

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

By Martin Lohrmann
International Crossings Conference – January 2014
Belleville, IL

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 <i>(Oct. 31, 1517: Thesis #1)</i>