

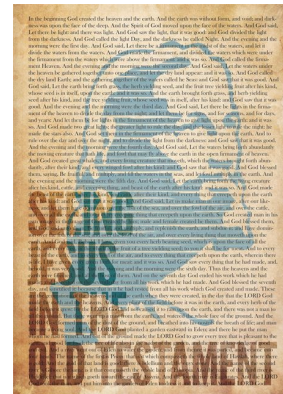


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin October 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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"Church Vs. God"

Last month I wrote a brief piece about “The Church of Cain and the Church of Abel,” drawing on language that Luther uses to describe Cain and Abel as establishing two vastly different “churches” for the rest of human history. Someone since asked me where else this kind of thinking happens in Luther’s *Lectures on Genesis*, and the short answer is: all over the place! Noah and Abraham and Joseph all come to mind as other individuals that Luther quickly relates to the church of all times and places, but a particularly powerful example of this is how he understands Jacob’s wrestling with God (Gen. 32:22–32).

Even before this match happens, the mere fact that Jacob was constantly on the run from others (e.g., Esau, Laban), regularly in “exile” waiting for God’s promises to come true, was already significant for Luther. This, he says, is really a picture of the life of the church throughout the ages. He explains: “This is the constant course of the church at all times, namely, that promises are made and that then those who believe the promises are treated in such a way that they are compelled to wait for things that are invisible, to believe what they do not see, and to hope for what does not appear. He who does not do this is not Christian.” Yes, Jacob definitely lived up to the meaning of his name as “deceiver,” but in a profound way, he is also a model Christian.

Enter Jacob and God into the wrestling ring, and this gives rise to what I think is one of the most captivating moments in all of Luther’s *Lectures on Genesis*. In brief, Luther contends that this narrative gives us a priceless window into the way that God “plays” with his saints, a tremendously comforting vantage point for every trial and affliction. The key to the whole thing is that *God gives Jacob the very means whereby God himself is to be conquered*. As Luther beautifully articulates it:

“It is the fullness of consolation that God exercises us in such a way and exhorts us to fight and shows that it is to Him a most pleasing sacrifice to be conquered by us. ... God is conquered in this way as soon as He has surrendered Himself to us, so to say, and revealed Himself in His Word, promise, and Baptism. It remains that you should conquer those things which want to take this God away from you, namely, through the truth of the promises and

faith. Or, if He pretends that He is unfriendly and angry with you inasmuch as He does not want to hear you and help you, then say: 'Lord God, You have promised this in Your Word. Therefore You will not change Your promise. I have been baptized: I have been absolved.' If you persistently urge and press on in this way, He will be conquered and say: 'Let it be done unto you as you have petitioned, for you have the promise and the blessing. I have to give in to you. For a constant and persistent seeker and petitioner is the sweetest sacrifice.'"

Even and especially in the darkest of moments (recall how Jacob was wrestling God at night), God can't wait to be "conquered" by the promises he makes to us. Jacob's victory is the church's victory. It looks at the latest loneliness as says, "I have been baptized." It looks at the latest guilt and says, "I have been absolved." It looks at the latest uncertainty and says, "Lord God, you have promised me life and salvation. You cannot lie. I am your dear child. A corrupt culture and a drove of devils cannot change this. This is your word to me. You have said it. You will do it. You have to give it to me. It is finished. Amen."

Dr. Brian German

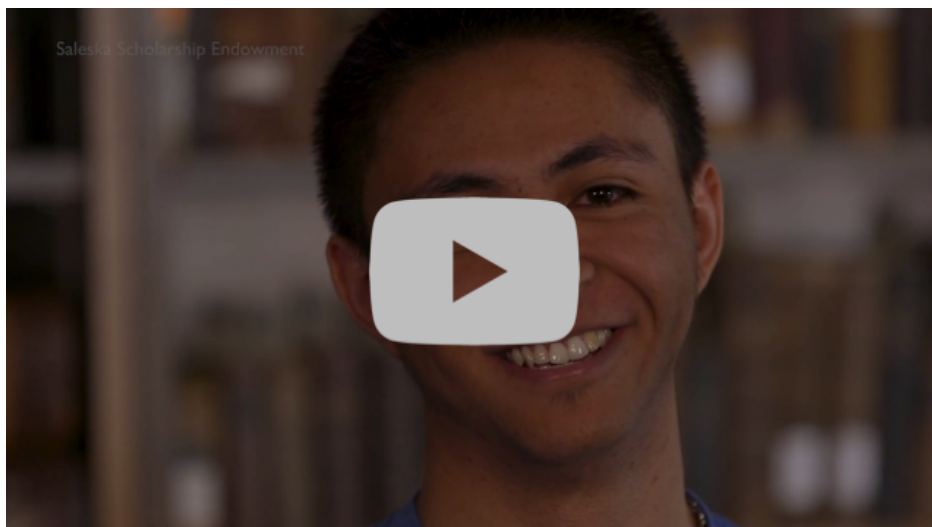
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute

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/vqLfzI9Wlkw>



Thank you! Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Ron Mudge

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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.

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.

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 Jonah 2:2-9 Jeremiah 32-34	2 Psalm 114 Jeremiah 35-37
3 Psalm 115 Jeremiah 38-40	4 Psalm 116 Jeremiah 41-43	5 Psalm 117 Jeremiah 44-47	6 Psalm 118 Jeremiah 48-50	7 Psalm 119:1-8 Jeremiah 51-52	8 Psalm 119:9-16 Lamentations 1-2	9 Psalm 119:17-24 Lamentations 3-5
10 Psalm 119:25-32 Ezekiel 1-3	11 Psalm 119:33-40 Ezekiel 4-6	12 Psalm 119:41-48 Ezekiel 7-9	13 Psalm 119:49-56 Ezekiel 10-12	14 Psalm 119:57-64 Ezekiel 13-15	15 Psalm 119:65-72 Ezekiel 16-18	16 Psalm 119:73-80 Ezekiel 19-21
17 Psalm 119:81-88 Ezekiel 22-24	18 Psalm 119:89-96 Ezekiel 25-27	19 Psalm 119:97-104 Ezekiel 28-30	20 Psalm 119:105-112 Ezekiel 31-33	21 Psalm 119:113-120 Ezekiel 34-36	22 Psalm 119:121-128 Ezekiel 37-39	23 Psalm 119:129-136 Ezekiel 40-42
24 Psalm 119:137-144 Ezekiel 43-45	25 Psalm 119:145-152 Ezekiel 46-48	26 Psalm 119:153-160 Daniel 1-3	27 Psalm 119:161-168 Daniel 4-6	28 Psalm 119:169-176 Daniel 7-9	29 Psalm 120 Daniel 10-12	30 Psalm 121 Hosea 1-4
31 Jonah 2:2-9 Hosea 5-7						

Website

Visit our website at 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.

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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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Mail checks to:

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Attn: Office of Advancement
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Mequon, WI 53097



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

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