

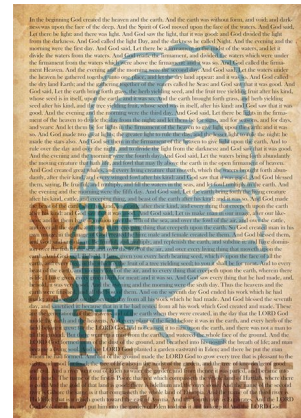


CONCORDIA  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*Christ in Every Word*

# CBI e-Bulletin December 2020

Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin.

CBI exists to provide Christ-centered Bible instruction through distinguished experts who teach "Christ in Every Word" of the Old and New Testaments. Under the direction of Dr. Brian German and in cooperation with the Department of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, CBI offers podcasts, face-to-face seminars, and other special events to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God.



"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word."

-Martin Luther (*Luther's Works*, 25:238).

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## The Divine Service in Revelation

I've been teaching the book of Revelation lately, which is well-known for its rich symbolism and many vivid scenes of cosmic judgment and restoration. While the contents of the book are typically (and rightly, I should add) associated with heaven and the end times, I was struck recently by how *grounded* John's first vision in the book actually is.

Before any details of the vision are given, John first wants us to know that he is our “brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus...” (1:9). John may have been the one to experience the visions of Revelation firsthand, but he wants us to know that he’s *with us* in a very meaningful way throughout what follows. As we’ll see below, John is in some way representative of all believers in Christ.

John then informs us—again, before the vision is recounted—that he was “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day” (1:10). While the upcoming vision may be jarring, it’s important to keep in mind that it happens on the Lord’s day, the day of worship. Why?

When John turns to “see the voice” that was speaking to him, the first thing John sees is “seven golden lampstands” (1:12). That’s pretty remarkable, I think, because we’ll soon learn from Christ himself that “the seven lampstands are the seven churches” (1:20). *The very first thing that John sees in the book of Revelation, then, is the church*, and again, this happens on the Lord’s day. It’s as if John is being instructed to keep the church firmly in mind when he sees what follows.

And that is this: “in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest” (1:13). Fascinating! John first sees the church, and then immediately afterwards sees the Son of Man not in the distant heavens but “in the midst [lit., *middle*]” of the church, tending to it as its priest (robe/sash) and reigning over it as its king (gold), from Lord’s day to Lord’s day (see also Rev. 2:1, 5).

John continues: “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead” (1:17). This, of course, has been the posture of the church throughout the ages, confessing the temporal and eternal death deserved because of sin. But *the very moment that confession happens*, “he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades’” (1:17–18).

After falling at the Son of Man’s feet (which alone implies that he is very close to John indeed!), the Son of Man then makes physical contact with John; “he laid his right hand on me.” So it is that after we confess our sins in the Divine Service, Christ continues to make physical contact with us, too, by means of his very body and blood.

John’s first vision certainly is quite lofty, but there’s plenty in it that grounds it right in the Divine Service. Revelation may reveal all sorts of things that will take place in the end times, but it’s also depicting how heaven meets earth right now, from Lord’s day to Lord’s day, until that final day of the Lord which has no end.

Dr. Brian German  
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute



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## **Giving Tuesday - December 1, 2020**

Your contributions to CBI and the Saleska Scholarship Endowment make a difference. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement which was launched in 2012. It is a day that encourages people to do good and inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. We encourage you to spread the word about this movement and prayerfully consider supporting our mission.

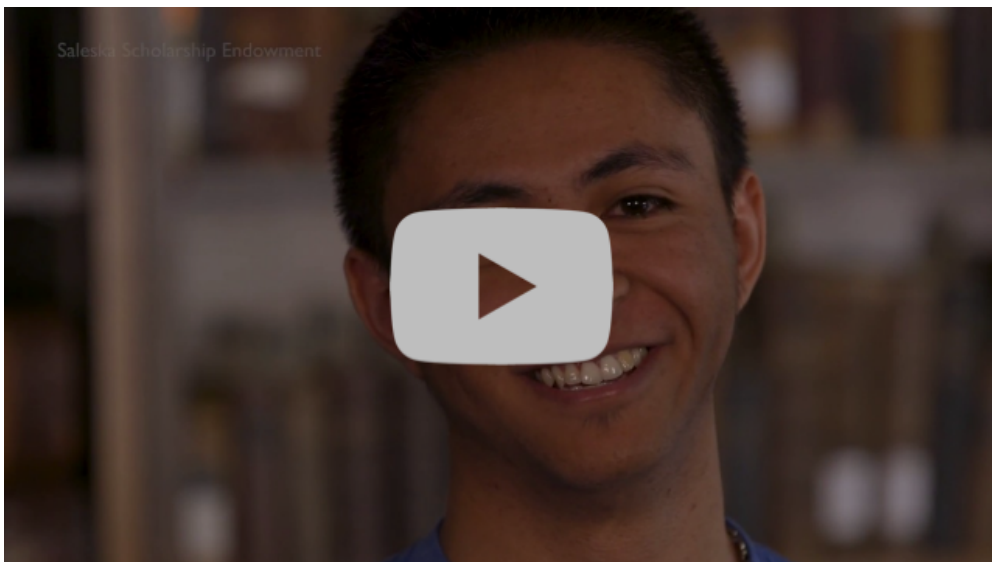


# Saleska Scholarship for Pre-Seminary Students

God's Peace to You!

Please help Concordia University Wisconsin provide more financial aid to Pre-Seminary students by praying for and giving to the Saleska Scholarship Endowment. Lord willing and with your help, we hope to add one million dollars or more to the endowment by June 30, 2022. We urge congregations, groups, and individuals to give.

- Visit [concordiabible.org/Saleska](https://concordiabible.org/Saleska) for more information and to give (scroll down to the bottom of the page to see all of our resources).
- Help us get the word out to those who want to help Pre-Seminary students and to those who knew Dr. Saleska.
- Click here to watch our video: <https://youtu.be/vqLfzI9Wlkw>



Thank you! Blessings in Christ,


Pastor Ron Mudge

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## Read the Bible in a Year

Looking to add to your devotions this year? Or simply want to accomplish the goal of reading the Bible in a year? Follow along with the calendar below! A new calendar will be sent in each newsletter.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
		1 Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2	2 Psalm 1 Revelation 3-5	3 Psalm 2 Revelation 6-8	4 Psalm 3 Revelation 9-11	5 Psalm 4 Rev. 12-14
6 Psalm 5 Rev. 15-17	7 Psalm 6 Rev. 18-20	8 Psalm 7 Rev. 21-22	9 Psalm 8 Isaiah 1-3	10 Psalm 9 Isaiah 4-6	11 Psalm 10 Isaiah 7-9	12 Psalm 11 Isaiah 10-12
13 Psalm 12 Isaiah 13-15	14 Psalm 13 Isaiah 16-8	15 Psalm 14 Isaiah 19-21	16 Psalm 15 Isaiah 22-24	17 Psalm 16 Isaiah 25-27	18 Psalm 17 Isaiah 28-30	19 Psalm 18 Isaiah 31-33
20 Psalm 19 Isaiah 34-36	21 Psalm 20 Isaiah 37-39	22 Psalm 21 Isaiah 40-42	23 Psalm 22 Isaiah 43-45	24 Psalm 23 Isaiah 46-48 Christmas Eve	25 Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51 Merry Christmas!	26 Psalm 25 Isaiah 52-54
27 Psalm 26 Isaiah 55-57	28 Psalm 27 Isaiah 58-60	29 Psalm 28 Isaiah 61-63	30 Psalm 29 Isaiah 64-66	31 Luke 1:46-55 Mark 1		



**A very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Concordia Bible Institute**

## Website

Visit our website at [concordiabible.org](http://concordiabible.org) to learn more about CBI.

## Podcasts

CBI offers thirty- to forty-minute long podcasts on biblical passages and religious issues that you can listen to any time through the [CBI website](http://concordiabible.org).

## Now Streaming on iTunes & Google Play!

You can listen to our weekly podcasts by subscribing on iTunes or Google Play.

When new episodes become available they will be automatically be downloaded to your device. Just click [here](#) to subscribe through our website or click the image below!



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## Saleska Scholarship Endowment

In honor of Rev. Dr. John Saleska's legacy of teaching "Christ in Every Word" among us, CBI has established "The Concordia Bible Institute Saleska Scholarship Endowment," whose purpose is to provide financial assistance to pre-seminary students at Concordia University Wisconsin. In an age of biblical illiteracy, it is hoped that this endowment will help future pastors carry forward Dr. Saleska's lifelong conviction of teaching "Christ in Every Word" as they read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Scriptures.



Please join me in spreading the word about the origination of this endowment and by praying for its growth. For ways to contribute and resources about this endowment, please visit [concordiabible.org/saleska](http://concordiabible.org/saleska) and designate "Saleska Scholarship Endowment" on your method of giving.

## NEW Donor Match Opportunity Available!

There is a NEW opportunity to magnify your generosity! Now, and for a limited time, gifts of \$2,500 and greater will be matched dollar for dollar, if donated to establish or add to named or general endowments. This would include the Saleska Scholarship Endowment! Please, prayerfully consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity to help your donation go farther to provide financial assistance to pre-seminary students at Concordia University Wisconsin. Please contact Jeff Klocko, Director of Donor Relations, for details about this exciting opportunity. He can be reached at 262.243.2170 or [jeff.klocko@cuw.edu](mailto:jeff.klocko@cuw.edu).

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## Contribute

Concordia Bible Institute thrives because of generous supporters, like you! If you find value in this e-Bulletin and other CBI offerings and would like to support our mutual desire to spread God's Word to wide audiences, please consider making a contribution to CBI. There are many ways to contribute, from writing a check to **CUW Foundation** with **CBI e-Bulletin** on the memo line, or following the link to make a one-time or reoccurring gift online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

**Mail checks to:**

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"Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament" photo courtesy of <http://www.prayercollege.org/tag/messiah>

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