

# Preaching Christ Alone in an Age of Pluralism: Insights from the Wittenberg Tradition

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## *Outline of the Work*

Introduction and Overview

1. Pluralism in the United States
2. The Medieval Context: Western Christendom
3. The Reformation as an Age of Confessionalization
4. The Three Estates:
  - Household
  - State
  - Church
5. The Two Kinds of Righteousness, Squared (See charts 1 & 2 on the back of this page)

*“I [Luther] did not know that through the preaching and the Holy Scripture of Christ’s church there was a twofold judgment of God, one of the law and another of the gospel, and likewise a twofold righteousness of God, one of the law and another of the gospel. In the world the judgment and righteousness of the law is known, but it is not performed; but – as the prophets*

*announced – David’s son, our Lord Jesus Christ, would bring about the judgment and righteousness of God through the gospel when he was upon the earth, as in Jeremiah 23[:5]: “He will make judgment and righteousness on the earth, etc.”*<sup>1</sup>

- 5a. The Righteousness of the Law
- 5b. The Judgment of the Law
- 5c. The Judgment of the Gospel
- 5d. The Righteousness of the Gospel

6. Crossing Religious Diversity in the Wittenberg Tradition

- 1. External difference
- 2. The desire to control
- 3. The desire to be lords
- 4. The freedom to be the Lord’s
- 5. The freedom to let others be the Lord’s
- 6. The freedom to serve unconditionally

1 Cited in Martin Lohrmann, *Bugenhagen’s Jonah* (Minneapolis: University Lutheran Press, 2012), 125.

**Chart 1: The Two Kinds of Righteousness, Squared**

	Active Righteousness	Passive Righteousness
Righteousness of God	<p>Righteousness of the Law (<i>civil righteousness, 3<sup>rd</sup> use of the law</i>)</p>	<p>Righteousness of the Gospel (<i>righteousness of faith, imputed righteousness, etc.</i>)</p>
Judgment of God	<p>Judgment of the Law (<i>1<sup>st</sup> use of the law</i>)</p>	<p>Judgment of the Gospel (<i>2<sup>nd</sup> use of the law</i>)</p>
	Known in the world	Known through Christ, church, etc.

**Chart 2: The Benefits of the Two Kinds of Righteousness, Squared**

	Earthly	Heavenly
Righteousness of God	Thanksgiving for earthly blessings	Thanksgiving for gospel freedom & free justification
Judgment of God	Call to serve in daily life	Call to repent and believe <i>(Oct. 31, 1517: Thesis #1)</i>

[PreachingChristAlone-handout \(PDF\)](#)