

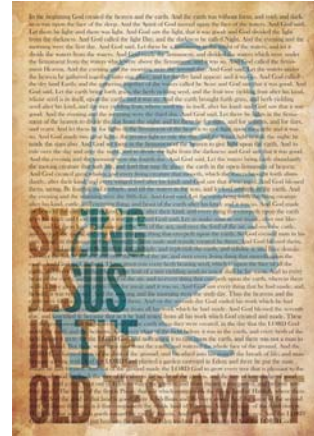


# CBI e-Bulletin

## March 2018

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).

**Subscribe To "Christ In Every Word" Podcast**

[Click the button above to sign up for a weekly email update on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts.](#)

---

## Upcoming Events



### Spring In-Depth Bible Studies

March 5, 19, 26 from 3:00 - 5:30pm  
April 9 & 16 from 6:30-8:30pm  
Friends of Concordia Room  
Concordia University Wisconsin

\$20 per class, per person  
**FREE for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff**  
Bring a Bible and a Friend!

These In-Depth Bible Studies are wonderful opportunities to learn from university professors and special guest lecturers about important topics related to the Bible and the Christian faith. We pray that you would consider joining us for this Christ-centered instruction.

### A Special One-Day Seminar with Rev. Dr. William Weinrich

*"The Gospel of John: Baptism"*

Saturday, April 28, 2018  
8:45am-2:15pm  
Pharmacy Building PH008  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
\$20 per person  
**\$10 for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff**



Join us as we hear from Rev. Dr. William Weinrich on "The Gospel of John: Baptism," including lectures on "Introduction: Thematic Clues," "Baptism of Jesus and Nicodemus," and "Living Water from the Side of Jesus."

To register online for The Gospel of John Seminar, [click here](#).

For more information on any of our upcoming events, please visit our website: [www.concordiabible.org](http://www.concordiabible.org)

---

## Ask Dr. German

**Question:** What is meant by the term forgiveness, as the scriptures use it? It is a word we use a lot and it surely is a gift to us. But what does it really mean, say, in the context of the parable of the lost son in Luke 15?

**Answer:** Great question! Forgiveness is something that appears throughout the entire Bible and, much like a diamond, is portrayed with many different facets. The book of Leviticus, for example, shows us that forgiveness is tied to *the shedding of blood* (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7; 19:22; see also Heb. 9:22). As such, it is often mentioned in connection with the temple (1 Kings 8:30, 34, 36, 39, 50) and is said to be central to who God is and what he's all about (Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:18). Also, when God forgives sins, he promises to remember them no more (Jer. 31:34; Ps. 103:12). In the New Testament, we're told that forgiveness is given in baptism (Acts 2:38), received through faith (Acts 10:43), and that it can't be separated from forgiving one another (Col. 3:13). What ties all of this together, of course, is Jesus, whose *blood* has been poured out for the forgiveness of all (Mt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7).



So, how does the parable of the prodigal son (Lk. 15:11-32) shed light on forgiveness? First, take a close look at the plan that the prodigal comes up with after he realizes that he's hit rock bottom: "I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants'" (Lk. 15:18-19). Notice how the prodigal is planning to be treated as a servant, hoping that he can *work his way back up* into good standing with his father. The father, however, "saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (Lk. 15:20), and before his son even had the chance to put his proposal on the table, the father tells his servants to dress him, put a ring on his hand, and kill a fattened calf for him (Lk. 15:22-23).

Forgiveness, then, as you noted in your question, is entirely God's gift! We are often tempted to think that forgiveness is something like an 80/20 operation, where God forgives us most of the way and then leaves us with the task of finishing the job, whether it's by some kind of "forgiving myself" or proving my worthiness for forgiveness over time or through other methods of *working our way back up* to God's favor. As the parable shows, however, forgiveness is totally God's work. To be in sin is to be as good as dead ("this my son was dead," [Lk. 15:24]), and it is only through the gift of forgiveness that one is made alive.

One final thought about how the parable ends. Notice also how the older son refuses to get over himself, as it were. There is a lot of dying throughout this parable: the father is willing to die, essentially, the prodigal son is as good as dead, and we even have a dead calf, too. The older son, however, is the only one in the story who refuses to die to *himself*, insisting instead on pointing to all of his service to his father, or how he has *worked his way up* over the years (Lk. 15:29). This, as we saw, is the opposite of how forgiveness works. It is rather to be dead *before God*, while those who are forgiven are dead to *themselves*.

Thanks be to God, then, that we, who were once "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1) like the prodigal son, have been made alive again through the gift of forgiveness in Christ (Eph. 2:5)!

---

## 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 Isaiah 64:1-9 Numbers 16-18	2 Psalm 85 Numbers 19-21	3 Psalm 86 Num. 22-24
4 Psalm 87 Num. 25-27	5 Psalm 88 Num. 28-30	6 Psalm 89 Num. 31-33	7 Psalm 90 Num. 34-36	8 Psalm 91 Deut. 1-3	9 Psalm 92 Deut. 4-6	10 Psalm 93 Deut. 7-9
11 Psalm 94 Deut. 10-12	12 Psalm 95 Deut. 13-15	13 Psalm 96 Deut. 16-18	14 Psalm 97 Deut. 19-21	15 Psalm 98 Deut. 22-24	16 Psalm 99 Deut. 25-27	17 Psalm 100 Deut. 28-30
18 Psalm 101 Deut. 31-34	19 Psalm 102 Luke 1	20 Psalm 103 Luke 2-3	21 Psalm 104 Luke 4-5	22 Psalm 105 Luke 6-7	23 Psalm 106 Luke 8-9	24 Psalm 107 Luke 10-11
25 Psalm 108 Luke 12-13	26 Psalm 109 Luke 14-15	27 Psalm 110 Luke 16-17	28 Psalm 111 Luke 18-19	29 Psalm 112 Luke 20-21	30 Psalm 113 Luke 22	31 Isaiah 64:1-9 Luke 23-24

---

### 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](#).

### 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!



---

## Contribute

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 writing a check to **CUW Foundation** with **CBI e-Bulletin** on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

**Mail checks to:**

Concordia University Wisconsin  
Attn: Office of Advancement  
12800 North Lake Shore Drive  
Mequon, WI 53097

---



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

Copyright © 2018 Concordia Bible Institute, All rights reserved.