hymn	Ah, Holy Jesus
Gospel	Passion Narrative John 19:1-42
Hymn of the Day	Were You There

#### THANKSGIVING

Bidding Prayer  
Lord's Prayer

#### SENDING

Procession of the Cross  
*All depart in silence.*

My next most meaningful service of worship is Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. Like Good Friday, instead of delivering a sermon, I believe it is sufficient to enact an assembly reading of the Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew/Mark/Luke depending on the lectionary year. Culturally, I discovered in my travels to Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, Bolivia, and Columbia that the piety of many Christians in Latin America focuses more on the crucifixion because they believe God identifies with them in their suffering, whereas the piety of many Christians in North America focuses more on the resurrection. One of the most difficult weeks of my pastoral ministry came during the [Wisconsin's Coronavirus 'Stay-At-Home' Order March 25 through April 24](#) when the neon sign at the edge of town stated "*(name, name, name)* worship services canceled til further notice." Making it impossible to gather for services of worship during Holy Week 2020.

#### Resources

##### No Preaching Required by Karoline Lewis – Craft of Preaching

It's hard to compete with Palm/Passion Sunday. And maybe, you shouldn't.

Have you thought about letting the texts speak for themselves? Let this story simply be? Letting the liturgy do what it does and work as it should? Anything further on your part may very well be overkill -- every pun intended. As if you are trying too hard to cover every detail of Holy Week, trying to pack it all in, because you assume that you won't see many of these folks again until Easter Sunday. That's why we have Palm/Passion to begin with, right? Our concern that people won't come to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, so let's make sure we cover all the bases, just in case. How to get Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil all in before the women get to the empty tomb.

Don't try this at home. Not only is it not possible. It's not necessary.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?post=3569>

[Images for No Preaching Required by Karoline Lewis – Craft of Preaching - Palm/Passion Sunday](#)

##### The Passion of Our Lord According to Matthew: For Congregational Reading | Augsburg Fortress

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5138/The-Passion-of-Our-Lord-According-to-Matthew>

[Images for Passion of Our Lord According to Matthew](#)

##### The Passion of Our Lord According to Mark: For Assembly Reading | Augsburg Fortress

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5139/The-Passion-of-Our-Lord-According-to-Mark>

[Images for Passion of Our Lord According to Mark](#)

##### The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke: For Congregational Reading | Augsburg Fortress

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5140/The-Passion-of-Our-Lord-According-to-Luke>

[Images for Passion of Our Lord According to Luke](#)

##### The Passion of Our Lord According to John: For Congregational Reading | Augsburg Fortress

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5141/The-Passion-of-Our-Lord-According-to-John>

[Images for Passion of Our Lord According to John](#)

As a profession of faith, I have included The Second Article: *On Redemption* from the Small Catechism of Martin Luther in my will.

#### THE SMALL CATECHISM

##### THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting right-

eousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>  
[Images for SMALL CATECHISM THE SECOND ARTICLE](#)

## 15) An idle tale

Preaching on Easter presents its own challenges particularly in speaking to those “poinsettias and lilies” members and attenders. Easter Day C 2016 became a pleasant surprise for me when I stumbled across some articles that provided a unique take on the offensive nature of the “idle tale” in Luke 24:11.

The Resurrection of Jesus

<sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them **an idle tale**, and they did not believe them.

[oremus Bible Browser: Luke 24:11](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?version=nrsv&passage=Luke%2024:11>

[Images for Resurrection of Jesus](#)

### Resources

An astonishing case of vulgarity

There are the women visiting the tomb of Jesus that Easter Sunday, only to find instead of a body there are two men dressed in white telling them that Jesus has been raised. They tell the disciples the news and they are greeted with *That's bull\*\*\*\**. You won't actually find that expression in your Bible of course. It will say 'nonsense' or 'an idle tale'. But that is what *leiros* means in Greek<sup>1</sup>.

[Church Notices - Bramhall Methodist Church](#)

<http://www.bramhallmethodists.org.uk/index.php/resources/church-notice>

[Images for women visiting the tomb of Jesus that Easter Sunday](#)

### Sweating, Spitting, and Cursing: Intimations of the Sacred

Anna Carter Florence suggests that translators have softened the meaning of *leiros* in Luke 24:11 with translations like “an idle tale” when it “means ‘nonsense,’ ‘drivel,’ ‘trash,’ ‘garbage,’ ‘crap,’ ‘bull,’ or in its more vulgar form, ‘~!@#%?^&!.\*.”<sup>[47]</sup> She adds that *leiros* is not used anywhere else in the New Testament, amplifying its effect.<sup>[48]</sup> When the purity of the Greek is not censored by the preacher, this text reveals a striking paradox:

The gospel has always met with ridicule, right from the very first time it was preached. It has always sounded like a lot of *leiros*. It has always been more than the church can handle, even when it is the very thing the church prays for; not even the disciples, as much as they loved Jesus, could take the good news.<sup>[49]</sup>

<http://practicalmattersjournal.org/2015/03/01/sweating-spitting-cursing/>

[Images for Sweating, Spitting, and Cursing: Intimations of the Sacred](#)

I also related how I had watched the movie *Risen* with a handful from the congregation on a Sunday matinee a few weeks earlier at the local movie theatre.

### [Risen - Official Site | Sony Pictures](#)

Risen is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton), are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

<http://www.risen-movie.com/#story>

[Images for Risen movie](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucUbAAMEF8M> RISEN Trailer (2016) – YouTube

[Images for RISEN Trailer \(2016\) – YouTube](#)

From the very beginning, the resurrection story has been met with dismissive skepticism, and today - with those who consider themselves Spiritual but not Religious, as well as the Nones and the Dones - is no exception. But the crucified and risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit continues to change lives.

## 16) Is self-help the way to go?

Admonition to Trust and Honor God

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

It will be a healing for your flesh  
and a refreshment for your body.

[Proverbs 3:5-8 - oremus Bible Browser](#)



<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=343640697>  
[Images for Admonition to Trust and Honor God](#)

Would I be better off giving up lectionary preaching and going for self-help series preaching?

### Resources

#### Christian Growth Network: Self-Help Preaching

The Difference Between Self-Help and Biblical Preaching.  
[www.christiangrowthnetwork.com/self-help-preaching.html](http://www.christiangrowthnetwork.com/self-help-preaching.html)  
[Images for Difference Between Self-Help and Biblical Preaching](#)

#### Self-Help and the Gospel | HuffPost

The problem with the self-help gospel is that it focuses on our own individual needs without recognizing that Christ calls people to follow him.  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-carey/selfhelp-and-the-gospel\\_b\\_4220149.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-carey/selfhelp-and-the-gospel_b_4220149.html)  
[Images for Self-Help and the Gospel | HuffPost](#)

#### 10 Pastors I'm Concerned About – Scott Postma

I'm concerned about the pastor who attracts people with fancy **self-help** sermons instead of teaching people to be students of the Bible and theology. Sure, topical sermons can be helpful teaching tools when used appropriately and in moderation. But to pique the interest of the unchurched, church-growth advocates have promoted episodic sermons *ad nauseam* and to no avail at effectively grounding deeply committed disciples of Jesus, as the statistics provided previously demonstrate.  
<http://www.scottpostma.net/2014/04/10/10-pastors-concerned-about/>  
[Images for fancy self-help sermons](#)

## 17) Theology or therapy?

While I appreciate the insights from psychology and sociology, I do not want these methods to become the message.

### Resources

#### Exilic Preaching: Testimony for Christian Exiles in an Increasingly Hostile Culture by Walter Brueggemann (Author), Stanley Hauerwas (Author), Barbara Brown Taylor (Author), Will Willimon (Author), Erskine Clarke (Editor)

On the cultural level, postmodernism denies the existence of any single system of objective truth. All truth is private truth.<sup>7</sup> Any attempt, it is said, to claim a center, an essence, or an essential purpose to human life is a political act.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, we create in our own minds the world in which we live. Consequently, among the results of post-modernism is a narcissistic culture preoccupied with self and with a **therapeutic quest for "self-fulfillment."**<sup>9</sup> The domestication of the church within such a culture speaks of an even deeper level of crisis than the loss of the church's traditional social function within U.S. society. A comfortably domesticated church has abandoned **theological language**, and the way of understanding the world that the language represents, for the language and world of therapy.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1563382466> Page 3  
<https://www.amazon.com/Exilic-Preaching-Testimony-Christian-Increasingly/dp/1563382466>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Exilic\\_Preaching.html?id=L9\\_UqOxnhyJC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Exilic_Preaching.html?id=L9_UqOxnhyJC)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Walter-Brueggemann/e/B001ILID72>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48472.Walter\\_Brueggemann](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/48472.Walter_Brueggemann)  
[Images for Walter Brueggemann \(Author\)](#)  
<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/>  
<http://www.walterbrueggemann.com/resources/books/books-by-walter-brueggemann/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter\\_Brueggemann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Brueggemann)  
<http://stanleyhauerwas.blogspot.com/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley\\_Hauerwas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Hauerwas)  
<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/stanley-hauerwas>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Stanley-Hauerwas/e/B000APV13K>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4476986.Stanley\\_Hauerwas](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/4476986.Stanley_Hauerwas)  
[Images for Stanley Hauerwas \(Author\)](#)  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogeroelsson/2016/03/stanley-hauerwas-and-the-church/>  
<http://www.barbarabrowntaylor.com/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Brown\\_Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Brown_Taylor)  
<https://www.amazon.com/Barbara-Brown-Taylor/e/B001H6U4WK>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/71455.Barbara\\_Brown\\_Taylor](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/71455.Barbara_Brown_Taylor)  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/71455.Barbara\\_Brown\\_Taylor](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/71455.Barbara_Brown_Taylor)  
[Images for Barbara Brown Taylor \(Author\)](#)  
<https://www.amazon.com/William-H.-Willimon/e/B001IGHNA0>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/10467.William\\_H\\_Willimon](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/10467.William_H_Willimon)  
[Images for Will Willimon \(Author\)](#)  
<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/william-willimon>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Henry\\_Willimon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Willimon)  
[https://www.isbns.net/author/J\\_Erskine\\_Clarke](https://www.isbns.net/author/J_Erskine_Clarke)

[Images for Exilic Preaching: Testimony for Christian Exiles in an Increasingly Hostile Culture by Walter Brueggemann \(Author\), Stanley Hauerwas \(Author\), Barbara Brown Taylor \(Author\), Will Willimon \(Author\), Erskine Clarke \(Editor\)](#)

**Homiletical Theology: Preaching as Doing Theology (The Promise of Homiletical Theology) [David Schnasa Jacobsen, David Buttrick]**

Karl Barth famously argued that all theology is sermon preparation. But what if all sermon preparation is actually theology? This book pursues a thoroughgoing theological vision for the practice of preaching as a way of doing theology. The idea is not just that homiletics is the realm of theological application. That would leave preaching in the position of simply implementing a theology already arrived at. Instead, the vision in these pages is of a form of theology that begins with preaching itself: its practice, its theories, and its contexts. Homiletical theology is thus a unique way of doing theology—even a constructive theological task in its own right. Homiletician David Schnasa Jacobsen has assembled several of the leading lights of contemporary homiletics to help to see its task ever more deeply as theological, yet in profoundly diverse ways. Along the way, readers will not only discover how homileticians do theology homiletically but will deepen the way in which they understand their own preaching as a theological task.

<http://www.amazon.com/Homiletical-Theology-Preaching-Doing-Promise/dp/1625645651>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1630878758>

[http://www.bu.edu/homiletical-theology-project/files/2015/04/Jacobsen\\_45654\\_Excerpt.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/homiletical-theology-project/files/2015/04/Jacobsen_45654_Excerpt.pdf)

<http://www.bu.edu/sth/profile/david-schnasa-jacobsen/>

<http://www.bu.edu/homiletical-theology-project/>

[http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699529\\_Jacobsen\\_blog.pdf](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800699529_Jacobsen_blog.pdf)

<https://www.amazon.com/David-Schnasa-Jacobsen/e/B001H6U0BK>

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2\\_jacobsen\\_david\\_schnasa](https://www.workingpreacher.org/profile/default.aspx?uid=2_jacobsen_david_schnasa)

<http://fortresspress.com/author/david-schnasa-jacobsen>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-schnasa-jacobsen-24b750bb>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD2oIZK88Xs> Faculty Book Interview with David Schnasa Jacobsen February 23, 2015

<https://vimeo.com/14806250> David Schnasa Jacobsen - Kairos Preaching

<http://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/2010/10/04/kairos-preaching-interview-with-david-schnasa-jacobsen/>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/498109.David\\_Schnasa\\_Jacobsen](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/498109.David_Schnasa_Jacobsen)

[Images for David Schnasa Jacobsen, author preaching](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/David-G.-Buttrick/e/B000APFJSI>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1174838.David\\_G\\_Buttrick](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1174838.David_G_Buttrick)

[Images for David Buttrick, author preaching](#)

[Images for Homiletical Theology: Preaching as Doing Theology \(The Promise of Homiletical Theology\) \[David Schnasa Jacobsen, David Buttrick\]](#)

<https://wipfandstock.com/catalog/series/view/id/168/>

[Images for Promise of Homiletical Theology](#)

**How We Moved from Theological to Therapeutic Preaching—and Why It Matters**

Many of the fastest growing churches today have pulpit preaching based on self-help positive messages with or without Scripture as an appendage.

<http://churchleaders.com/pastors/258620-moved-theological-therapeutic-preaching-matters.html>

[Images for How We Moved from Theological to Therapeutic Preaching—and Why It Matters](#)

**Preaching and Culture in Latino Congregations by Kenneth G. Davis (Author, Editor), Jorge L. Presmanes (Editor)**

Though this spirituality is highly attractive to Christians in a **therapeutic** culture, it is inconsistent with the missiological endeavor of the church.

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1568543638>

Page 16

[Images for Though this spirituality is highly attractive to Christians in a therapeutic culture, it is inconsistent with the missiological endeavor of the church.](#)

Good preaching and good ministry can happen only when the minister respects the way that the word has become flesh in a particular community: the way stories are told, children are raised, history is remembered, art is made. Wonderfully, this immersion is no chore. It is a delight. With an emphasis on preaching but a concern for all aspects of ministry, the eight authors of the articles in this book explore the blessing that is the Hispanic presence in the United States. Contributors include Rosa Maria Icaza, Maria Luisa Iglesias, SC, Jaime Lara, Juan J. Sosa, Raul Gomez, and Victor Alvarez. Their words will open the eyes of non-Hispanics and have wisdom for Hispanics themselves as all of us approach a privileged moment for the Catholic Church in the United States. Some of the articles in this new book appeared in the Fall/Winter 2000 issue of Chicago Studies. Published by Liturgy Training Publications.

<https://www.amazon.com/Preaching-Culture-Latino-Congregations-Kenneth/dp/1568543638>

<https://www.jacketflap.com/kenneth-c-davis/88230>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=142672098X>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=142672098X>

Note 38

<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1242&context=asburyjournal>

<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/documents/2016/6/litPreachingResources.pdf>

[http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/faith\\_formation\\_with\\_hispanic\\_families\\_-\\_miranda.pdf](http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/faith_formation_with_hispanic_families_-_miranda.pdf)

<https://litpress.org/Products/GetSample/4805/9780814648056>

Page 141

[http://www.domlife.org/Books/Jorge\\_L\\_Presmanes\\_Books.html](http://www.domlife.org/Books/Jorge_L_Presmanes_Books.html)

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0742548570>

Page 133

<http://repository.usfca.edu/jhit/vol10/iss1/3/> Hispanic Catholic Leadership: Key to the Future

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/428746.Kenneth\\_G\\_Davis](https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/428746.Kenneth_G_Davis)

Images for Kenneth G. Davis (Author, Editor) preaching

Images for Preaching and Culture in Latino Congregations by Kenneth G. Davis (Author, Editor), Jorge L. Presmanes (Editor)

### Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art (Fortress Resources for Preaching) [Leonora Tubbs Tisdale]

Illustrated throughout by cases of the author and others, this book tells how to analyze a congregation so that the preacher's sermon really fits his audience. The book then gives practical help for preparing and delivering sermons that are meaningful and appropriate. Tisdale draws from contextual theology and congregational studies.

<http://www.amazon.com/Preaching-Local-Theology-Fortress-Resources/dp/0800627733>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1036158.Preaching-as-Local-Theology-and-Folk-Art>

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/2091/Preaching-as-Local-Theology-and-Folk-Art?c=257625>

<http://fortresspress.com/product/preaching-local-theology-and-folk-art>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/preaching-as-local-theology-and-folk-art-leonora-tubbs-tisdale/1117052545>

<https://www.logos.com/product/7984/preaching-as-local-theology-and-folk-art>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching\\_as\\_Local\\_Theology\\_and\\_Folk\\_Art.html?id=fCaRdnbkYmC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Preaching_as_Local_Theology_and_Folk_Art.html?id=fCaRdnbkYmC)

<https://www.politics-prose.com/book/9780800627737>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/259978.Leonora\\_Tubbs\\_Tisdale](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/259978.Leonora_Tubbs_Tisdale)

Images for Leonora Tubbs Tisdale (author)

Images for Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art (Fortress Resources for Preaching) [Leonora Tubbs Tisdale]

<https://www.librarything.com/series/Fortress+Resources+for+Preaching>

Images for Fortress Resources for Preaching

### Preaching Doctrine: For the Twenty-First Century by Robert G. Hughes (Author); Robert Kysar (Author)

Fewer people today are familiar with the vital **theological** ideas from the Christian tradition. Preaching about the continuing relevance and richness of this heritage is one of the pastor's most important responsibilities in this age of relativities. Robert Hughes and Robert Kysar show how this situation has come about and offer imaginative and empowering suggestions for proclaiming Christianity's profoundest truths to a new generation.

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/2212/Preaching-Doctrine-For-the-Twenty-First-Century?c=245488>

[http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/19-1\\_Preaching/19-1\\_Reviews.pdf](http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/content/pdfs/19-1_Preaching/19-1_Reviews.pdf)

<http://fortresspress.com/author/robert-g-hughes>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-G.-Hughes/e/B001KHQAN8>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/139544.Robert\\_G\\_Hughes](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/139544.Robert_G_Hughes)

Images for Robert G. Hughes (Author) preaching doctrine

<http://fortresspress.com/author/robert-kysar>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Kysar/e/B001IODJAU>

[http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/373187.Robert\\_Kysar](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/373187.Robert_Kysar)

Images for robert kysar (author)

Images for Preaching Doctrine: For the Twenty-First Century by Robert G. Hughes (Author); Robert Kysar (Author)

### Proclaiming the Gospel: Preaching for the Life of the Church edited by Brian K. Peterson

In 1966, Philip Rieff prophesied the advent of a **therapeutic** culture in the church in which faith became a kind of shorthand for affirmed humanity and the gospel was made synonymous with an altered self-understanding.<sup>10</sup> In 1993, Marsha Witten's study of mainline preaching displays the fruit of that therapeutic culture as it is manifest in mainline Protestantism's preaching: sentimentality passed off as the key to self-realization, the gospel as emotional catharsis and consolation.<sup>11</sup>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1451404581>

Page 173

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Proclaiming\\_the\\_Gospel.html?id=s4iMAkyNmYYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Proclaiming_the_Gospel.html?id=s4iMAkyNmYYC)

This volume captures central emphases of the Lutheran tradition for use in preaching, especially its distinctive use of the Bible, its Archimedean theological insights, and its notion of preaching's place within the larger liturgical and societal setting. Working from across the whole array of seminary disciplines, the faculty of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary forges this **practical resource around a single vision: the Church of Christ lives from the power of the Word of God, both the law and the gospel**. Preaching this Word is a means of grace by which God creates and shapes a redeemed community. This book reflects biblically, theologically, historically, and practically on what it means for the church to preach the gospel of God in the contemporary world.

<https://www.amazon.com/Proclaiming-Gospel-Preaching-Life-Church/dp/0800663314>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/proclaiming-the-gospel-brian-k-peterson/1100921413>

<http://www.homiletic.net/index.php/homiletic/article/viewFile/3365/1586>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1442229268> What Happened on "The Night"? Judas, God, and the Importance of Liturgical

Ambiguity

<https://www.gbhem.org/sites/default/files/vol17no2summer1997.pdf>

Page 87

<https://www.logos.com/product/53547/baker-studies-on-preaching-collection>

<https://www.heartsandmindsbooks.com/2017/01/>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1428666.Brian\\_K\\_Peterson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1428666.Brian_K_Peterson)

[Images for Brian K. Peterson, author preaching](#)

[Images for Proclaiming the Gospel: Preaching for the Life of the Church edited by Brian K. Peterson](#)

## 18) Messed life and blessed life

I finished an assignment on 4/15/2020, and the assignment that I was scheduled to start on 4/16 fell through. With social distancing being practiced during the COVID-19 pandemic threat, I could not attend services of worship and so listened to services of worship. On 6/7, I listened to the ELCA service of worship on the local radio station at 9am and then the Wesleyan service of worship at 10am. The Wesleyan church planned to re-open the following Sunday, while the ELCA congregation planned to refrain from re-opening for an indefinite period of time. The Wesleyan pastor spoke about the civil unrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota and in places throughout the country and the world following the death of an unarmed black man in police custody. He spoke of life not lived in the image of God as the “messed life” and of life lived in the image of God as the “blessed life.”

### Resources

[What Does the Bible Say About Messing Up? - OpenBible.info](#)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/messing\\_up](https://www.openbible.info/topics/messing_up)

[Images for Bible and messing up](#)

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2015/01/05/hope-for-the-messed-up-life>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/women/how-to-recover-when-you-know-you-messed-up.html>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/women/7-reasons-to-trust-god-in-the-middle-of-your-mess.html>

<https://bible.org/article/life-midst-mess>

<https://letterpile.com/inspirational/How-To-Get-Back-Up-When-Youve-Messed-Up>

<https://billygraham.org/answer/ive-messed-up-my-life-so-badly-that-i-cant-even-imagine-god-has-any-future-for-me/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/lcain62/god-is-bigger-than-my-mess/>

[What Does the Bible Say About Blessed? - OpenBible.info](#)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/blessed>

[Images for Bible and blessed](#)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/being\\_blessed](https://www.openbible.info/topics/being_blessed)

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/blessings>

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Being-Blessed/>

<https://biblereasons.com/being-blessed/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/theology/what-does-it-mean-to-be-blessed.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-does-it-really-mean-to-be-blessed>

<https://unlockingthebible.org/2015/11/what-does-it-really-mean-to-be-blessed/>

<https://www.wycliffe.org/blessed/how-jesus-challenges-your-blessed-life>

[Images for What does it mean to be blessed by God?](#)

<https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible-verses-about-blessings-40>

<https://blog.biblesforamerica.org/what-does-it-mean-to-be-blessed-by-god/>

<https://dailyverses.net/blessing>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/8-promised-blessings-and-their-fulfillment-god-s-perfect-plan>

<https://pastorrick.com/six-biblical-truths-about-gods-blessing/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-blessings/>

<http://www.stpancraschichester.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1207643550.pdf> blessing a great theme of the bible what does “bless” mean?

<https://iblp.org/questions/what-power-spoken-blessing>

<https://www.kcm.org/real-help/faith/learn/10-scriptures-about-the-power-the-blessing>

<https://www.quora.com/What-is-a-blessing-according-to-the-Bible>

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/07/11/top-7-bible-verses-about-blessings/>

## 19) Preaching the foolishness of the cross

I attended the Paul Grandlund Sculpture Dedication at the Northwestern Hall Chapel of the Cross during the Mid-Winter Convocation 2015 Religious but Not Spiritual Jan. 28-30 Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN [2015 Mid-Winter Convocation - Luther Seminary](#). Campus Pastor Laura Thelander appropriately read from 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 on preaching the foolishness of the cross in her devotion. I was reminded that the purpose of my theological education was to train me to preach this message.

“Down + Out – Where Grace Takes You”





The image featured on the cover of "Down + Out" is of a large bronze crucifix created by sculptor Paul Granlund. The side pieces resemble a ladder, reminding us that the work of Christ was still under construction as he died on the cross.

All-New Resources from Centered Life® Stimulate Small-Group Discussion

[http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article\\_id=270&issue\\_id=27](http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=270&issue_id=27)

## 20) Preaching in the age of the new Gnosticism

A man came up to me and asked, "What do you think of the DaVinci Code?" I replied that I had not read the book or watched the movie and considered it to be fiction. As it turned out, his wife had read the book, bought the film, and watched it 4 times. The new Gnosticism appeals, not only to the "spiritual but not religious," who stay away from church but also to those who sit in the pews at services of worship. The question brought me up short to be more aware of this spirituality that extends beyond the New Agers to church folk. Gnosticism, as I understand it, proposes an individualized spirituality supposedly based on a higher form of knowledge.

### Resources

[PDF] [A History of the Ancient Creedal Texts - Augsburg Fortress](#)

Once taken for granted in a world that was largely Christian, the so-called ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian—today find themselves pushed increasingly into the foreground of a postmodern world for at least two reasons. First, they have become increasingly important because of the need to define the boundaries of historical Christianity in the face of numerous attempts to redefine Christianity in the light of ancient **Gnosticism** and revisionist versions of Christianity. However, some may wish to revise the picture of early Christianity, the creeds define historically the faith as Christians have confessed it from its earliest centuries on. They embody the constituent components of the church's confession of Christ. Second, in a world of thirty thousand Christian denominations, the creeds set forth what all Christians have held in common throughout history. While each denomination or church body arose in a particular era and thus was shaped by it, they all arose out of a common history in the early church and lay claim to it.<sup>1</sup> In a pluralistic age, it has become increasingly important to stress what it means to be Christian as well as Lutheran. The ecumenical creeds fit the bill well.

<http://augsburgfortress.org/media/downloads/9780800627416Chapter1.pdf>

[Images for A History of the Ancient Creedal Texts - Augsburg Fortress](#)

[Gnosticism and the Gnostic Jesus - Christian Research](#)

Gnosticism as a philosophy refers to a related body of teachings that stress the acquisition of "gnosis," or inner knowledge. The knowledge sought is not strictly intellectual, but mystical; not merely a detached knowledge of or about something, but a knowing by acquaintance or participation. This gnosis is the inner and esoteric mystical knowledge of ultimate reality. It discloses the spark of divinity within, thought to be obscured by ignorance, convention, and mere exoteric religiosity.

<http://www.equip.org/article/gnosticism-and-the-gnostic-jesus/>

[Images for Gnosticism and the Gnostic Jesus - Christian Research](#)

[Gnosticism, New Age & DaVinci Code - Crossroads Initiative](#)

But the appeal of these currents also constitute their undoing. Both the *New Age* movement and the **The Da Vinci Code** seek spirituality without sacrifice, without authority, without the cross. They follow ancient Gnosticism in preserving a veneer of Christianity while emptying it of its heart and soul.

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/gnosticism-new-age-davinci-code/>

[Images for Gnosticism, New Age & DaVinci Code](#)

[Mystical Gnosticism Enters Church Doors – Yahwehs Restoration Ministry](#)

Popularized by the '80s New Age Movement, the **dogma of self-glorification** moved into mainstream culture and now into the Main Street church. Ancient mystery worship is back. One of its daughters, Gnosticism, began to permeate the New Testament movement early on and to pollute true teachings nearly from the start. So insidious were its diabolical dogmas that they were to dramatically influence the next 2,000 years of church doctrine and worship, opening the door to the grand-scale sacrilege we see today. It is time we learned where today's trendy doctrines really came from and how you can come out from under the spell of an age-old scourge that Paul calls "damnable heresies" and their "pernicious ways that many would follow."

<http://www.yrm.org/gnos-churchdoors.htm>

[Images for Mystical Gnosticism Enters Church Doors – Yahwehs Restoration Ministry](#)

[Images for New Age Movement, the dogma of self-glorification](#)

[New Age - Wikipedia](#)

The New Age is a term applied to a range of **spiritual** or **religious** beliefs and practices that developed in **Western nations** during the 1970s. Precise scholarly definitions of the New Age differ in their emphasis, largely as a result of its highly **eclectic** structure. Although analytically often considered to be religious, those involved in it typically prefer the designation of "spiritual" and rarely use the term "New Age" themselves. Many scholars of the subject refer to it as the New Age movement, although others contest this term and suggest that it is better seen as a **milieu** or **zeitgeist**.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Age)

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Age](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Age)

[Images for New Age](#)

[The New Gnosticism - Modern Reformation - Articles](#)

Christianity's cardinal belief in salvation by God becoming flesh, and by his fleshly resurrection promising resurrection of our

bodies, was anathema to Gnosticism, as it was foolishness to Greeks who generally saw spirit as good, and matter as evil.  
<http://www.modernreformation.org/default.php?page=articledisplay&var2=695>  
[Images for New Gnosticism - Modern Reformation - Articles](#)

A theology of the incarnation and a theology of the cross counter the “spiritual but not religious” mystical Gnosticism.

#### The Word Became Flesh

<sup>14</sup> And the **Word became flesh** and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>15</sup> full of grace and truth.

[oremus Bible Browser: John 1:1-14](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+1:1-14>

[Images for Word Became Flesh](#)

#### Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but **we proclaim Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

[oremus Bible Browser: 1 Corinthians 1:21-25](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=288910866>

[Images for Christ the Power and Wisdom of God](#)

The five marks of what it means to continue in the covenant of Baptism [[Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#) Affirmation of Baptism page 234] stand in contrast to “spiritual but not religious” mystical Gnosticism.

#### Resources

##### LIVE Among God's Faithful People - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/~link.aspx?id=CAEC8178995A4F0DBB302DC27115543A&z=z>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Live>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Covenant.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf) Page 3

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/01/form-a-faithful-foundation/>

[https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five\\_gifts\\_of\\_discipleship\\_and\\_stewardship.pdf](https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five_gifts_of_discipleship_and_stewardship.pdf)

<https://www.bethel-madison.org/sermon/living-among-gods-faithful-people>

<https://www.bethel-madison.org/video/oct-19-2014-live-among-gods-faithful-people>

<http://stmatthewqc.org/faith-practices-living-our-baptism/>

<http://stmarksconshy.org/sermons/live-among-gods-faithful-believers/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2014/08/confirmation/>

[Images for LIVE Among God's Faithful People – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

##### HEAR the Word of God - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/~link.aspx?id=05A76C5455294A5E80ACA5A45D95EA37&z=z>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Hear>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Covenant.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf) Page 4

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/01/form-a-faithful-foundation/>

[https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five\\_gifts\\_of\\_discipleship\\_and\\_stewardship.pdf](https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five_gifts_of_discipleship_and_stewardship.pdf)

<https://www.saintandrews.org/about-us/who-we-are/what-we-believe/>

[Images for images HEAR the Word of God – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

##### PROCLAIM the Good News of God in Christ through Word and Deed – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/~link.aspx?id=948BA94102C74EA6ABFEE6B603E46B53&z=z>

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Proclaim>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Covenant.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf) Page 5

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/01/form-a-faithful-foundation/>

[https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five\\_gifts\\_of\\_discipleship\\_and\\_stewardship.pdf](https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five_gifts_of_discipleship_and_stewardship.pdf)

[http://www.bethany.net/content.cfm?id=151&blog\\_id=264](http://www.bethany.net/content.cfm?id=151&blog_id=264) Proclaim the Good News - Bethany Lutheran Church

<http://go2trinity.org/sermons/proclaim-good-news-christ-word-deed/>

<http://www.alcsuncity.org/what-we-believe>

<https://fbsynod.com/2017/03/20/living-your-baptism-week-3-proclaim-the-good-news-of-god-through-word-and-deed/>

[Images for PROCLAIM the Good News of God in Christ through Word and Deed – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

##### SERVE All People Following The Example of Jesus - ELCA

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Serve>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Covenant.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf) Page 6

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/01/form-a-faithful-foundation/>

[https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five\\_gifts\\_of\\_discipleship\\_and\\_stewardship.pdf](https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five_gifts_of_discipleship_and_stewardship.pdf)  
Images for SERVE All People Following the Example of Jesus - ELCA

**STRIVE for Justice and Peace in All the Earth – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant/Strive>  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Covenant.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf) Page 7

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/01/form-a-faithful-foundation/>

[https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five\\_gifts\\_of\\_discipleship\\_and\\_stewardship.pdf](https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/five_gifts_of_discipleship_and_stewardship.pdf)

<https://www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/about-us/mission-vision-values>

[https://www.jhsph.edu/sebin/o/o/ELCA\\_Social\\_Statement\\_Environment.pdf](https://www.jhsph.edu/sebin/o/o/ELCA_Social_Statement_Environment.pdf)

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/ELCAVotes/Called>

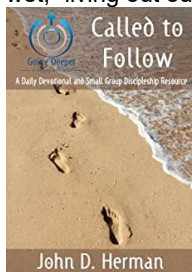
<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PeaceSS.pdf>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The\\_Vision\\_Of\\_The\\_ELCA.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The_Vision_Of_The_ELCA.pdf)

Images for STRIVE for Justice and Peace in All the Earth – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Called to Follow: A Daily Devotional and Small Group Discipleship Resource (Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus Book 3) - Kindle edition by John D. Herman.**

*Called to Follow*, Book Three of the *Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus* series, uses the outline of the baptismal covenant from the Affirmation of Baptism service to describe the characteristics of what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus. Christians at all points on their faith journeys will find this to be an in-depth and challenging companion. We learn to live daily, “walking wet,” living out our baptism, born anew to become the hands and feet of Christ for the world.



<http://www.amazon.com/Called-Follow-Devotional-Discipleship-Resource-ebook/dp/B00I2Y1MD0>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Small\\_Group\\_Resource.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Small_Group_Resource.pdf)

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living\\_Our\\_Baptismal\\_Overview.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Overview.pdf)

[https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=dp\\_byline\\_sr\\_book\\_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=John+D.+Herman&search-alias=books-ca](https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=John+D.+Herman&search-alias=books-ca)

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8284253.John\\_D\\_Herman](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/8284253.John_D_Herman)

Images for John D. Herman, author preaching

Images for *Called to Follow: A Daily Devotional and Small Group Discipleship Resource (Going Deeper: A Journey with Jesus Book 3) - Kindle edition by John D. Herman.*

## 21) A new works righteousness

Martin Luther preached against works righteousness in his day. He preached grace as the answer to the question of dread as a result of practicing works righteousness. Today, works righteousness is alive and well as described in *Are You 'Spiritual' but Not Religious?* | *HuffPost* as “...it is simply yourself helping you, using a power you dared not suspect that you possessed” and in *Moralistic Therapeutic Deism--the New American Religion* that “Good people go to heaven when they die.”

The new life in Christ

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

oremus Bible Browser: Eph. 2:8-9

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Eph.%202:8-9&version=nrsv>

Images for new life in Christ

## Resources

*Are You 'Spiritual' but Not Religious?* | *The Huffington Post*

But from another point of view, it is simply yourself helping you, using a power you dared not suspect that you possessed. Be it prayers or meditation, religion or self-awareness, it is all different faces of the same beast. But it's time for us to take off the masks and look directly at the face of the Infinite. We just might see our own reflection.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-baksa/has-anyone-ever-told-you-\\_b\\_5587762.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-baksa/has-anyone-ever-told-you-_b_5587762.html)

Images for *Are You 'Spiritual' but Not Religious?* | *The Huffington Post*

*Moralistic Therapeutic Deism--the New American Religion*

As described by Smith and his team, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism consists of beliefs like these: 1. “A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.” 2. “God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.” 3. “The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.” 4. “God does not need to be particularly involved in one’s life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.” 5. “Good people go to heaven when they die.”

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/moralistic-therapeutic-deism-the-new-american-religion-6266/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic\\_therapeutic\\_deism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moralistic_therapeutic_deism)  
[Images for Moralistic Therapeutic Deism--the New American Religion](#)

Could it be today that the message to be spoken is that God frees people *from* the pursuit of feeling good about themselves and frees people *for* serving God and others. This purpose is bigger than the individualistic pursuit of happiness? This purpose in life is answering the call of God to be involved in God's mission for this world and for service to the neighbor.

### **The Church Isn't Meeting My Needs – Part 1 | Pastor Brian's Blog**

As a pastor, I've heard plenty of those who have let me know how the church has let them down, but I've rarely heard from those who have realized how they've let the church down.

The needs of a lost world are too critical for us to waste time.

Let's get busy being the hands and feet of Jesus.

<http://www.pastorbrianmoss.com/the-church-isnt-meeting-my-needs/>

[Images for Church Isn't Meeting My Needs](#)

[Images for The needs of a lost world are too critical for us to waste time. Let's get busy being the hands and feet of Jesus.](#)

## **22) Preaching in the age of Oprah**

Oprah Winfrey personifies the god within spirituality. A big challenge for today is to preach of a Christian faith that is bigger than personal empowerment.

### **Resources**

#### **Alan J. Roxburgh Quotes (Author of Missional Church) - Goodreads**

"I am aware of how often over the past year I have listened to sermons and religious leaders turn the biblical narratives into a useful handbook for making one's life work more successful. I'm aware of how this **Oprahization** of the Christian narrative has turned us ever more quickly into anxiety-laden, functional atheists needing ways to use God to make our lives work."

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/24964.Alan\\_J\\_Roxburgh](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/24964.Alan_J_Roxburgh)

<http://www.amazon.com/Missional-Joining-Neighborhood-Allelon-Series/dp/080107231X>

<http://themissionalnetwork.com/uncategorized/alan-roxburgh/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Alan-J.-Roxburgh/e/B001JS65UQ>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/24964.Alan\\_J\\_Roxburgh](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/24964.Alan_J_Roxburgh)

<https://www.ivpress.com/alan-j-roxburgh>

<http://journalofmissionalpractice.com/practices-of-a-missional-people/>

[Images for Alan J. Roxburgh Quotes \(Author of Missional Church\)](#)

#### **'Heretics': The Crisis Of American Christianity: NPR**

"From there I move to what I call the god within, which is the heresy of Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*, of **Oprah Winfrey**, of Deepak Chopra and Eckhart Tolle. ... It's less that God wants you to be rich and more that God is there to make you feel happy about yourself. And that the point of spiritual wisdom is not necessarily strenuous prayer and fasting and moral transformation. It's more sort of blessing impulses you already have. ... This ends up putting a kind of Christian stamp on narcissism, where the things we already want to do, we tell ourselves, are things that God wants us to do, too.

<https://www.npr.org/2012/04/14/150437554/heretics-the-crisis-of-american-christianity>

[Images for 'Heretics': The Crisis Of American Christianity: NPR](#)

From the popular New York Times columnist, a powerful and original critique of how American Christianity has gone astray — and the deeply troubling consequences for American life and politics. As the youngest-ever op-ed columnist for The New York Times and the author of the critically acclaimed books *Privilege* and *Grand New Party*, Ross Douthat has emerged as one of the most provocative and influential voices of his generation. Now he offers a masterful and hard-hitting account of how American Christianity has gone off the rails — and why it threatens to take American society with it.

In a story that moves from the 1950s to the age of Obama, Douthat brilliantly charts traditional Christianity's decline from a vigorous, mainstream, and bipartisan faith — which acted as a "vital center" and the moral force behind the Civil Rights movement — through the culture wars of the 1960s and 1970s down to the polarizing debates of the present day. He argues that Christianity's place in American life has increasingly been taken over, not by atheism, but by heresy: Debased versions of Christian faith that breed hubris, greed, and self-absorption. Ranging from Glenn Beck to *Eat Pray Love*, Joel Osteen to *The Da Vinci Code*, **Oprah Winfrey** to Sarah Palin, Douthat explores how the prosperity gospel's mantra of "pray and grow rich"; a cult of self-esteem that reduces God to a life coach; and the warring political religions of left and right have crippled the country's ability to confront our most pressing challenges, and accelerated American decline.

His urgent call for a revival of traditional Christianity is sure to generate controversy, and it will be vital reading for all those concerned about the imperiled American future.

<https://www.amazon.com/Bad-Religion-Became-Nation-Heretics/dp/143917833X>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12987401-bad-religion>

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Bad-Religion/Ross-Douthat/9781439178331>

<https://www.scribd.com/book/224371457/Bad-Religion-How-We-Became-a-Nation-of-Heretics>

<https://www.politics-prose.com/book/9781439178300>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Bad\\_Religion.html?id=oebobSlo5G8C](https://books.google.com/books/about/Bad_Religion.html?id=oebobSlo5G8C)

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Bad\\_Religion.html?id=AMINYColockC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Bad_Religion.html?id=AMINYColockC)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/may/ross-douthat-bad-religion.html>



<https://spectator.org/down-and-up-from-secularism/>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/books/in-bad-religion-ross-douthat-criticizes-us-christianity.html>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/books/review/bad-religion-by-ross-douthat.html>  
<https://www.lumenchristi.org/event/2018/01/state-of-religion-in-america-ross-douthat>  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/18/ross-douthat-bad-religion\\_n\\_1433108.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/18/ross-douthat-bad-religion_n_1433108.html)  
<https://billmoyers.com/segment/ross-douthat-on-modern-christian-heretics/>  
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/18/book-review-bad-religion/>  
[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ross-douthat-bad-religion\\_n\\_1433108](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ross-douthat-bad-religion_n_1433108)  
<https://www.the-american-catholic.com/2012/06/18/book-review-bad-religion-how-we-became-a-nation-of-heretics/>  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/may/ross-douthat-bad-religion.html>  
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/18/book-review-bad-religion/>  
<https://www.9marks.org/review/bad-religion-how-we-became-nation-heretics/>  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/religion/qa-author-ross-douthat-says-the-u-s-is-turning-to-bad-religion>  
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/12/04/is-the-us-a-post-christian-nation-heres-what-ross-douthat-thinks/>  
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?305506-1/bad-religion-nation-heretics>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRD0KxWuz9M> Ross Douthat: Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics - YouTube  
[Images for Ross Douthat: Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics - YouTube](#)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross\\_Douthat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Douthat)  
<http://leighbureau.com/speakers/rdouthat>  
[https://twitter.com/DouthatNYT?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/DouthatNYT?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/by/ross-douthat>  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/author/ross-douthat/>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3501244.Ross\\_Douthat](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3501244.Ross_Douthat)  
[Images for Ross Douthat](#)  
[Images for Search Results Web results Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics: Ross Douthat](#)

**The Gospel According to Oprah by Marcia Z. Nelson (Author), Marguerite Gavin (Narrator)**

Oprah Winfrey is arguable the most well-known woman in the world today, with a world-wide reach that extends into television, magazines, movies, book publishing, and beyond. In this book, religion reporter Marcia Nelson explores the spiritual dimensions that are prevalent in all aspects of the Oprah Winfrey media empire, pointing out that there are several major Christian themes that weave through these aspects of her life and work: forgiveness, generosity, self-examination, gratitude, and community. Nelson concludes that Oprah is a "compelling and successful spiritual teacher in spiritually eclectic and ever-practical America."

<https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-According-Oprah-Marcia-Nelson/dp/1596442840>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/the-gospel-according-to-oprah/marcia-nelson/9780664229429/pd/29428>  
<https://www.christianheadlines.com/columnists/al-mohler/the-church-of-oprah-winfrey-a-new-american-religion-1365625.html>  
<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5013381>  
<https://www.moodymedia.org/articles/lie-new-spirituality/>  
<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/10097/the-gospel-according-to-oprah>  
<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/bastard-machine/gospel-oprah-religious-fervor-empowerment-192431>  
<http://www.marketfaith.org/non-christian-worldviews/the-gospel-according-to-oprah/>  
<https://www.wikibooks.com/Products/0664229425/the-gospel-according-to-oprah.aspx>  
<http://pres-outlook.org/2006/02/the-gospel-according-to-oprah/>  
<https://www.amazon.com/Marcia-Z.-Nelson/e/B001K7YVVQ>  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3512.Marcia\\_Z\\_Nelson](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3512.Marcia_Z_Nelson)  
[Images for Marcia Z. Nelson \(Author\)](#)  
[Images for The Gospel According to Oprah by Marcia Z. Nelson \(Author\), Marguerite Gavin \(Narrator\)](#)

**23) Small Catechism of Martin Luther**

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) includes the Small Catechism of Martin Luther, which revives a practice from The Lutheran Hymnary (1913) and The Concordia Hymnal (1932), but which was not included in the Service Book and Hymnal (1958) and the Lutheran Book of Worship (1978). I make references to the Small Catechism of Martin Luther in my preaching and open the Evangelical Lutheran Worship to call attention to its accessibility. I focused on the Small Catechism of Martin Luther during the mid-week Lenten services in 2017 – With Awe and Love: A Midweek Lenten Series Based on Luther’s Small Catechism taken from [Sundays and Seasons: Guide to Worship Planning, Year A 2017](#).

**Resources**

[Big look at Small Catechism - The Lutheran Magazine](#)

STORY BY

[ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

The Small Catechism became an important part of faith formation in families. Millions of us throughout the centuries and world have studied and memorized it. Catechism has been a rite of passage in the Lutheran movement. It could be argued that no other experience is more universally Lutheran than studying this little book — not language, not hymnody, not cuisine, not worship style. “What does this mean?” and “This is most certainly true” are two of the most recognizable phrases in Lutheranism.

Some argue that emphasizing our Lutheran identity is an impediment to dialogue and evangelism. I would argue that if we

aren't clear about who we are and what we believe it's not possible to have deep and authentic encounters with others. It's hard to have meaningful give-and-take with mush. There was a time in the 1980s when church growth experts urged us to shed denominational identity in favor of more generic, and so appealing, names for congregations. St. Paul Lutheran Church became the Church at Pheasant Run. It's like selling our inheritance for a mess of marketing pottage. Of course, we are baptized into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Of course, our identity is in Christ and not in a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Augustinian monk. But there is something distinctive about our Lutheran voice that needs to be heard in ecumenical and interreligious conversations and in the public square. If we aren't clear about this, we run the risk of sliding into relativism.

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=12058](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12058)

[Images for Big look at Small Catechism - The Lutheran Magazine STORY BY ELIZABETH A. EATON](#)

[Let's read the Small Catechism together - YouTube](#)

"With New Voices — the Small Catechism in the 21st Century" is an invitation for all members of the ELCA to read Luther's Small Catechism together through Oct. 31, 2017. <http://www.elca500.org/withnewvoices/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUThEibjSb0>

[Images for the Small Catechism by Martin Luther images](#)

## 24) What's the point?

I went to a workshop on Preaching the Word to Bodies in Time and Space: The Particularity of the Cross in Our Gospel Texts for Lent B – Katherine Ann Evensen and Mark Stenberg Workshop Leaders - Luther Seminary at the Mid-Winter Convocation 2015 Religious but Not Spiritual Jan. 28-30 Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. They split the attendees into groups and asked us to discuss the texts for Lent B. The same question was asked on the handout of each text: If you were asked to preach on this text tomorrow morning (1) What would be your one point? and (2) What would you want your words to do to the hearer?

### Resources

[How To Become a Christian Apologist by Kae Evensen – Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher](#)

Becoming a Christian apologist is no easy task. Either you're caught between what is fantastic or what is pure despair. But though superficially they look like completely different arguments, at the center of each is the absence of the incarnation and the event of the cross and resurrection. And though it often it often seems dull, open-ended, foolish, and lacking moral metrics, it is this story, this promise that we are called to proclaim.

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=1880>

[Why We Worship Matters Most by Kae Evensen - Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher](#)

How we worship, what we call church, will always morph through history, adapting itself to the culture, language, and traditions of particular human communities. But what cannot change, what must always be, in whatever way we emerge or manifest, is what is core to all of us: the gracious work of God in Jesus Christ that continues to this day through the Holy Spirit.

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=2106>

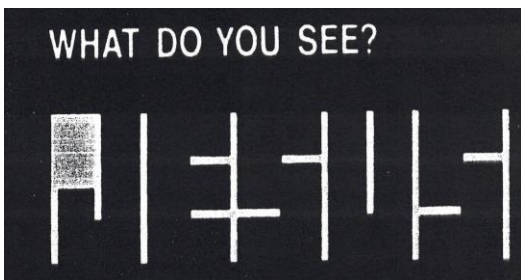
[Images for Why We Worship Matters Most by Kae Evensen - Craft of Preaching – Working Preacher](#)

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=1951> Part 1: Mark Stenberg asks, "When did the Good News become Bad News?"

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&post=1953> Part 2: The Recovery of the Trinity

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/craft.aspx?m=4377&author=4673ee179e545bc48af298492ee7ab966fdc8e2e8aca31d80699f8f45848ee8e> Kae Evensen

## 25) What do you see?



Jesus concludes his public ministry

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

[oremus Bible Browser: John 12:20-26](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John+12:20-26>

My intent in preaching is that others may see Jesus.

### Resources

#### John 12:20-33 Commentary by Audrey West - Working Preacher

We want to see Jesus

In our periscope, the world is focused on Jesus to such an extent that even some Greeks - could they be among the sheep who are not from the fold? (10:16) - are anxious to lay eyes on him. They engage in a little first-century social networking with Philip, the disciple with the Greek name, a person whom Jesus had "friended" near the start of his earthly ministry (1:43). And it is no wonder they want to see Jesus. After all, he has been inviting folks to "come and see" from the very beginning (1:39).

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=268](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=268)

[Images for John 12:20-33 Commentary by Audrey West - Working Preacher - We want to see Jesus](#)

#### John 12:20-33 Commentary by Karoline Lewis - Working Preacher

Greeks arrive on the scene, find Philip, and make one of the most extraordinary requests of the entire Gospel, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Jesus' discourse that follows is, in part, a response to this request. **If you wish to see Jesus, then this is what you will and must see.** There is a reason this verse finds itself carved on or engraved in our pulpits. It is a summative theology of preaching, particularly for the Fourth Gospel. Any sermon on the Gospel of John has this as its goal, the very real presence of Jesus that needs to be experienced by any or all of our human senses. This semester, I experimented with some new exercises in my teaching of preaching. One I borrowed from Tisdale and Troeger's *A Sermon Workbook*, where they suggest that students engage in imagining how theological concepts are embodied in our sermons. That is, take a theological theme present in the biblical text on which you are preaching such as sin, salvation, etc., and then describe it in relation to all five senses. What does grace taste like, smell like, feel like, look like, sound like? This gets to the essence of John's theology.

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2378](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2378)

[Images for essence of John's theology](#)

[Images for Karoline Lewis - Working Preacher](#)

#### John 12:20-33 Commentary by Marilyn Salmon - Working Preacher

**The seekers wish to see Jesus.** They never do see him. They make a request to Philip who tells Andrew, and together they tell Jesus (verses 21-23). Jesus answered them with a discourse on the meaning of his death (verses 23a-33). Who is "them"? Is Jesus' discourse spoken to Andrew and Philip, or are the seeking Greeks included? In the narrative, Andrew and Philip and the seeking Greeks seem to serve as a prop, similar to Nicodemus in 3:1-21. The seeking Greeks, like Nicodemus, set up a discourse about Jesus' death and glorification. When Jesus begins speaking, the narrative audience seems irrelevant. In a real sense, we are "them," that is, anyone who hears or reads Jesus' discourse according to John.

[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1259](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1259)

[Images for seekers wish to see Jesus.](#)

[Images for Marilyn Salmon - Working Preacher](#)

<https://www.amazon.com/Marilyn-J.-Salmon/e/B001KHHJ7E> Preaching Without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism (Fortress Resources for Preaching) by Marilyn J. Salmon

## 26) What preachers are up against

**Nathan Dungan** is the founder and president of Share Save Spend®. For over 20 years, he has been an industry thought-leader on helping individuals and families align their values with their money decisions. As the featured speaker at the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin 2015 Synod Assembly, he gave an interesting statistic to explain the context. The average person in this country is exposed to an average of 5,000 advertising images each day. As a preacher, I cannot compete against all those images.

### Resources

#### Cutting Through Advertising Clutter - CBS News

The danger of offending the viewer is where advertisers in the modern age run into trouble: in a desperate attempt to grab the consumers' attention, advertisers are creating what is known as ad clutter.

"Well, it's a non-stop blitz of advertising messages," President of the Marketing Firm Yankelovich, Jay Walker-Smith said.

"Everywhere we turn we're saturated with advertising messages trying to get our attention."

Walker-Smith says we've gone from being exposed to about 500 ads a day back in the 1970's to as many as **5,000 a day** today.

"It seems like the goal of most marketers and advertisers nowadays is to cover every blank space with some kind of brand logo or a promotion or an advertisement," Walker-Smith said.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cutting-through-advertising-clutter/>

[Images for Cutting Through Advertising Clutter - CBS News](#)

#### 70+ Years of Television: The Impact of TV on Church Ministry

A major influencer of our culture is television. This article traces some of the development, changes, and practical outworking of church ministry in an age of television.

<http://churchgrowthnetwork.com/free-resources/2010/08/20/70-years-of-television/>

I can only sow the seed and pray for a harvest.

## Resources

### Parable of the Sower - Wikipedia

The Parable of the Sower (sometimes called the Parable of the Soils) is a [parable of Jesus](#) found in the three [Synoptic Gospels](#) in [Matthew 13:1-23](#), [Mark 4:1-20](#), and [Luke 8:4-15](#).

Speaking to a large crowd, Jesus tells of a farmer who [sows](#) seed and does so indiscriminately. Some seed falls on the path (wayside) with no soil, some on rocky ground with little soil, some on soil which contains [thorns](#), and some on good soil. In the first three cases the seed is taken away or fails to produce a crop, but when it falls on good soil it grows, yielding thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold.

Later, Jesus explains to his disciples that the seed represents the Gospel, the sower represents anyone who proclaims it, and the various soils represent people's responses to it (the first three representing rejection while the last one represents acceptance).



The Parable of the Sower as illustrated in [Hortus deliciarum](#) compiled by [Herrad of Landsberg](#) at the [Hohenburg Abbey](#) in [Alsace](#) (12th century).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable\\_of\\_the\\_Sower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Sower)  
[Images for Parable of the Sower](#)

### What Does the Bible Say About Sowing Seeds? - OpenBible.info

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/sowing\\_seeds](https://www.openbible.info/topics/sowing_seeds)

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/sowing\\_a\\_seed](https://www.openbible.info/topics/sowing_a_seed)

[Images for Bible and Sowing Seeds](#)

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-sowing-seeds/>

[Images for bible-verses-about-sowing-seeds](#)

<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-Sowing-Seeds/>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/sowing-and-reaping.html>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Sowing-And-Reaping>

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-7-bible-verses-about-sowing-and-reaping/>

<https://bibleresources.org/sowing-reaping/>

<https://www.pulse.ng/what-to-read-10-bible-verses-on-sowing-and-reaping/b2ffd7t>

[Images for bible-verses-on-sowing-and-reaping](#)

I trust the work of the Holy Spirit.

## THE SMALL CATECHISM

### THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as **He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth** and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

<https://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELSCatechism.htm>

[Images for Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel](#)

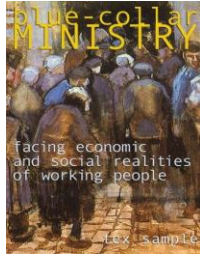
## 27) Oral culture

Probably one of the biggest adjustments for seminarians entering the parish is moving from the world of academic term papers to a world of oral culture. I realize homiletics teachers need students to write out their sermons, because so many students these days complete their courses by distributed learning, but I am not so sure that the students are best served by relying on manuscripts. I was introduced to oral culture many years ago by Tex Sample at a synod event.

## Resources

### Blue Collar Ministry: Facing Economic and Social Realities of Working People by Tex Sample (Author)

How is the church ministering to the needs of men and women who work on assembly lines and in machine shops? Not always very effectively, concludes Sample, who draws his deep understanding of the working-class community from the personal experiences of one who "has been there." Sample challenges churches that want to develop a relevant ministry to abandon their stereotypical images of working-class people and to cultivate a sensitive response to blue-collar needs.



<https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Collar-Ministry-Economic-Realities/dp/0817010297>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tex\\_Sample](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tex_Sample)

<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/bookstore.aspx?contributorid=12732>

<http://www.texsample.com/books/>

<https://www.facebook.com/tex.sample>

[http://www.abingdonpress.com/tex\\_sample](http://www.abingdonpress.com/tex_sample)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tex\\_Sample](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tex_Sample)

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/tex-sample>

<https://www.amazon.com/Tex-Sample/e/B001IXQGME>

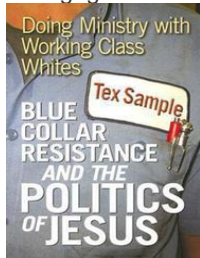
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/16932.Tex\\_Sample](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/16932.Tex_Sample)

Images for tex sample

Images for Blue Collar Ministry: Facing Economic and Social Realities of Working People by Tex Sample (Author)

### Blue Collar Resistance and the Politics of Jesus: Doing Ministry with Working Class Whites by Tex Sample (Author)

To be faithful to the gospel, all ministry must be *indigenous*; it must participate in the distinctive practices and perspectives of the people among whom ministry is taking place. Because our society tends to ignore or deny the reality of class divisions and prejudice, too many congregational leaders know too little about the world of working class whites. Continuing his groundbreaking work on class and American religion, Sample opens up the lives and lifestyles of working class whites in order to engage with them in authentic and transformational ministry.



<https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Collar-Resistance-Politics-Jesus/dp/0687335027>

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30023.Blue\\_Collar\\_Resistance\\_and\\_the\\_Politics\\_of\\_Jesus](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/30023.Blue_Collar_Resistance_and_the_Politics_of_Jesus)

<https://www.christianbook.com/collar-resistance-politics-ministry-working-whites/tex-sample/9781426760365/pd/28403EB>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1426760361>

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Blue\\_Collar\\_Resistance\\_and\\_the\\_Politics.html?id=ztJBLWvEsYC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Blue_Collar_Resistance_and_the_Politics.html?id=ztJBLWvEsYC)

<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/displayImage.aspx?pcid=2729201>

<http://www.spst.edu/tex-sample-community-organizing/>

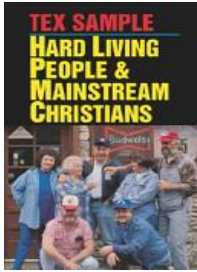
Images for Blue Collar Resistance and the Politics of Jesus: Doing Ministry with Working Class Whites by Tex Sample (Author)

### Hard Living People & Mainstream Christians: Tex Sample

Challenging the church to break the yoke of middle-class captivity and join with Christ who lives among the poor and marginalized, Tex Sample addresses exactly what kind of worship, preaching, and Christian education meet the needs of hard-living people.

Sample presents a revealing look at the church and its interactions and motivations for involvement with hard-living people. It also provides practical, positive steps that will help you minister to them more effectively.

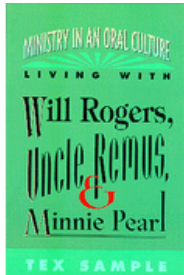




<https://www.amazon.com/Hard-Living-People-Mainstream-Christians/dp/0687179319>  
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2596850-hard-living-people-mainstream-christians>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/hard-living-people-and-mainstream-christians/tex-sample/9780687179312/pd/7179319>  
<http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687179312#.Wg-tAkqGUK>  
[https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/hard-living-people--mainstream-christians\\_tex-sample/658036/#isbn=0687179319](https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/hard-living-people--mainstream-christians_tex-sample/658036/#isbn=0687179319)  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0814629385> Page 73  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0195158725> Page 8  
Images for Hard Living People & Mainstream Christians: Tex Sample

**Ministry in an Oral Culture: Living with Will Rogers, Uncle Remus, and Minnie Pearl by Tex Sample (Author)**

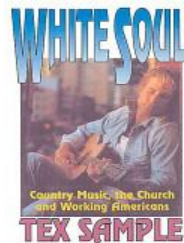
This book will help pastors educated in the literate culture of academia bridge the cultural gap between them and those in their congregations who verbalize their faith in proverbs and stories. Tex Sample suggests some implications for preaching, teaching, and counseling and discusses how questions of morality and social change are handled by people who think in terms of communal relationship rather than abstract theory.



<https://www.amazon.com/Ministry-Oral-Culture-Living-Rogers/dp/066425506X>  
<https://www.christianbook.com/ministry-culture-living-rogers-minnie-pearl/tex-sample/9780664255060/pd/425506X>  
<http://www.breadoflifegreenville.com/product.asp?sku=066425506x>  
<https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/066425506X/ministry-in-an-oral-culture.aspx>  
<http://www.fromtheheartbible.com/product.asp?sku=066425506X>  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/Ministry\\_in\\_an\\_Oral\\_Culture.html?id=LgcRowaIZ1UC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Ministry_in_an_Oral_Culture.html?id=LgcRowaIZ1UC)  
<http://scholars.wlu.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1723&context=consensus> Book Reviews Pages 167-168  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0664250998> U.S. Lifestyles and Mainline Churches: A Key to Reaching People in the 90's  
Tex Sample - 1990 - Religion  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1365754987> Page 366  
<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1610979613> Page 204  
Images for Ministry in an Oral Culture: Living with Will Rogers, Uncle Remus, and Minnie Pearl by Tex Sample (Author)

**White Soul: Country Music, the Church and Working Americans: Tex Sample**

*White Soul* examines the social, political, and religious foundations of country music as the soul music of white, working-class Americans. Country music gives voice to an economically battered subculture of hard-living and hard-working people who find self-expression in the music of honky-tonks and heartaches. It celebrates the "wild side of life" as a form of populist anarchism and escapist festivity. This unusual medley of sociology, theology, and country music history is also a compelling critique of the elitism of "good taste" in the dominant culture. Tex Sample challenges the church to reach out to working-class people, who have often been ignored and demeaned by churches held captive to the tastes and lifestyles of the upper middle class.



<https://www.amazon.com/White-Soul-Country-Working-Americans/dp/0687032938>  
[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/836737.White\\_Soul](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/836737.White_Soul)  
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/white-soul-tex-sample/1125596187>

## 28) Pastor's study or office?

I sat in the chair behind the desk looking at the open door and the sign "Pastor's Study." It made me reflect on the difference between a study and an office. Study connotes sermon preparation to me, while office connotes conducting business.

### The Pastor's Study | A Shepherd's Story

**Is the room in which the pastor works a study or an office?** It's the place that he has his desk, his library, probably a computer and usually much more. It's the place that he meets with people, makes phone calls, plans and prepares for so many things. But above all, this room is the place where the pastor studies.

<https://shepherdstory.com/2008/03/19/the-pastors-study/>

[Images for The Pastor's Study | A Shepherd's Story](#)

I realize that, for some, the coffee shop is becoming the new pastor's study.

### The Pastor's Study is Open — Berkeley United Methodist Church

One of my good friends from seminary came to visit a few weeks ago and we talked about pastor's being in the office or outside of the office. **A big trend today is for preachers to go to coffee shops to write sermons and things like that. My friend reminded me that pastors don't have offices, they have studies.**

<https://berkeleyumc.org/reasonable-enthusiast/2017/5/18/the-pastors-study-is-open>

[Images for preachers go to coffee shops to write sermons](#)

During that assignment at a town and country multi-point parish, I did most of my work in the study at the parsonage.

### Seven Fascinating Insights into Where Pastors Do Their Sermon Preparation – Thom Rainer

The pastoral activity which requires the most time often goes unseen by most church members.

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/07/seven-fascinating-insights-into-where-pastors-do-their-sermon-preparation/>

[Images for Seven Fascinating Insights into Where Pastors Do Their Sermon Preparation – Thom Rainer](#)

## 29) An esteemed pastor

A beloved member of the congregation and resident historian died at the age of 92. At the memorial service, members of the family filled the front of the church when they presented special music. A family member related privately that in the last few days before she died, this woman recounted a distinguished pastor at the church from 1928-1949 who died of a heart attack in office at the age of 61. When I first walked into the sacristy, I took notice of a solitary photo of a kindly looking pastor hanging on the wall. When I asked about him, I was told he was the esteemed pastor who was spoken of with high regard down through the years.

### History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Unity, Clark County



[Rev. J. A. Olson](#)

<http://www.wiclarkcountyhistory.org/unity/churches/TrinityHistory.htm>

[Images for History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Unity, Clark County Rev. J. A. Olson](#)

<http://www.wiclarkcountyhistory.org/unity/churches/images/OlsonObit.jpg>

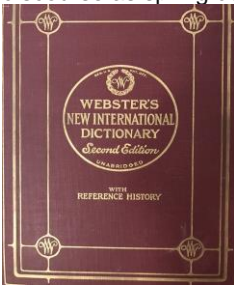
When I looked at the Confirmation pictures in the church basement, the 1928 photo numbered 27 confirmands. As I was organizing the books in the pastor's study, I saw on the top shelf a Webster's New International Dictionary 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition copyright 1934. Total number of pages 3,350. Written in the Palmer method of penmanship on the inside cover were the words, "Given by the Ladies Aid and the Choir December 24, 1936." Underneath were words from the widow who in turn donated it to the parsonage. The choir also donated a reading stand for the dictionary.

**Webster's New International Dictionary: Second Edition Unabridged Hardcover – 1934 by Thomas A. Knott, Paul W. Carhart, eds. William Allan Neilson**

**5.0 out of 5 stars** [The new plus ultra of American-English dictionaries](#)

By [V. K. Reiter](#) on October 29, 2013

Dictionaries come and go but the Webster's International Unabridged, Second Edition, is the absolute king of them all and has remained so since the 1930s, when it first appeared. Later printings retained the quality of the original while adding new words and locutions as they took their place in the culture. The people at the OED may quibble about the Yankee tone of the Webster's Unabridged Second Edition but it is as necessary to the flowering of our national literary culture and discourse as spring dew is to the flowering of the high desert.



<https://www.amazon.com/Websters-New-International-Dictionary-Unabridged/dp/B000X72RSI>  
[Images for Webster's New International Dictionary: Second Edition Unabridged Hardcover](#)

He is remembered as he raised his arms and stated, "Will the congregation please arise."

#### Assurance of God's Protection

A Song of Ascents.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

[oremus Bible Browser: Psalm 121](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=256093918>

[Images for Assurance of God's Protection](#)

#### Mouth-house - Wikipedia

Mouth-house is an English translation of the German *Mundhaus*, a term used by [Martin Luther](#) for a [Protestant Christian church](#), emphasizing that God's word and God's salvation is an acoustical affair.<sup>[1]</sup>

In American [Puritan](#) and [Congregational](#) churches, their church buildings are termed mouth-houses to signify their purpose as places of public meeting and expression, augmenting their use as places of worship. [Old South Meeting House](#) in Boston, termed a mouth-house, was the site of public debate about the [American Revolution](#), the planning of the [Boston Tea Party](#), as well as debate on the issues of [slavery](#), [Abolitionism](#), the [Vietnam War](#), and [Iraq War](#). In contemporary time, [Old South Church](#) has acted as a mouth-house in a series of public lectures and seminars that have included leaders of the three monotheistic [Abrahamic religions](#): [Judaism](#), [Christianity](#), and [Islam](#).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouth-house>

[Images for German Mundhaus, a term used by Martin Luther for a Protestant Christian church, emphasizing that God's word and God's salvation is an acoustical affair.](#)