

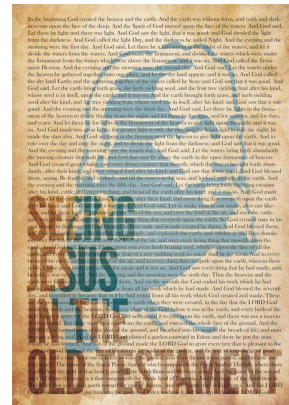


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin December 2021

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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Building the House of God

Last month we took a brief look at the first verse of the book of Haggai, which gives a clear window into how the word of the Lord comes in the midst of sin and death to bring new life. This time I'd like to build on that by looking at the next few verses of Haggai, which are all about building the house of God. Watch carefully, and I think you'll find that this hits pretty close to home! (Too many puns too soon?)

First, the Lord addresses the issue head on: "Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord" (Hag. 1:2). Did you catch it? "These people." This is what happens when we want nothing to do with building God's house—we cut ourselves off from his possession. We are fully aware (based on what "These people say") that 1) God has a house, 2) it needs building up, 3) we ourselves play a role in that building, and 4) this building activity involves coming to his house, but so often we "say" by both word and deed that "the time has not yet come."

What are we doing instead? "Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, 'Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?'" (Hag. 1:3-4). The Hebrew word for "paneled" is especially striking, as this is used multiple times to describe God's *first* temple (see 1 Kgs 6:9, 15; 7:3, 7). So it is that one is either building up the house of God, or building a *substitute temple*. We are either taking shelter under the shadow of God's wings (Ps 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7), or under our own defense mechanisms and false securities.

But such things will never work. “You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes” (Hag. 1:6). Whatever it is that we chase after instead of building God’s house, it simply will not do for us what we are constantly hoping it will do for us. It will always come up short of calming the restlessness within. Just as 1:4 got us thinking about substitute temples, this verse gets us thinking about all of our deficient substitute *sacraments* (note again the *eating, drinking, and clothing* mentioned).

What then shall we do? “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.” This, my friends, is quite fascinating. Think carefully about what the Lord is saying here. “Go up.” Let this word of mine—not your own reason or strength—set you in motion to build my house. “Up”—it is my word that draws you out of the depths and brings you closer to me. Do not let the gravity of this world weigh you down and tempt you to stay put where you are. “Go up.”

And “bring wood.” Going up itself is already not a walk in the park, but now the Lord says to do so while taking on an additional load! In other words, *bear in your body an essential feature of my house*. Why? “[So] that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified,” says the Lord.” That’s totally amazing. God will allow this particular activity—his people going up while bearing wood—to bring glory to himself.

Does this sound familiar? Going up a hill while bearing wood to bring glory to God? One of the things that makes Haggai so cool is how richly it speaks of what it means to build God’s house. Yes, building up the house of God certainly involves such things as coming to the Divine Service (Heb 10:25), taking interest in what is being preached and taught (Rom 15:20; 2 Cor 12:19), honoring those in the Office of the Holy Ministry (2 Cor 10:8; 13:10; Eph 4:12), and loving one another (Rom 15:2; 1 Cor 8:1, 10; 14:17; Eph 4:16). But it also involves bearing all the hardships involved in “going up,” all the burdens involved in “bring[ing] wood.” For when we do, we reflect more and more clearly the (glorified!) image of God’s (wood-bearing!) Son (Rom. 8:29; Jn 12:23).

Or you could put it this way: “For we are the temple of the living God” (2 Cor 6:16), “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being its cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph 2:20–21).

Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

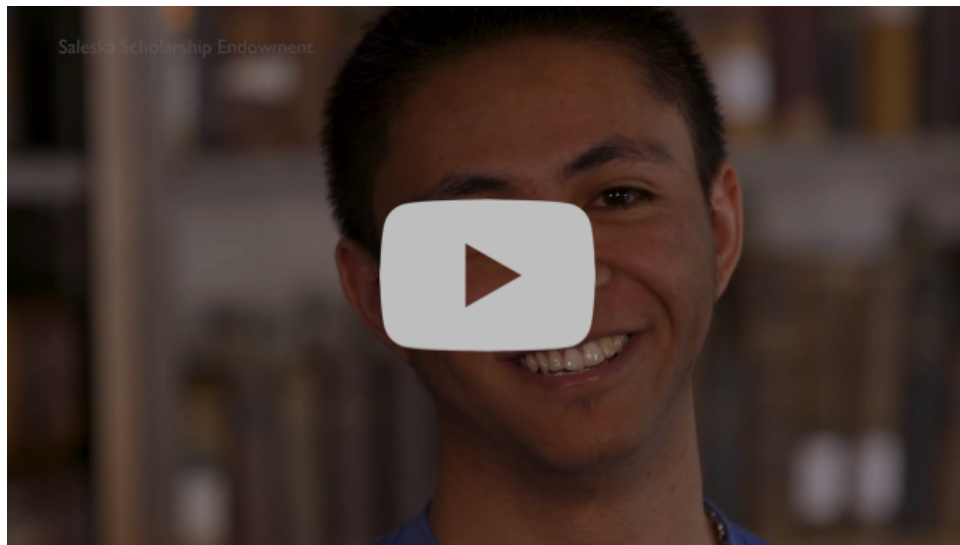


Saleska Scholarship for Pre-Seminary Students

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 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/vqLfzI9WIkW>



Thank you! Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ron Mudge

Rev. Ron Mudge, Ph.D.
Rouse Professor of Pre-seminary Studies
Pre-Seminary Director
Concordia University Wisconsin
ronald.mudge@cuw.edu
Office Phone: (262)243-4301

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 and designate "Saleska Scholarship Endowment" on your method of giving.

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.





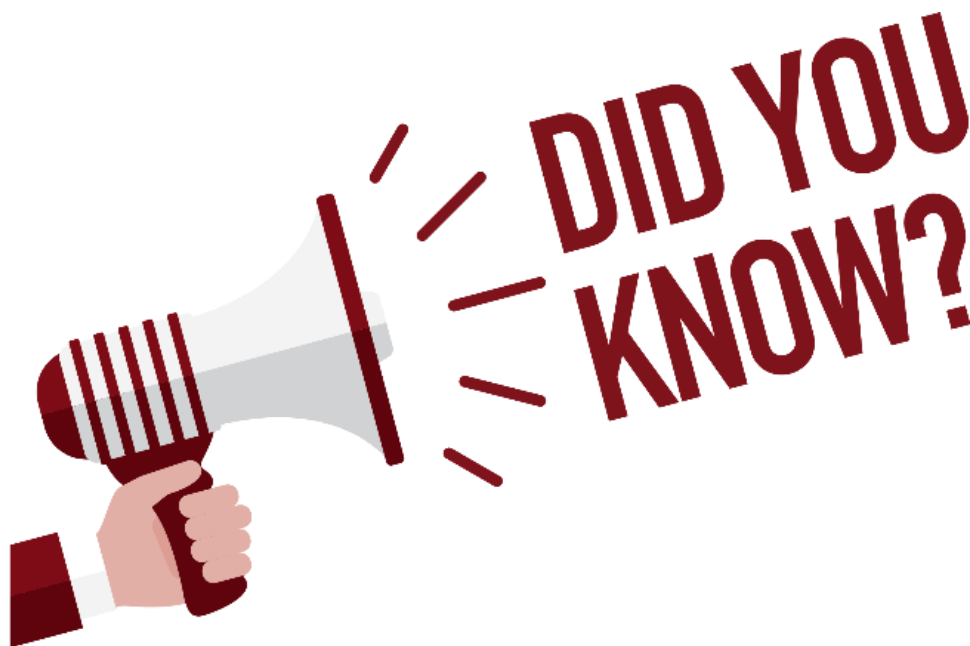
CBI is pleased to provide an Advent Devotions booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries this year. Please click on the button below for a pdf version of the devotions booklet or visit lhm.org/advent to learn more.

LHM Advent Devotions 2021 Booklet

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 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>
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	



Dr. Brian German and the Concordia Bible Institute have a partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Learn? If you love to learn about the Bible and grow in your faith, LHM Learn is a wonderful resource! These free online adult learning courses can be done during individual devotion time or with a group. Courses cover all kinds of topics you're interested in - from the basics of the Christian faith, to understanding other cultures, to the ways faith impacts our daily lives. New lessons are added all the time!

Dr. German's newest course "**The Sent Life: A Study of Sending in the Gospel of John**" is available now, along with his first course "**Watch.Read.Reflect: Christ in the Old Testament.**"

LHM Learn

Website

Visit our website at concordiabible.org to learn more about CBI.

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

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