

July 2015

Dear Friends,

Then Job answered the LORD, and said, ² I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee. ³ Who *is* he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. (Job 42:1-3 KJV)

There is perhaps no greater temptation that faces human beings than believing that on our own we can know anything about God. Job and his advisors all fell into the deceit of thinking that they could speak and think for God; that their thoughts were the same as God's thoughts. So they continued in a long stretch of dialogue until God finally chose to ask a few questions of His own that neither Job nor his friends could hope to answer. God indeed made His point and Job repented for his foolishness in trying to be God. Job's friends also repented after God pointed out their error to them as well.

Unfortunately this error didn't stop with Job and his friends, it has continued through the centuries often masquerading under the guise of "theology." While theology (the study of God) is often a noble enterprise, too often it's mingled together with the reflections of human beings about God. Such a mixture yields a monstrous form of idolatry where God simply becomes the projection of the human mind. There is no God present in such a process, the only result of such foolishness is that a person actually makes himself God and so once again falls prey to the temptation of the serpent in the garden to be "like God knowing good and evil." In such cases the only hope of correction lies in a true repentance, not simply the acknowledgement of our sin but a full change of mind in understanding God, a new coming to speech where God addresses us as He is in Word. God may be known only as God chose to reveal Himself and ultimately God chose to reveal Himself in the purest form in the incarnation, being born in flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14) Only that Word reveals God. So God spoke in this Word and it is this Word that we seek; this Word is the only true theology. This Word is the Christ, brought forth in the sacred Scripture. Every creed and confession must be subject to this revelation and not vice-versa. The confessional writings of human beings never are the basis of the understanding of the Writ, the Writ must give sense to the confessions.

Our Seminary has always taught the Scripture to be the Norm above all other norms and so we will continue to do so. Confessional literature has its place but it must always be placed in authority under the Word of God. In an age of many well-meaning false theologies only God's Word can lead us on the lighted path to truth through the incarnate Word; Jesus Christ, as revealed by the Holy Spirit. We thank you for your support in our ongoing work of remaining faithful in teaching this wonderful Word for the equipping for ministry. May God richly bless you and keep us all steadfast in His Word.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



Thank you to all who attended the Seminary Spring Sing service on June 14th. The students, staff and local musicians took part in this service and it was enjoyed by all. Approximately \$1,400 was raised to help carry on the work and teaching of the Seminary. God Bless your generosity!!

DONATIONS RECEIVED...

In memory of Inga Questad

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LOOKING forward to the Fall Semester



Tentatively the daily classes offered this fall will be History of the Ancient Church, Old Testament Introduction, Lutheran Confessions, The Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Epistles, Koine Greek Readings and Working as a Deaconess I which will begin on Wednesday, September 2. The Gospel of Mark will be the Thursday night beginning August 27 at the Eastwood Apostolic Lutheran Church in Negaunee, MI and the Monday night class beginning September 7 in Hancock, MI. For additional information on each class visit our website: www.ilseminary.org, contact the seminary at (906) 482-3337 or send an email to cilseminary@ilseminary.com.