

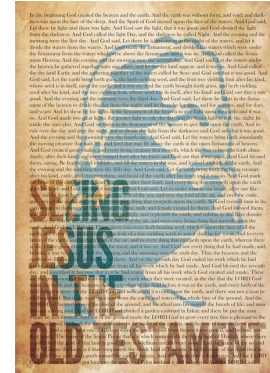


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin March 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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The Nature of Temptation

We're well into the season of Lent now, whose first Sunday traditionally features the temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden as the Old Testament reading. It's a familiar text, and very fitting for Lent because of how much it teaches about the nature of temptation.

We're first told that "the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made" (Gen. 3:1). Later in the Bible we learn that this serpent is in fact the devil (see Rev. 12:9), which reminds us of the prime instigator of all our temptations. "[God] himself tempts no one," James writes (1:13). "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15).

The serpent is described as "crafty." Temptation doesn't come to us like the red-horned dragons of Halloween but much more like a red-horned dragon *in sheep's clothing* (Mt. 7:15). It's very subtle, in other words, and strives for just one degree of separation. The most effective lie is the one that's closest to the truth.

We can see this in how the serpent begins: "Did God actually say?" (Gen. 3:1). The devil knows that atheism won't work ("Does God actually exist?"). He also knows that he can't compete with God ("Is God actually better than me?"). At its essence, temptation is *an attack on what God has said*. The serpent uses speech to go after other speech.

The original command to Adam was "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..." (Gen. 2:17). The serpent, however, phrases this in the negative: "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" (Gen. 3:1). Temptation leads us to believe that God is primarily a God who holds back, who restricts and prohibits and mainly says "no" to us. It tries to distract us from how much God richly provides for us and how much he delights in giving to us ("You may surely eat of every tree...").

Instead of refusing to talk with the serpent or simply ignoring him, the woman responds: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die'" (Gen. 3:2-3). While the woman's response raises a number of questions (e.g., Why isn't Adam stepping in, especially if he's right next to her [Gen. 3:6]? Why does Eve misquote the original command by phrasing it in the negative[], by not naming the tree, by adding "neither shall you touch it," and by saying "lest" instead of "you shall surely"?), the point for our purposes is that *temptation thrives on a reconsideration of what God has said*.

"But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:4-6).

Temptation invites us to be "like God" in ways that haven't been given to us. It encourages us to focus on something above and beyond what God has revealed to us

(“good and evil”). It also wants us to keep our eyes fixed on what could be genuine benefits for giving into the temptation. Eve notices, for example, that eating from the tree would involve a physical benefit (“good for food”), an intellectual benefit (“desired to make one wise”), and an emotional benefit (“pleasing to the eyes”). Surely, we think, if we can list enough positives, the negative will become smaller and smaller. Notice also how what started as a *conversation* about what was *said* has now turned into *gazing* at what is *seen*. Temptation pushes us away from *speech* (God’s word) and toward *sight* (what looks good).

In light of this, let us rekindle our guard against the schemes of the devil this Lenten season, and pray earnestly that the Lord would lead us not into temptation. At the same time, let us also give thanks to our heavenly Father for sending us Someone “who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

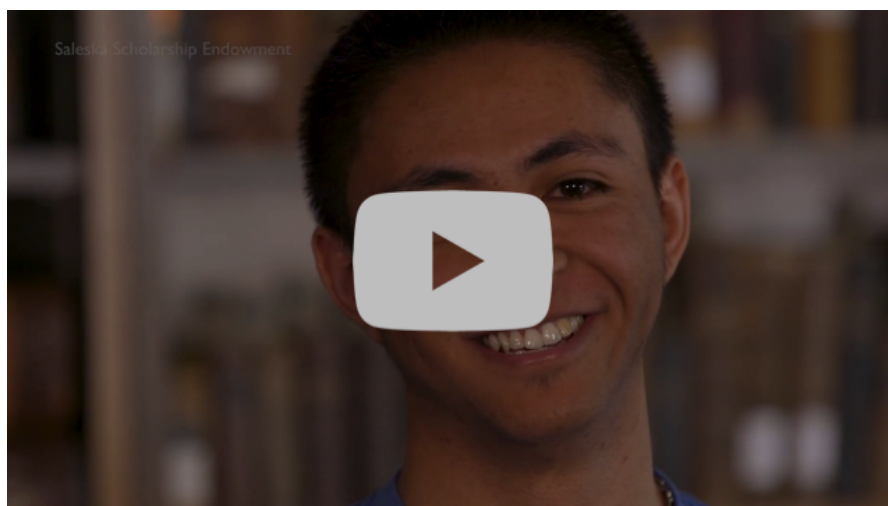
Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

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/vqL_fzI9WIkW



Thank you! Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ron Mudge

Rev. Ron Mudge, Ph.D.

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Pre-Seminary Director




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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 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

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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 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.

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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