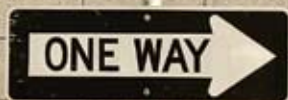


LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN

"...THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN." — JOHN 10:35

"He loved me and gave Himself for me"

(GALATIANS 2:20)



“BRAGGING RIGHTS”

Pastor David Reim · Vernon (BC), Canada

Many people like to brag to others about what they have or what they’ve done.

The child on the playground may brag about what his dad can do. He may even get into a “My dad’s better... stronger than your dad” argument with other kids.

As adults we are inclined to brag about our children or grandchildren and their accomplishments. If one proves to be better than others, or has cuter grandkids than others, it might be said that he has the “bragging rights.”

As Christians we are somewhat reluctant to brag about ourselves, for in His Word our God warns about the destructiveness of pride. However, we do have the greatest bragging rights when it comes to our God. We truly have a God and Father who is greater than all.

We can rightfully and proudly brag and boast about our God!!



Think of it! Isn’t that what Christian witnessing is really all about—bragging about how great our God is?! We will not want to do it in an obnoxious way, yet we can proudly tell anyone and everyone, “Look what my God can do!” More than that, “Look what He has done FOR ME!” And “Consider what He has done FOR YOU!”

Boasting With St. Paul!

From my birth of sinful parents, I was lost and going astray. I was sinning against God every day. Yes, I was His enemy, but still I (and you!) can say, “He loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Yes, my God loved me so much that He came into this world to suffer and die FOR ME! Jesus endured the punishment of His Father for MY SINS!

The Apostle Paul is often considered to be the most dedicated, zealous missionary of Christ. Read the book of Acts to see how

 Think of it! Isn’t that what Christian witnessing is really all about—bragging about how great our God is?! We will not want to do it in an obnoxious way, yet we can proudly tell anyone and everyone, “Look what my God can do!” More than that, “Look what He has done FOR ME!” And “Consider what He has done FOR YOU!” 

many churches he started and how much torture and abuse he endured for the sake of the gospel.

Humanly speaking, Paul may have had bragging rights as the greatest missionary of all time—a man who sacrificed more for the sake of the gospel than all others.

Yet he did not boast in any of that. Listen to what he tells us he had to boast in: “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14)!

You, dear reader, as well as I have every bit as much reason to boast alone in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; on that cross He shed His holy and precious blood for all people and endured the torment of hell so that each of us could live with Him forever in paradise.

Can you think of anything greater about which to boast?! My own accomplishments by themselves are really nothing compared to this gospel of Jesus which tells what He has done for me!

Yes, rightly understood, we Christian believers have the “bragging rights”! No other god and no other religion on Earth can begin to compare.

Let us proudly tell our friends and neighbors—let us boldly tell the world—what great things God has done for each one of us.

What a joy to be able to tell them: “He has done FOR YOU the same thing He has done for me!”



Called To Be Witnesses

Pastor Thomas Schuetze • Coloma, Michigan

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(ACTS 1:8)

TIn the first chapter of Acts we read the account of how Jesus, in the weeks leading up to His ascension, appeared to His disciples on various occasions and confirmed for them His great Easter victory. At this time He also informed them that He would soon bless them with power from on high that would enable them to serve as His gospel witnesses. After His departure to heaven He would use them as His instruments to broadcast far and wide in the world the news of His death-destroying, life-restoring work as mankind’s Savior.

The Book of Acts goes on to

record how Jesus accomplished this. He utilized His humble band of followers—theologically untrained men!—to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to people living everywhere.

We twenty-first century disciples have been called to serve our Savior the same way. Now that might seem like a daunting task. We might wonder: Can the Lord still utilize common, ordinary Christians to spread His rule of love and forgiveness to others?

To our joy we learn from the Bible that He can and does!

Below are a few of the more instructive examples from Scripture which bear out this wonderful truth:

- 1) Consider how the Lord used poor shepherds to publish to the citizens of Bethlehem the tidings that the promised Redeemer of the world had just been born (Luke 2:17).
- 2) Recall how He used the man from Gadara—whom He had just rescued from demon-possession—to tell the people of the Decapolis of the loving deeds of his Savior (Mark 5:20).
- 3) Remember how He used the woman at Jacob’s well—whose soul He had refreshed with His life-giving gospel water—to tell the citizens of Sychar about their Messiah come from heaven to redeem them.

So, yes! The Lord can and does use ordinary folks—all who have come to know and experience His mercies firsthand—to spread to others the wonders of His love.

Consider a few practical tips which may be helpful to carry out your privileged calling as a witness for our Lord:

- + Set aside time each day, even if only a few minutes, for reading your Bible. As you spend time searching Scripture, the Holy Spirit will help you grow in grace and in the knowledge of His Word, thus further equipping you for your calling as a witness to the Lord.
- + Begin your day by offering a little prayer: “Bless me, Lord, with eyes to recognize opportunities set before me for sharing Your life-giving gospel with people in the course of my day, and give me words to say what will benefit them spiritually.”
- + Always remember that your calling as a witness for Jesus is simply to plant His gospel seeds (share with others what great things Jesus has done for you). Then step back and let the Holy Spirit take the seed that is sown, causing it to germinate and grow in people’s hearts in His own time and way.

**Preach you the Word
and plant it home
And never faint, the
Harvest-Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow
Will watch and tend His
planted Word.**

WORSHIP SUPPLEMENT 2000 #781:4



June CLC Pastoral Conference in session at ILC



Communion Service Ministers, Dr. Daniel Sullivan, organist; Pastors David Schaller (Liturgist), Norman Greve (Speaker)



Pastors Caleb Schaller, David Schierenbeck, Delwyn Maas (essayists)



Essayists Paul Naumann, Richard Kanzenbach (Chaplain), Prof. Steven Sippert, Paul Krause, Paul Nolting

Living For Christ

Warren Fanning, Pastor Em. • Sun City, Arizona

When you read the following Bible words, you can be certain they are talking specifically about your heart—that it “is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...” (Jeremiah 17:5).

At first you might feel insulted. It’s normal—just your sinful flesh acting up. The original Hebrew words are frightening (the English is bad enough!). The situation is serious; you may have forgotten how and why.

In your heart there are two religions. Both come from superior beings. Both give revelations. Both have doctrines and writings. Both claim rulership over you. Both talk of sinfulness and forgiveness. Both have a doctrine of justification. Both have commandments. Both of them promise advantages (good) and to ward off disadvantages (evil). Both use the idea of fear, promise to provide knowledge, and promise to give eternal life. And both encourage worship and praise to be directed to them.

You are a Christian, and you believe that things in the previous paragraph pertain to Christianity. And so they do.

But they also pertain to that other religion which insidiously uses virtually the same concepts, and which lurks down there in your dark, sinful heart. It was in control of you from conception. Even though you are in the Kingdom of Grace now, that other religion keeps popping up—day after day.

Do you recall the passage: “Out of the

heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries....” (Matthew 15:19) and that it is in the present tense? You probably resolve daily to be living for Christ. But you know there is some other spiritual drive which constantly strives to undermine that resolve.

You have probably guessed what this second (or “shadow”) religion is—and the one who introduced it. He acted like he was God. His “manifesto” is the first five verses of Genesis chapter 3—which is really a declaration that, in his mind, God’s theology is “too true to be good” for mankind! He then made gods out of Adam and Eve—at least in their hearts. He has done the same to you.

Sinner and Saint!

You used to be just one type of religious person—sinner. But now you are actually two—sinner and saint—for as long as you live here (see “old man” and “new man” in Ephesians 4). It is the saint that now strives to live for Christ. For Christ came to destroy Satan for you, so that you might live for Him. In His forgiveness and justification you learn how to renounce the devil and all his wicked works and ways. It is there that you dedicate yourself, over and over again, to be true to the Triune God. It is only in Christ that you can do this, and only in Christ are you willing to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away.

Interestingly enough, Satan’s revelations—“prophetic declarations”—are what some align with ‘fate’ (the root of the word ‘fate’ being from the Latin

Saint

In your heart there are two religions. Both come from superior beings. Both give revelations. Both have doctrines and writings. Both claim rulership over you.

Sinner

meaning ‘speech’). While checking your dictionary here, look up ‘superstition’—it refers to someone with some kind of authority “standing above” you.

Both are scary concepts! The sinfulness thing means that everyone else’s sin seems way worse than yours. Justification is what Adam’s misguided conscience pronounced in order to cancel his own guilt—blame Eve (the first scapegoat!).

Your heart daily justifies itself and cancels your sin in the same way. Check out Romans chapter 2! The “good and evil” of Genesis 3:5, which you think you have to initiate and arrange, are things that only the God of Scripture can manage, for it is He Who guards and guides your life (remember how Psalm 23 uses these two words).

He who once decided that God’s words and love are “too true to be good” for

mankind, now twists that statement around and tries to convince you that God’s theology—with the cross and resurrection of Christ at the center—is really “too good to be true”!

The devil tries to trap you both ways. That is why at times your heart leans towards denying God and towards clinging to the devil’s theology—which asserts its prior claim, enticing you to slide back into the hypocrisy and desperation pinpointed by Jeremiah (see above).

But child of God that you are, you have come to trust the very true and the very good theology of God even more.

This is the only way to live for Christ. You have discovered this before. Keep on discovering it every day—telling that damned devil to “go to hell” where he belongs!



Christ — Our One Mediator

Pastor John Klatt • Rapid City, South Dakota

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. 6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word....”

JOHN 17:1-20



Ten years have now passed since the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

For those who remember those events the anniversary this month will surely bring back memories of that day. We may remember where we were when we first heard the terrible news. We will surely recall the horrifying images that appeared on our TV screens.

We may also remember some of what took place in the days following 9/11. One event that sticks in my mind was a religious service organized in New York City to offer consolation to survivors and to the nation.

Representatives of various religions said prayers and read from religious texts, including the Bible. One of the participants, a New York City fire fighter, read Romans 8:38,39: “I am persuaded that neither death nor

life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God...”—At that point the reader stopped, leaving off the words “which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

To anyone who knew this Bible passage, the omission was a jarring one. But it was not at all puzzling. Surely the idea was to make the reading acceptable to non-Christians who were on the program and in the audience.

In the minds of many—including many who go by the name Christian!—Jesus can easily be replaced. To them He is only one of many ways to God.

And so, they imagine, the confidence

Continued on next page

which the apostle Paul expresses in Romans chapter 8 can be had by non-Christians through whatever deity they worship.

What they do not see is the distance that sin has put between man and God. They imagine that God can be approached without a mediator or, if a mediator is needed, the role could be filled by many different candidates.

In His great "High Priestly" prayer in John chapter 17 Jesus presents Himself as Mediator between man and God—and not as one of many candidates for the role but as the only one who could fill it!

Jesus Christ is God's own Son who was with the Father in glory before the world began (v. 5). He came forth from the Father (v. 8). He is about to return to the Father (v. 11). He has

finished His work which only He—who is both God and man—could do (v. 4). He stood between us sinners and holy God. In our place Jesus kept God's law perfectly. In our place He suffered the punishment for our sins.

Now Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father where He reigns in glory.

Yet He still serves as our Mediator. In this great prayer He prays not only for His apostles but for all believers until the end of time: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word..." (v. 20).

That sentence is especially precious to us, for with it Jesus assures us that He remains our Mediator.

And we are still very much in need of such an Intercessor, for we daily sin

much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment (as Luther put it in the Fifth Petition of the Catechism). Yet God does not disown us or punish us for our sins because between Him and us stands Jesus with His sacrifice for us. God hears our prayers for Jesus' sake. Jesus Christ represents us before God.

Jesus also represents God to us. He

gave God's Word to His apostles and sent them into the world with it. From the apostles we have that Word by which we know God as the Father who loves us for Jesus' sake.

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all" (2 Timothy 2:5,6).

"Portraits of Christ" in John's Gospel:

Ch. 1 The Son of God	Ch. 8 The Defender of the Weak	Ch. 15 The True Vine
Ch. 2 The Son of Man	Ch. 9 The Light of the World	Ch. 16 The Giver of the Holy Spirit
Ch. 3 The Divine Teacher	Ch. 10 The Good Shepherd	Ch. 17 The Great Intercessor
Ch. 4 The Soul-Winner	Ch. 11 The Prince of Life	Ch. 18 The Model Sufferer
Ch. 5 The Great Physician	Ch. 12 The King	Ch. 19 The Uplifted Savior
Ch. 6 The Bread of Life	Ch. 13 The Servant	Ch. 20 The Conqueror of Death
Ch. 7 The Water of Life	Ch. 14 The Consoler	Ch. 21 The Restorer of the Penitent



Pastors in attendance at the June Pastoral Conference gathered in the chancel of Messiah Lutheran Church following the Communion service.

Days of Infamy

Pastor Paul Fleischer • Cheyenne, Wyoming

The nation will surely be pausing to observe 9/11 in various ways ten years after it happened. (How time flies!)

In the annals of world and/or a nation's history, certain events and/or days—such as the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941—have been said to “live in infamy” (as then President Roosevelt put it).

Days of infamy would be defined as days which, due to events that transpired on them, are remembered as days “of disgrace and dishonor because of some extreme evil or wickedness.” The simple fact that one can throw out two calendar days separated by a slash, and people know instantly what is being referred to is a pretty good indication that 9/11 will be remembered as long as America exists. (As this was being written, the report came of the horrific slaughter of 76 innocents in Norway by a deranged man; 7/22/11 will likely live in infamy in that country's history.)

Yours truly was serving as a pastor at the time Islamic terrorists crashed those commercial planes into the World Trade Center towers (New York City) and the Pentagon (Washington D. C.), causing much loss of life (some 3,000 souls to heaven or hell!).

For a message of comfort and encouragement to our congregation the following Sunday (9/16/01) we selected Psalm 27 as text. The reassuring theme (we have the hard copy sermon in hand) was: **OUR SAVIOR-GOD, OUR STRONGHOLD.**

Under the Spirit's guidance, King David composed this psalm about a believer's faith and confidence when his “enemies” and his “foes” (whether flesh and blood foes or ‘spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places’) attack.

The king spoke from first-hand experience. His predecessor Saul sought repeatedly to kill him. David's own son Absalom was a traitor to his father.

Yet through it all David maintained a firm faith in His God, the Covenant God, the God of his fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was confident that, as the LORD God had delivered Moses

and the Israelites from Pharaoh and his army, bringing His children safely into the Promised Land, the same LORD would be the strength and stronghold of His children of all times.

As the sermon went on, we referred to a couple other lesser known and remembered days which nevertheless still “live in infamy” in world history.

An excerpt:

“As Christians we have answers to questions such as ‘How could a loving God allow such a thing to happen?’.... For one thing, we know that while God is indeed a ‘God of love,’ He is at the same time a just and righteous God—a God who must and does punish sin and unbelief. Let's review a bit: God created Adam and Eve holy, without sin. He forewarned them that if they disobeyed Him and ate of the forbidden fruit, they would surely die. The very first day which “lives in infamy (disgrace and dishonor)” was in the Garden of Eden when our first parents chose to disobey God, so that they DID in fact die—died spiritually, becoming enemies of God, dead in trespasses and sins, plunging all of their descendants into the pit of sin and hell with them. As evidence of this sin, their first son Cain killed their second son, Abel. Where was God those infamous days? He was right there, wasn't He, having first warned Adam and Eve what their disobedience would bring about; then warning Cain of what could happen if he did not control his jealous anger! The

perverted, unchecked will of Cain's naturally sinful heart led him to commit murder.”

As the sermon continued, yet another day of world history which “lives in infamy” was mentioned:

“So goes the history of men and of nations, multiplied million and billion times over, ever since in this sinful world. In His Word God has told us that ‘out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies’ (Matthew 15:19)... We must confess that these seeds of evil can and do also erupt within the sinful nature of each of us. It was all such a hopeless case for mankind, as God Himself knew, which is why He entered the picture. He had promised to send His Son into the world to save sinners. You know what Jesus did. He lived a holy life and died an innocent death on the cross for sinners. Say, what a ‘day of infamy (disgrace and dishonor)’ that was—the day that Jesus Christ was crucified! And where was the loving God of heaven on THAT Day, fellow sinners? He was right there, wasn't He, pouring out His just and righteous wrath for sin on His only-begotten Son, and all for the gracious purpose that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life?! Thus this ‘day of infamy’ became, paradoxically, ‘the day of salvation’ for sinners all!”

This writer and his wife were privileged to visit (tour) Pearl Harbor this past spring. It can be emotional,

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Wedding Address

(Please see sidebar)

Pastor Bruce Naumann • Eau Claire, Wisconsin

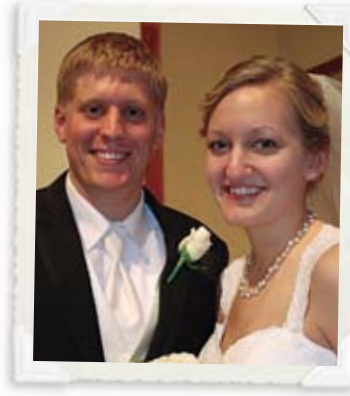
Dear family and friends of the bride and groom, and especially today, dear Jackie and Mac:

The text you've chosen is a most appropriate one for your wedding day. The setting is Old Testament Israel, where the people had recently conquered the Canaanites under the leadership of Joshua. The Lord, going before them, had won the battles. He had kept all of His promises to His people, to the last word.

Then the aging Joshua, after all the military campaigns, was about to retire from his post as commander in chief. They had reached a milestone, and they faced a fork in the road for their future. Joshua presented them with a choice—one of two options. They could choose to blend in with unbelieving world around them, OR they could resolve to remain faithful to the true LORD, their Deliverer.

"Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve," Joshua told them, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Here today we also have a fork in the road. It is a day of choices for the happy couple. In preparation for this day, I asked both Jackie and Mac to list for me the top four reasons why they made the choice for each other. I asked each of them to send me the top four reasons, in order of importance, why they would be choosing this particular person for a spouse.



some of their answers, beginning with the answers they gave of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th importance.

One of Jackie's answers was "humor." She said: "We have such similar senses of humor and make each other laugh, him more so than me. He is so clever and well-spoken and makes me laugh all the time, even during hard times, he knows what to say and how to make me smile again. I'm not afraid to act ridiculous around him; he gets it."

Mac also listed "sense of humor" as one of the reasons for his choice. "I love to laugh and make others smile. Jackie also shares this sense of humor that is needed every day to break up stress. Having this similarity helps bring us closer to each other. Love without laughter would just be no fun I think."

Jackie, in one of her answers, listed "communication." She said "I am fairly extroverted but when it comes to talking about the big issues with people, even my family, it's always been hard for me to broach those subjects without beating around the bush before getting to the point. With Mac, I've never felt that hesitation. He listens when I rant and cry about things that are so fleeting, but he is

SIDEBAR: Pastor Bruce Naumann of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wis. conducted the marriage service of Jaclyn Beekman and MacKenzie Friedrichs on April 16, 2011. To us the pastor wrote: "I asked (this couple) to give the top four reasons for their choice in a spouse. The result was that they practically wrote their own wedding address, and did a fine job. I think their responses would be of great benefit to our young people. Jackie and Mac have given me a green light to submit it to the *Spokesman*." — What a wonderful Christian testimony indeed! — Editor)

always there for me and I trust him with every word. I can talk to him about ANYTHING, anytime."

In another of his answers, Mac listed "loving and caring." "Jackie has a personality which exudes patience, love and caring. She loves others and tries to do the right thing. Her love for God reflects in her daily life, as I have seen up close and personally. From working with the elderly at a nursing home, as well as currently in a hospital, to being around her nieces and directing a children's choir... Jackie loves the young and old, healthy and sick. She is unselfish, outgoing and caring as she thinks about others and her family, and I am so very blessed to love someone like her who loves me back!"

Jackie mysteriously writes in another of her answers, "This one, I can't really explain. Mac is my other half. When we were both in college and lived so far apart, I literally felt a hole in my heart when he wasn't there. All it took was just to be in his presence again with a tight hug and everything feels right again. I know that is so very cliché, but it's the truth! I feel at home when I'm with him, no matter where I am."

As I said, these were the "runner-

up" answers to the question, "Why have you chosen this particular person?" And now for the reasons of first importance:

For the number one reason Mac listed for his choice of Jackie as his wife, he writes "#1. God-fearing — Jackie's strength in the Lord and grounded, unwavering faith has definitely been apparent throughout our relationship. She uses her gifts and talents to spread God's Word, and I know that having her in my life to love and grow old with at a CLC church is the number one reason God gave her to me."

And the number one reason Jackie listed for her choice of Mac was this: "#1. Our mutual faith. Knowing he understands the reason I live my life the way I do is such a blessing. We have the same morals and values and everything in our lives comes back to God as our strength and reason."

I think it's plain today, isn't it, that on this day of choices, Jackie and Mac's choice centers on the Lord's choice for them. That's where it all starts, of course. Before Jackie or Mac were ever born or the world had ever been made, the Lord made His choice. We read in Ephesians chapter one: "He chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

It is the LORD's choice that has led you both to Him and now to each other, and that makes us joyful for you this day—joyful, and confident for your future. For as you continue to choose the things of the Lord first in

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Christian Apologetics

James Arndt • Member at Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School - Middleton, Wisconsin

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...” 1 PETER 3:15

The Uniformity of Nature

How would you respond to the following: “You Christians are so unscientific. Science and religion have nothing to do with each other because science is about facts, and religion is about faith.”

Remember, when defending the Christian faith we will always do an internal critique of the other person’s presuppositions. Because your opponent is not starting with God as the ultimate authority, there will and must be inconsistencies in what he says versus how he lives. These need to be brought to light.

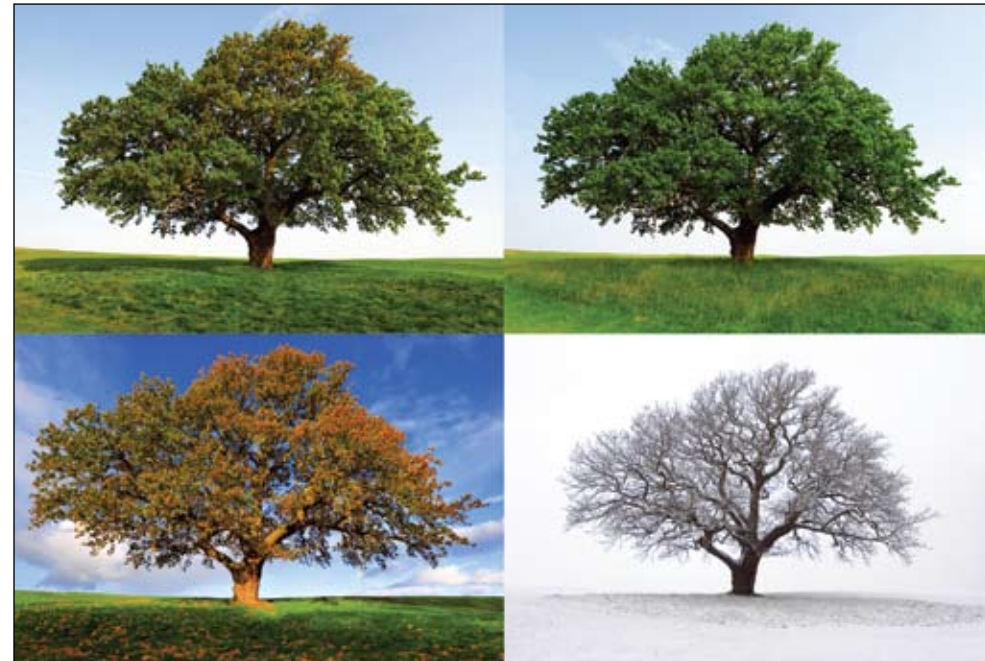
What is it that makes science a useful tool? Very simply, all scientific inquiry rests upon the uniformity of nature. For example, when you turn the ignition in your car, you expect the properties of electricity, chemistry, friction, and heat to act as they always have so that your car will run.

We see these expectations of uniformity everywhere we look. We expect aspirin to soothe a headache. When we squeeze a tube of toothpaste we expect toothpaste to come out.

When it was noticed that a planet in our solar system was not where it was supposed to be, the astronomers of the day didn’t throw up their hands and say, “Well, it’s a chance universe. Anything can happen.” No, they theorized that an undiscovered planet’s gravity was acting upon it. This dependence on the uniformity of nature led to the discovery of Neptune.

So the question to the non-Christian becomes, “On what worldview does the uniformity of nature make sense?”

The Christian worldview says God has revealed to us that He is the Creator of everything. As the Creator, there will be nothing that is outside His control and influence (Colossians 1:16-17);



**“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”
(Genesis 8:22)**

and after the Flood God told Noah that the days and seasons will never cease (Genesis 8:22).

God Has Promised!

In other words, even though we do not know the future as God does, we can be sure that the universe will be orderly and uniform tomorrow because God has promised it to be so. Although God has not revealed all scientific knowledge to us through His Word (the existence of electrons, $E=mc^2$, behavior of genes, and so on), because He has told us that this world is uniform, the scientific method is a useful tool.

Now if the God Christians believe in does not exist, what rational reason would there be to believe that nature is uniform? It is assumed that the past has been uniform, but what person knows for sure? It is assumed that the universe is uniform, but what person has experienced this in all places?

To infer that it will be uniform tomorrow, some may appeal to times when they observed uniformity in the past. What gives anyone

Continued on next page

Uniformity Continued from Page 17

the right to think that limited experiences of uniformity in the past will carry over to the future?

If human beings are the end result of a chaotic and chance universe, all attempts to order and tame that universe would be useless and all expectations of uniformity would be irrational.

(The apologetic method and organization for these articles is taken from the book *Pushing the Antithesis: The Apologetic Methodology of Greg L. Bahnsen*, American Vision, Powder Springs, Georgia, 2007.)

Days of Infamy Continued from Page 13

seeing on-site the various memorials, pictures, and movies, reliving and rehearsing the shocking evil of 12/7/41. Similarly the horrific events of the 9/11/01 will be replayed and re-witnessed for years to come.

But here's the best news: also recorded—in the LORD'S Holy Scriptures!—for all to see, hear, read,

So, are Christians unscientific because of a belief in God? Not at all! When the unbeliever claims that he can be scientific without belief in God it is only because he's borrowing from the Christian worldview.



and remember are the details of the spiritual days of infamy mentioned above.

Dear reader, while here "in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13), let's get the Word out—before the consummate day of infamy for the fallen world of men, Judgment Day, engulfs and swallows them up.



Wedding Address Continued from Page 15

your lives together, we know that all the best blessings will come right along with that choice.

We have Jesus' word on it! He said that if we pay attention to the main thing, all the other things like loving and caring, communication, sharing life's joys and woes with a sense of humor, and all the rest will come along in their proper place. Jesus said: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6).

So we thank God this day for His choice that Jackie and Mac would belong

to Him as His dear children through faith in Christ. We thank God for the blessings He's giving to you in each other this day. We also thank God for your choice together to lay the foundation of this household firmly upon the promises of our Savior-God in His Word.

We're happy for you for many reasons today, but most of all for the firm conviction of faith that you share. It is the same conviction that was spoken by Joshua so long ago: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." In Jesus' name. Amen.



Great Lakes Pastoral Conference September 27-29, 2011 Messiah Lutheran Church Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Agenda:

- + Modern Media Methods—An Avenue for Ministry?—Pastor Bruce Naumann
- + Simplified Guide to Common Greek Grammatical Constructions for Use in Sermon Exegesis—Professor Steven Sippert
- + New Testament Exegesis: Romans 4:1ff—Pastor Richard Kanzenbach
- + Old Testament Exegesis: Psalm 51—Professor John Pfeiffer
- + Church History (Essayist's Choice)—Pastor Michael Eichstadt
- + Review of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Movements—Pastor Edward Starke
- + What the CLC Has to Offer Uniquely to Today's Youth—Pastor Mark Bernthal
- + Homiletics Topic (Essayist's Choice)—Pastor Thomas Schuetze
Chaplain: Pastor Paul Krause
Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Walter Schaller

West Central Pastoral Conference September 13-15, 2011 Zion Ev. Lutheran Church Estelline, South Dakota

Agenda:

- + Devotional Study of a Psalm—Pastor James Sandeen
- + Homiletical Study (Essayist's Choice)—Pastor James Naumann
- + Mohammed of Islam, the Antichrist?—Pastor John Klatt
- + Old Testament Exegesis: Malachi 3:7ff—Pastor Matthew Gurath
- + New Testament Exegesis: Romans 11:7ff—Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer
- + The Age of the Earth—Pastor Mark Gurath
- + Review of the Different Bodies of New Testament Manuscript Evidence—Pastor Frank Gantt
- + Genesis 8:20-22—How this Promise of God Still Comforts God's People in the midst of "Scientific" End-time Scenarios—Pastor Andrew Schaller

Announcements

- + A Series of Devotions for someone facing a terminal disease—Pastor Mark Gullerud
- + Review of Bente's Historical Introduction Pertaining to a Reformation Controversy (On-going Series)—Pastor Paul Fleischer
Chaplain: Pastor Scott Schiermeister
Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Luke Bernthal

Minnesota Delegate Conference 3:00 p.m. — September 18, 2011 Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Eagle Lake, Minnesota

Agenda:

- + The role of a Board of Elders in the life of a congregation—Mr. Brian Stearns
- + Change in worship setting and style—benefits and pitfalls—Pastor David Schierenbeck
- + Enhancing the congregation's ministry to post-confirmation—Pastor Wayne Eichstadt

Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference October 11-13, 2011 Redemption Lutheran Church Seattle (Lynnwood), Washington

Agenda:

1. Discussion of the summary by Pastor David Lau of papers given in the CLC on the roles of men and women in the church.
2. Treasuring the Word—a simplified pamphlet explaining the biblical teaching of Church Fellowship for a handout—Pastor Delwyn Maas.
3. Review and discussion of Koehler's paper "Legalism Among Us"—Pastor David Reim.
4. Review of Dr. C. F. W. Walther's "The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel" (Thesis XVII)—Pastor Doug Priestap
5. Isagogical Study (Background of a book of the Bible)—Pastor David Fuerstenau (writer's choice)
6. Old Testament Exegesis—Pastor Paul Naumann (exegete's choice) Conference Chaplain: Pastor David Naumann
Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Steven Karp



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE REGENTS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran College invites “all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession” (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the ILC faculty by the retirement of Professor Michael Buck at the end of the 2011-’12 school year.

The man (men) nominated must be able to teach biology and physical science and health at both the high school and college levels. Duties will commence with the 2012-’13 school year. Those placing nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee’s educational background and teaching experience. They may also indicate how their nominee(s) might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions.

Please send your nominations, postmarked or e-mailed no later than August 20, 2011, to:

Mr. Craig Ryan, Secretary
ILC Board of Regents
499 Country Lane
Fulda, MN 56131
cryan@page1printers.com

CORRECTION:

Please note the following correction in our August 2011 issue. Page 6, 2nd column, 2nd paragraph: “... but Hezekiah would not listen” should read: “but he (meaning Manasseh) would not listen.” – We regret the error. Editor

World Trade Center 9/11 photos Aman Zafar About the Lutheran Spokesman Cover

Art directed and designed by Matt Schaser. Send your photos and art (in digital format) to mschaser@sbcglobal.net and we’ll consider them for use in future editions of the *Lutheran Spokesman*.

Lutheran Spokesman

“...THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN.” — JOHN 10:35

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