

A Study of the Book:  
**Handling the Word of Truth – Part 2**

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<sup>NAU</sup> 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

**↑** **arise** Invocation... C: Amen.

**Confession and Absolution** (Rom. 3:23; 2 Cor. 7:10; John 8:11; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 3:18; John 3:16; 20:19–23):

*Through Jesus as our Savior we have God’s full forgiveness!*

P: The Bible teaches that “**all have sinned.**” So how do you look upon yourself?

**C: I have sinned against the Almighty God with my thoughts, my words, and my actions.**

P: Are you sorry for your sins?

**C: Yes; I intend – with the help of God – to go and sin no more.**

P: We should be sorry for our sins, but our sorrow does not save us.

**C: God has saved us through Jesus, who lived in our place and died for our sins.**

P: Do you trust in Jesus as your Savior from sin?

**C: Yes, my full confidence is in Jesus’ finished work; not in my own goodness.**

P: Upon this your confession, I – *speaking on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ* – forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer:**

- Full sternness – L, full sweetness – G
- Saved through Christ; then live for Him
- ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **C: Amen.**

**↓** **sit**

**A Brief Review of Chapters 1-3**

- When sin is taken too lightly, many conclude that **their goodness is acceptable to God.**
- When the Gospel is NOT seen as God’s work alone, *many trust in themselves rather than in Christ!*
  - Will such people be welcomed into heaven?
- How does the Law effect a person?

- It demands **but does not enable** compliance.
- How does the Gospel effect a person?
  - It demands nothing, but **it gives all that is needed.**
- Who is addressed with each doctrine?
  - **Law – to secure sinners**
  - **Gospel – to alarmed sinners**
- What do the following people need to hear? L or G
  - “I lie sometimes, but so does everyone else.”
  - “No matter how hard I try, I know I can never achieve what God requires.”
  - “I’m doing okay – I go to church, give, and serve others; I’m not perfect but I know God will welcome me.”
  - “My life is a mess; how could God ever accept me?”
- The Bible teaches **Christ alone** for salvation:
  - <sup>NAU</sup> Romans 3:28 For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith** apart from works of the Law.
- **Keep the Gospel pure:**
  - “When human works are added to the Gospel, the Gospel ceases to be good news about Christ.” (27)
  - What are good works? They “are not the root but the fruit of faith.” (32) **Faith; THEN Good Works!**
  - **The joy of the Gospel – full forgiveness through Jesus alone – is the true promoter of good works!**

#### Chapter 4: The Mix Makes the Muddle:

*We need the full sternness of the Law and the full sweetness of the Gospel!*

- Until the Law reveals our *complete inability to save ourselves*, we will never be open to the Gospel.
- What does God require for entrance into heaven?
- “The Law creates the knowledge of sin, but it is powerless to give the knowledge of salvation.” (36)
  - <sup>NAU</sup> Romans 3:20 ...because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.
- Walther: “No Gospel element...must be mingled with the Law.... A preacher must proclaim the Law in such a manner that there remains in it nothing pleasant to lost and condemned sinners. Every sweet ingredient injected into the Law is poison; it renders this heavenly medicine ineffective, neutralizes its operation.” (36) A spoon full...
- “The Law cannot be toned down as though God were not absolutely serious in His demands for perfection.” (37)
  - “...be holy, for I am holy.” (Lev 11:44 NAU)
- “The Law...does ‘curb’ the external vices of sinners, holding them in check...” (38)
- What are the three uses of the Law?
  - The Law works like a curb *to control sin and keep order in the world*.
  - The Law works like a mirror *to show us our sin and our need for the Savior*.
  - The Law works like a guide *to show us, as Christians, how to live God-pleasing lives*.
- Walther: “...you must...tell the people: ‘Even if you were to quit your habitual cursing, swearing, and the like, that would not make you Christians.... God is concerned about the attitude of your heart.’” (38) *What does that mean?*

- “The danger in preaching  $\square$ about abortion or homosexuality $\square$  is that those who are not homosexuals or who have never procured or supported abortion conclude that they have fulfilled the Law.” (38) *What else do they need?*
- “When the Law is not preached in such a way as to uncover unbelief, it will create Pharisees. Morality will be confused with faith.” (39)
  - How are *morality and faith* different?
- “God’s Law may not be interpreted so as to justify those who break it.” (39) For example:
  - <sup>NAS</sup> Leviticus 19:11 “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.”
  - How might someone justify **stealing, dealing falsely, or lying?**
- “The Law never finds righteousness; it only confirms unrighteousness. The Gospel never finds righteousness; it only gives and bestows righteousness.” (39) *How?*
- “The Gospel has nothing to do with our works or worthiness and everything to do with God’s Son, Jesus Christ, who was put to death for our sins and raised again for our justification.” (40)
  - **God sees me** “Just as if I’d never sinned.”
- Analyze this statement: “The Gospel demands that we show love to our neighbor in need.” (41) How does it confuse Law with Gospel?

#### Chapter 5: First Things First: *First we are saved by Christ; then we live for Christ!*

- Rev. Dr. Deffner – *retired CTS professor*: “You must preach people all the way into hell, before you can preach them all the way into heaven!” *What does that mean? See below!*
- Rev. Pless – *current CTS professor*:
  - “The Good News will not be heard in all of its goodness if the Law has not been spoken.” (43)

- “Only where the Law has crushed sinners does the Gospel do its gracious work of healing the broken-hearted.” (44)
- John the Baptizer didn’t pull any punches:
  - “John’s preaching singled out the Pharisees and the Sadducees.... John the Baptist called these spiritually elite men a brood of vipers.” (45)
    - Sometimes the truth hurts, *but the truth is what sets people free from the condemnation of their sins!*
  - Luther on John: “John was to convict them all [*everyone who heard him preach*] and turn them into sinners, so that they would know how they stood before God and would recognize themselves as lost people.” (46)
    - *What would they then be ready to hear?*
- “There is no good news in the Law, but it must be preached otherwise we would not know the depth of our depravity and our need for the forgiveness of sins that is bestowed in the Gospel alone.” (47)
  - “If the Gospel is preached to secure sinners, they will despise it...” (47)
  - “Where the Law is not heard, there will be no repentance...” (47)
- “The conscience bruised and bleeding needs no more Law, only Gospel.” (47)
- “The distinction between Law and Gospel unravels when justification [*God seeing us as righteous*] is made dependent on sanctification [*us trying to live righteous lives*].” (47) *Remember Romans 3:28*
- “Faith gives us a ‘new mind.’ Recognizing that we are righteous not on account of our works but on account of Christ’s redeeming work, we now think differently about God, ourselves, and the world.” (48)
  - *What are those different thoughts?*
- What should motivate Christians to do good? “In his last will and testament Paul Gerhardt [*17<sup>th</sup> century Lutheran pastor and hymn composer*] reminds his only son... ‘Do good to people, even if they cannot pay you back because for what human beings cannot repay, the Creator of heaven and earth **has already repaid long ago** †when he created you, †when he gave you his only Son, and †when he accepted and received you in holy baptism as his child and heir.’” (49)
- Don’t expect more; instead, **be motivated by what you have already received!**
- “Einar Billing describes the Christian life as a continual movement between two poles,
  - the forgiveness of sins and
  - the Christian’s daily calling in the world:
- ‘The whole process of sanctification [*us trying to live righteous lives*] goes on between those two poles,
  - The forgiveness of sins, which continually restores us to our calling [*to love God and neighbor*], and
  - Our calling [*to love God and neighbor*], which continually refers us to the forgiveness of sins.” (50)
- Which parts of these passages are worked by the Law [*SOS*] and which parts by the Gospel [*SOS*]? In these passages, repent / repentance is used in the narrow sense and means sorrow for sin.
  - <sup>ESV</sup> Mark 1:15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
  - <sup>ESV</sup> Acts 20:21 “...testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**See the back for tonight’s conclusion!**

**↑arise** Creed (Apostles' Creed, *First Article – Creation*, and Luther's Explanation – EXPANDED):

P: What is the First Article of the Apostles' Creed?

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures.**

P: What are some of the details?

**C: He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.**

P: How could you summarize God's work?

**C: He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**

P: What moves God to take action?

**C: All this He does only out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.**

P: How should all people respond to God?

**C: For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**

**Closing Prayer...**

**Lord's Prayer...**

**Benediction... (2 Thessalonians 3:16) C: Amen.**

- *Thanks for attending!*
- For those who did not attend last Sunday, an offering plate is available on the hallway table. *Tithes, offerings, good works; they "are not the root but the fruit of faith."* (*Handling the Word of Truth*, 32)
- Please join us next Wednesday at 7:00 for part 3.

**Upcoming chapters; please join us each Wednesday in January at 7:00 p.m.**

**Chapter 6: Looking in All the Wrong Places:**

*Terrified sinners should never look at what they are doing but at what Christ has done!*

**Chapter 7: By Faith Alone:** *God has done*

*everything; He even gives and sustains our faith!*

**Chapter 8: Right Repentance:** *It hammers away*

*at everything a sinner seeks to cling to for security and comfort that is not of Jesus Christ!*

**Chapter 9: The Power of Sin:** *For those who*

*share in Jesus' victory over sin, their lives are no longer dominated by sin!*

**Chapter 10: The Church: Community of the**

**Gospel:** *People are justified by grace through*

*faith in Jesus Christ, not by their association with churches that rightly teach God's Word!*

**Chapter 11: Evangelical Sacraments: Faith, Not**

**Ritual Works:** *God's gifts are received by faith,*

*not by going through the motions!*

**Chapter 12: Alive by the Gospel:** *Let us*

*understand that being converted, awakened, born again, etc. is God's work to make us alive in Christ!*

**Chapter 13: The Gospel Gets the Last Word:**

*The Law is never to be used on an unbeliever to entice him to stop sinning, thus to become more godly!*