

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.”*¹

- 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	Righteousness of the Law (<i>civil righteousness, 3rd use of the law</i>)	Righteousness of the Gospel (<i>righteousness of faith, imputed righteousness, etc.</i>)
Judgment of God	Judgment of the Law (<i>1st use of the law</i>)	Judgment of the Gospel (<i>2nd use of the law</i>)
	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 (Oct. 31, 1517: Thesis #1)

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