

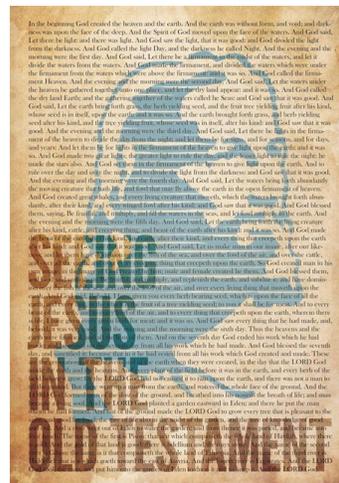


CONCORDIA  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*Christ in Every Word*

# CBI e-Bulletin September 2017

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



### **Fall In-Depth Bible Studies**

*\*September 11 and 18 from 6:30-8:30pm\**

September 25, October 2, 9, 16 from 3:00-5:30pm

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 Dr. Phillip Cary**

*"Luther and the Word of God"*

Saturday, September 30, 2017

9:15am-2:30pm

Pharmacy Building PH008

Concordia University Wisconsin

\$40 per person

**\$10 for CUW Students/Faculty/Staff**



Come listen to Dr. Phil Cary, a renowned Luther scholar and popular Christian writer from Eastern University, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Don't miss this rare opportunity!

For more information on any of our upcoming events, please visit our website

[www.concordiabile.org](http://www.concordiabile.org)

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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 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 Happy Labor Day!	5 Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3	6 Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7	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](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](http://concordiabible.org).

## 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!



## Ask Dr. Saleska

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the ["Ask Dr. Saleska"](#) page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

**Question:** *In our Bible study on the life of Moses we came across the place in Numbers chapter 20 where Moses committed some sin that prevented him from entering the Promised Land. Could you explain exactly what happened? What was his great sin?*

**Answer:** There are a number of items in this entire event that need close examination to determine exactly what the sin was. First of all, the directive by God to Moses after the people complained about the lack of water in Numbers 20:7-8: "And the Lord spoke unto Moses saying, take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink."

"And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? (v.10). And Moses lifted up his hand and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also (v.11). And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron, because ye believed me not to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them (v.12).

Now, then, initially it seems that the "sin" was unbelief. "Must we fetch you water out of this rock?" As if to say: "What do you expect me to do, bring water out of a rock?" So, did he fail to give God credit? Is that the sin? That hardly seems possible, since Moses had produced water out of a rock once before by striking the rock as God had commanded him (see Exodus 17:6). However, nearly 40 years and a lot of intervening rebellious history had passed since that event which could have clouded Moses' memory of God's more compassionate dealings with his people. But the words are very clear: "Because you believed me not." That's unbelief.

Disobedience has often been suggested as the "sin." God told Moses to "speak" to the rock. But the text says that Moses "struck" the rock twice. Also, Numbers 27:14 says: "For you rebelled against my commandment...to sanctify me at the water..." Clearly he disobeyed God's directive. The only question that arises in connection with that explanation is that God told him also to "take the rod." Since the rod was not to be used as it had in the Exodus 17:6 event, why would he be told to take it if God did not intend for him to use it as he had before?

Psalm 106:32-33 adds this piece of information to "Moses' sin," and needs to be addressed: "They (the people) angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: because they provoked his spirit, so that he spoke unadvisedly with his lips."

They (the people) angered him...they provoked his spirit...they caused him to speak unadvisedly (the Hebrew word means rashly, with an oath, in an evil way, recklessly). I assume those "rash" words were: "...Hear now, you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" Psalm 106:32 indicates that he spoke these words in anger.

Following is my personal explanation: Moses lost his temper. After 40 years he should have learned to control it. Once before he had lost his temper and it caused him to murder a man. Now he seems to believe that ranting and raving will somehow bring these rebellious people around. He had learned to rely on the word for 40 years, yet here he determines to effect change with a verbal attack. Perhaps during the 40 years wandering in the wilderness he had failed to maintain the close relationship he initially had with the Lord and had reverted to a more “legalistic” approach in his dealings with the Israelites; that is, in his anger he “spoke unadvisedly” with these words, “hear now, you rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?” Almost as if to say, “God himself couldn’t love you rebellious people!” God seems entirely absent from this scene, yet God was the one whom Moses was to “sanctify.” The contrast between Moses and God is seen in the following passage: “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). “Because you believed me not to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them” (Numbers 20:12). The seriousness (magnitude, severity) of the punishment seems to imply that this was not some small, inadvertent sin. Moses was denied what he had been looking forward to (had longed for fervently) for 40 years.

In conclusion, the following, I believe, in one way or another, is involved in Moses’ sin: the LIE that men believe (Moses, then, also) is that God hates rebels (actually, we all believe it), and that lie (God hates rebels) in some sense is akin to hardening of the heart. Pharaoh, for instance, couldn’t believe God loved him, but saw him as an enemy, believed God hated him (“...when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his son” [Romans 5:10]). “He that believeth not the witness (the testimony of the Son) makes him (God) a liar” (1 John 5:10). When Christ says, “love your enemies,” he isn’t telling us to do something that he himself hasn’t done first. If we transport Moses into the New Testament I think we can safely say that he would have crucified Christ along with the rest of them except for God’s grace; no different with us (“...because you believed me not to sanctify me...”). The honor, the glory, the acclaim belong to God. That’s grace! Grace leaves us out of it as contributing anything. God does what none of us by nature can do: love our enemies. And only by grace do we believe it, and only then can begin to do it as Moses evidently failed to do in this instance. By that same grace alone, we, together with Moses (Matthew 17:3), enter the real Promised Land.

That is how I understand the sin.

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## 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 Concordia University Wisconsin with CBI e-Bulletin and A913 on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

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

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