

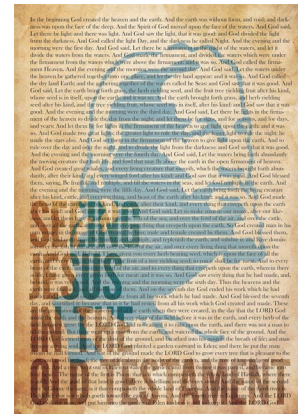


CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

CBI e-Bulletin September 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).

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.



"The Church of Cain and the Church of Abel"

Martin Luther loved the book of Genesis, so much that he spent roughly the last ten years of his life lecturing on it. One of the coolest parts of this lecture series (it takes up eight volumes!) is how he relates the text of Genesis to the church of all times and places. The narrative of Cain and Abel is a great example...

But first, a brief word about Gen. 3:15, the famous verse in the previous chapter where God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring [literally "Seed"]; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." It will be helpful later to note here that Luther understands this passage as not just a prophecy of a coming individual ("he") but also as a pronouncement that there will be enmity between those who believe in this coming "Seed" and those who follow after the serpent in *every* age.

Now, to Cain and Abel. Already the meaning of these two names for Luther signals something that continues to happen in his own day. "Cain," he notes, comes from a Hebrew

verb that means “to get, acquire,” and based on this and what Eve says after she gives birth to him (“I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord”), Luther held that Adam and Eve believed that Cain was indeed the promised “Seed” to come. “Abel,” on the other hand, comes from a Hebrew word that means “mist, vapor,” which Luther takes to be indicative of vanity (it’s the same word that’s repeated in Ecclesiastes: “vanity, vanity, all is vanity”). Notice also that Eve says nothing after Abel is born. The text simply reads, “And again, she bore his brother Abel” (Gen. 4:2).

We know how this brutal narrative goes. “Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard” (Gen. 4:2–5). And because of this, one day when the brothers were in the field, “Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him” (Gen. 4:8).

For Luther, Cain is the favored one. He’s the hard worker and the one with the status. He’s recognized by the world. He brings what his own hands worked hard for. Abel, however, is a “shepherd,” not a “worker,” as Cain is described (with a different verb). He has no status or popularity. His own life is fleeting like the very mist or vapor after which he’s named. He brings forward the very best of what he *didn’t* earn but was simply entrusted with. So vastly different are these two brothers that for Luther, they represent *two different churches from here until the end of the world*. He explains:

“here the church begins to be divided into two churches: the one which is the church in name but in reality is nothing but a hypocritical and bloodthirsty church; and the other one, which is without influence, forsaken, and exposed to suffering and the cross, and which before the world and in the sight of that hypocritical church is truly Abel, that is, vanity and nothing. For Christ also calls Abel righteous and makes him the beginning of the church of the godly, which will continue until the end (Matt. 23:35). Similarly, Cain is the beginning of the church of the wicked and of the bloodthirsty until the end of the world.”

From this narrative in Genesis 4 “until the end of the world,” Luther says, the world will have two (and only two) churches: the church of Cain and the church of Abel. There is no third option, nor is there any “safe space” in between. Atheism in its purest form doesn’t really exist. The church of Cain is the religion of the world, always and everywhere trying in some way to earn a favorable status before the God they deeply know exists.

The church of Abel, on the other hand, knows that all mankind is but a mere breath. The culture will never be chummy with it, the pews might ebb more than flow, but it remains confident that not even the gates of hell will prevail against it. It lives by faith, and enjoys a status before God that endures into eternity. And even when the enmity of the serpent may sting a little, this “church of Abel” rejoices in the certainty that the serpent has been crushed by the Seed whose blood “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” (Heb. 12:24).

Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute



Make Revelation Great Again

The book of Revelation is widely known for how it speaks about things that are way “up there” and way “down the road.” While this is most certainly true, its real greatness is in the many fascinating ways it reveals the “right here” and the “right now” of what is taking place in Christian worship. Come take a fresh look at this challenging book on **September 14, 21, and 28 from 6:30–8pm at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in West Bend with Dr. Brian German, Associate Professor of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin and Director of the Concordia Bible Institute.** There is no pre-registration required. A free will offering will be taken. Bring a Bible and bring a friend!

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

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.

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 1 Chron. 29:10-13 Job 31-33	2 Psalm 86 Job 34-36	3 Psalm 87 Job 37-39	4 Psalm 88 Job 40-42
5 Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3	6 Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7 Happy Labor Day!	7 Psalm 91 Proverbs 8-10	8 Psalm 92 Proverbs 11-13	9 Psalm 93 Proverbs 14-16	10 Psalm 94 Proverbs 17-19	11 Psalm 95 Prov. 20-22
12 Psalm 96 Prov. 23-25	13 Psalm 97 Prov. 26-28	14 Psalm 98 Prov. 29-31	15 Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3	16 Psalm 100 Eccl. 4-6	17 Psalm 101 Eccl. 7-9	18 Psalm 102 Eccl. 10-12
19 Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4	20 Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8	21 Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3	22 Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6	23 Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9	24 Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12	25 Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15
26 Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18	27 Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22	28 Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25	29 Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28	30 1 Chron. 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31		

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.

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

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:

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 © 2021 Concordia Bible Institute, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

