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Miscellanea

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Die liturgifde Bewegung nad beutichlänbifder Beurteilung.

Die liturgische Bewegung der letzten Jahre, die ja auch hier in Amerika weite Kreise in Mitleidenschaft gezogen hat, stammt bekanntlich ursprünglich aus Deutschländ, wo sie besonders unter dem Einsluß Heilers in der hochsklichen Bewegung empordsühte. So wertvoll nach manchen Seiten hin die Anregung war, die man durch ein Besinnen auf das liturgische Erdeil der Reformation geben wollte, so verhängnisvoll war es andererseits, daß Heiler und seine Genossen nur zu bald eine entschiedene Reigung romswärts kundgaben. Diese Tatsache wurde auch bald erkannt, namentlich von gewissen Bertretern der Richtung, die in der "Monatsschrift für Gottesdienst und kirchliche Kunst" mit deren Beiheften "Das Heilige und die Form" zum Ausdruck komnt.

Besonders wertvoll für das Studium der ganzen Bewegung sind aber auch eine ganze Anzahl von Wonographien, die in den letzten Jahren erschienen sind. Bor uns liegen zwei dieser Hefte, nämlich "Gottesdienst und Rechtsertigungsglaube, Luthers Grundlegung evangelischer Liturgik bis zum Jahre 1523", von Adolf Allwohn, und "Die liturgische Bewegung der Gegen-

wart im Lichte ber Theologie Luthers", von Otto Diet.

Die erstgenannte Schrift geht auf die einzelnen Momente ein, die in Luthers liturgifden Schriften in ben erften Jahren feiner theologifden Entwidlung hervortreten, namentlich feine allmähliche Erkenntnis ber ben römischen Rultformen anhängenden übel. Schon bor bem Jahre 1515 merfte Luther beutlich die Gefährlichfeit ber leeren Beremonien, und bamals fcon wagte er es, zu fagen, daß die Burgel alles übels barin befteht, bag bas Evangelium nicht in rechter Beife gebredigt wirb. Dieje Erfenntnis tritt noch deutlicher herbor in feiner Romerbriefvorlefung, wo er ausbrudlich fagt, daß die vielen Rirchengebrauche vor bem Ebangelium nicht bestehen fonnen. Ein weiterer Grundfat, ber fich bei Luther um biefe Beit Bahn brach, ift diefer, daß es nicht gleichgültig ift, welche Beremonien befolgt werben, fondern ihre Art hat dem Grundgeset ber Gottess und Rächstens liebe gu entiprechen. Bur Befeitigung eines falichen Bertrauens auf augers liche Sandlungen empfahl Luther ichon bamals beren Berminberung und Die Ginführung einer rechten Belehrung über ben Glauben. Allwohn fcreibt: "Mus benfelben Grunden halt er auch eine Revifion ber gefamten firch = lichen Sabungen, eine Befeitigung bes rein außerlichen Bruns tes und eine Berminderung der Gebetsgeremonien und ber fuls tifden Gewander für angezeigt." In ben Borten Luthers: "Quia haec crescunt in dies et ita crescunt, ut sub illis decrescat fides et charitas et nutriatur avaritia, superbia, vana gloria, immo quod peius est, quod illi homines sperant salvari, nihil solliciti de interno homine." In ben nächsten Jahren war Luther bor allem barauf bedacht, bas Bolf zu belehren, bağ ein liturgifder Att noch lange fein gottesbienftlicher ift. überhaupt legte ber Reformator ein fehr großes Gewicht auf die fattas mentale Seite bes Gottesbienftes, um bas Tun Gottes ben Buhörern recht borgubilben und das Befen des Gottesbienftes als ein Schenken und Birken Gottes gu betonen.

In ber Schrift bon Diet, die burch eine Thefenreihe eingeleitet wird,

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ist sonberlich Thesis 5 von großer Wichtigkeit: "Der Gottesbienstgebanke Luthers ist der konsequente Ausdruck seiner Rechtfertigungslehre. Bon ihr aus hat die Predigt zentrale Bedeutung im Gottesdienst und kann und darf niemals durch Liturgie verdrängt oder ersetzt werden." Nachdem der Bersfasser mancherlei Berirrungen in der Liturgischen Bewegung nachgewiesen hat, nicht nur in allgemeinen Reformbestrebungen, sondern auch sonderlich in Ideen der "hochkirchlichen Bereinigung" (Durchsührung der bischössischen Bersassung, maßvolles Zurücktreten der Predigt), bringt er Luthers Liturgische Grundsähe dur Geltung. Um uns kurz zu fassen, zitieren wir einige

ber fcwerwiegenbften Musfagen:

"Die liturgische Bewegung hat in allen ihren geschilberten Typen bie Beziehung zum grundlegenden ebangelifden Bringip verloren. Das, mas die Reformation als bas Befen bes evangelifden Gots tesbienftes erarbeitet hat, ift nicht mehr normierenb. ... über ihrer Sonthefentheologie [wonach jebe neue Beitperiode ihre eigene gottesbienftliche Zusammenftellung zu machen hat] ift bie liturgifche Bewegung - so wie sie geschildert wurde - als Ganges und in ihren Teilen an ben Buntt gefommen, two fie bon ber Rirche Buthers faft nicht mehr ernft genommen werden fann. Denn die Rirche Luthers weiß, daß das Zentrum alles evangelischen Lebens, auch bes evangelischen Gottesbienftes, ber Artitel von ber Rechtfertigung ift. . . . Mus biefem Grunde foll die driftliche Gemeinde nimmer gusammenkommen, es werde denn daselbst Gottes Bort gepredigt, es fei auch aufs fürzeste'. Es ift und bleibt alles Gottesbienftes bas größte und fürnehmfte Stud, Gottes Bort predigen und hören'. . . . So haben wir der heutigen liturgischen Bewegung gegenüber als Fundamentaljat auszusprechen, daß die Predigt auf jeden Fall ber Mittelpunft bes ebangelischen Gottesbienftes bleiben muß. . . . Die Kirche Luthers hat also prinzipiell allen liturgischen Bemühungen gegenüber die Barnung bor einer Absolution der Liturgie auszusprechen. Liturgie fann und barf niemals bie Bredigt verbrängen ober erfeben wollen. ... Ber alfo um die Rechtfertigung bes Gunbers aus Gottes Unabe weiß, ber tann nicht bergeffen, bag ber Menfch allegeit, auch in feinem Gottess bienft, immer nur ber Bittenbe, ber gang und gar Empfangenbe bleibt. Bon ba aus wird es unmöglich, im Gottesbienft felbft Gebender und Spendender fein zu wollen; es verbietet fich von diefem Bentrum lutherifchen Glaubens aus, im Gottesbienft irgendwie ein ,religiofes Erlebnis' bom Meniden ber erzeugen zu wollen. Damit ift über alle die Bersuche, die uns bei der Darstellung der heutigen liturgifden Bewegung als mehr ober minder pfuchologifche, padagogifche, viels leicht sogar psychagogische Beranstaltungen entgegengetreten sind, das Wort gesprochen. . . . Es ift nach Luther völlig flar: Wer im Gottesbienft berfucht, mit binchologischen Mitteln und methodischer Technit im Menfchen religiöse Lebensbewegungen hervorzurufen, migbraucht ben evangelischen Gottesbienft; benn burch biefe Möglichfeiten wird nur ber wuzude avdownos genährt. . . . Darum hat auch Luther mit allen unnötigen Zeremonien des römischen Meßgottesdienstes (Räuchern usw.) aufgeräumt. Warum glaubt man, sie heute wieder in seiner Kirche einführen zu müssen? Gine Kirche hat über ihr Bekenntnis zu wachen und, also wachend, ihr Bekenntnis immer wieber neu zu entbeden. Bo fie bas nicht tut, hat fie aufgehört, Rirche Bu fein." B. E. M.

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Der Rame "evangelifd-lutherifd".

In der Artikelreihe "Das lutherische Bekenntnis in den Bekenntnisfdriften" fdreibt Brof. Ulmer in ber "A. E. Q. R." bom 10. April: "Jebenfalls bedeutet heute noch das Augsburgische Bekenntnis — also nicht etwa die Konfordie — in vielen Kirchen außerhalb bes Deutschen Reiches bas Moment, das ihnen geradezu in "Evangelische Kirche A. C." ihren Namen Diegen die "Reuen" ursprünglich Lutheraner, Martianer, lutherifc, so war es Luther selbst, der die Sache des Evangeliums und seinen Namen unberworren haben wollte. Go tam im Kreise um ihn die Bezeichnung "Evangelische" oder auch "Reformierte" auf. Durch die religionsgesellschafts lichem Denken und Wollen entsprungene Union wurde die Bezeichnung evangelisch', die u. a. schon der Große Kurfürst als ein Lutheraner und Reformierte umfaffendes Unionswort anftrebte, nunmehr bon biefer neuen, erft 1817 gebilbeten Union in Anspruch genommen. Und die Lutheraner liegen fich diefen Raub gefallen, ftatt daß fie der Reubildung zugemutet hatten, fich einen neuen Ramen gu wahlen. Go mußten fie fich fortan Evangelijch-lutherifche nennen, eine Bezeichnung, Die ja wohl früher ichon bann und wann gebraucht worden war, die aber nirgends fo gang als eine firchliche empfunden wird oder im Unterschied von den "Evangelischen" Belvetischer Konfession Evangelische Augsburgischer Konfession. Aber bas fchien ja wohl ben Batern ber Union gut fo. Singegen war es ben Reformierten möglich — boch unter Beibehaltung ber Bezeichnung "reformiert" —, sich fortan mit gleichem Recht auch als "Evangelische" zu bezeichnen. Roch im Rontordienbuch gilt ber Rame ,Reformierte' übrigens für bie Lutheraner. Erft feit bem 17. Nahrhundert wurde die Bezeichnung "Reformierte" Ronfeffionsbezeichnung ber Zwinglianer und Calbinisten und erscheint fo im Beftfälifden Frieden. Die Bezeichnung (nach Gottes Bort) ,reformiert' wurde bann bamals bon ben Reformierten bor allem im Gegenfat zu ben noch im Alten halb stedengebliebenen - wie fie fagten - Evangelischen (Qutheranern) gebraucht."

The Need of Doctrinal Preaching.

"This is an age of quacks in religion as well as in medicine. Every nostrum imaginable is offered to cure the Church of its real and supposed ills. They tell us that we must have finer machinery, beautiful buildings, more music, up-to-date programs. There is truth here. These, however, will not make an impotent church mighty in the presence of aggressive evils. Efficiency is their magic word, and the Church has efficiency experts galore. It has built up the most efficient machinery ever made for its missionary enterprise; yet it is recalling its ambassadors, reducing its forces, retreating along all frontiers of activity. Efficiency is not synonymous with life. It is not efficiency, it is effectiveness that is needed.

"The doctors say the Church wants bigger budgets and better programs; but Christ needs bigger and better men. The Church does not need more push, it needs more power; not more doctoring, but more doctoring. . . .

"Doctrinal preaching is difficult. It takes preparation and perspiration to present these cardinal truths in a new, forceful, and persuasive manner. The demands of the present-day pastorate are so great that pas-

tors often cannot take the time to prepare stirring doctrinal messages. Nevertheless it is worth while to pay the price. Great preaching comes from great conviction. Great conviction grows out of great truths. Conviction generates spiritual power.

"The need for doctrinal preaching, Scriptural preaching, is tragic. During our vacations we have heard many sermons with never a Scripture reference. Many preachers did not even take a text. Hungry souls were given sermons made up of funny stories, political discussions, and book reviews. We have been tempted to give what people want. The world wants to be entertained, pleased, applauded, flattered. Like children they want what is not always good for them."

Watchman-Examiner, April 16, 1936.

Blowing Out Lights.

A well-known preacher, who is known to be vitriolic and hypercritical, was shaking hands with members of his congregation after the service. A woman who had been a parishoner of the church in years gone by and who was now engaged in full-time Christian work was in the company that was greeted by the pastor.

"Well, Laura, are you still letting your light shine?" asked the preacher.

"Yes, Doctor," she replied, "just like you are, and I am blowing out everybody else's light, just like you are."

There is no record of the results of this rebuke. One of the greatest tragedies in Christian work to-day is the jealousy that prevails among Christian workers and the destructive, sinful criticism of fellow-workers. Satan must gloat over this phenomenon and the havoe it has wrought. We must be uncompromising in our loyalty to Christ and the Word and in our hatred of sin, but this obligation does not mean that we should be harsh and bitter and hypercritical toward our fellows. Let us remember the wise advice "We should not add to the offense of the Cross our own offensiveness."

Why should a Christian worker magnify and broadcast the faults and failures of a fellow-worker? Some believers seem to specialize in criticism, and they become past masters in their specialty. The critic sometimes goes so far as to peddle lies. Lying is an appalling thing in the sight of God. "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone," Rev. 21, 8. Sometimes a criticism is an interpretation of an act or an attitude that is a false interpretation because the critic did not have accurate or adequate information. Great harm may result from such criticism. Some one has said that all comments should go through three sieves: First, Is it true? Second, Is it kind? And third, Is it necessary?

Criticism sometimes is necessary; but it should be given to the person involved, and it should be brought in the right spirit. God says: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted," Gal. 6, 1. The work of restoration is the work of the spiritual Christian. Too many unspiritual people are undertaking this

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work, and it is not being done in the spirit of meekness, but in the spirit of pride.

Christian workers are not faultless, and many have their idiosyncrasies; but if they are faithful in life and testimony to the Lord and His Word, let us refrain from minimizing their influence by criticism. Let us rather rejoice in their successes, speak well of them, and pray for them.

How would it be to declare a moratorium on negative, destructive criticism of fellow-Christians and to go out of the business of "blowing out lights"? Let us echo the wish of the one who said: "Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a briar and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

(From The King's Business, April, 1936.)

P.E.K.

Anniversary of the Death of Erasmus.

It is four hundred years ago that Erasmus, the famous humanist, left this world. Born October 27, 1464, in Rotterdam, he died in Basel, July 12, 1536. Thinking of him in his relations to Luther and the Reformation, we must say that here we are furnished a striking illustration of the truth that the kingdom of God is built not by human wisdom and power, but by the Holy Spirit operating in the Word. The greatest classical scholar of his age, a writer of rarest grace, a satirist who possessed wit and wisdom in happy combination, a critic who was keenly alive to the many abuses that were afflicting the Church, a man admired and looked up to in all Europe, he nevertheless did not bring about the Reformation of the Church because the great central truth of the Scriptures, that of justification by grace through faith, did not become the all-governing principle of faith and life with him and because he kept on sweeping away the filth that accumulated on the outside of the church instead of plying the broom where cleansing was most needed, in the chief room of the building. Erasmus seems to have been one of those tragic figures that are drawn hither and thither by conflicting motives, without reaching that inner peace and harmony for which the human heart yearns. Luther essentially was right, that appears to have been his conviction; but he deplored Luther's vehemence and uncompromising course, and he felt that, after all, not everything in the Church was wrong. And so he drifted, now maintaining this, now that position, unwilling to become an adherent of Luther and yet unable to remain an ardent son of the Roman Church. How little he understood Luther became evident especially when in 1524 he published his diatribe The Freedom of the Will, in which he assailed Luther's position, only to be answered in the latter's annihilating work On the Servitude of the Will. We Lutherans may well remind ourselves of the great services which Erasmus, enemy of Luther though he was after the Reformer in his De Servo Arbitrio had completely unhorsed him, indirectly rendered the cause of the Reformation. He in 1516 printed the text of the Greek New Testament; together with the Greek text he issued a Latin translation of his own, which in a number of instances was more faithful to the original than the Vulgate; he added notes in this edition which often criticized current views and existing

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conditions; he published paraphrases on the books of the New Testament, making them better understood; he edited and printed the writings of Church Fathers, and some of their Greek works he translated into Latin and thus made accurate historical research easier; in numerous philological writings he furnished theologians some of the equipment they needed to penetrate to the heart of Scripture-passages and to defend the true meaning against adversaries; in many works (especially in his Colloquia and his famous Laus Stultitiae) he castigated the sins and the ignorance of the priests and monks and even of their superiors and helped to destroy the halo with which superstition had invested them. In looking over this list, one can understand the taunt of the enemies of Erasmus in his own camp, "Erasmus laid the egg which Luther hatched."

What Others Think of Kagawa.

The following paragraphs appeared in the Evangelical Student, as reported in the Episcopal Recorder of January, 1936.

"A Christian student and member of the League of Evangelical Students has written a sharp letter challenging a cursory remark made in a previous editorial which classed Toyohiko Kagawa as a Modernist. I challenge you to prove one statement or else retract it. Prove that Toyohiko Kagawa is a Modernist or the H—— Chapter of the League will be smaller by at least two members.' This defense of Kagawa was made in the interest of the Student Volunteer Movement, which engaged Kagawa as one of its main speakers at its recent quadrennial convention in Indianapolis.1) The reaction of this student indicates the wide-spread delusion that prevails in America concerning Kagawa and, incidentally, concerning the Student Volunteer Movement. When we consider the large number of speaking engagements before American student bodies that have been arranged for Dr. Kagawa, it becomes important for students to be informed whether Kagawa is an evangelical or a Modernist.

"The philosophy of Toyohiko Kagawa has been set forth in two of his popular books: The Religion of Jesus and Love the Law of Life. The whole approach of these books is a thoroughly naturalistic one. Jesus is treated as a mere human creature. Man is not felt to be in need of a supernatural salvation either objectively in the death of Christ or subjectively in the regeneration of his sinful heart. The teaching of Kagawa on certain cardinal points of the Christian faith bears this out clearly. What is Kagawa's conception of the person of Christ? 'Jesus experienced God as the forgiver of sins.2) Speaking of redemption, Kagawa says: 'Jesus Christ actually experienced it.3) This makes Christ a sinner. Historic Christianity says Christ 'knew no sin.' What is Kagawa's view of the atonement? 'Some people think that the death of Jesus was a bribe ... for reconciliation with God. But I take the meaning of Jesus' death humanistically and personally. The true, deep meaning of redemption is that Jesus apologized to God for all the failures and sins of mankind, taking responsibility for them upon Himself.'4) Christ said He was to

¹⁾ The student has since become convinced of his error.

²⁾ Toyohiko Kagawa, The Religion of Jesus, p. 35.

³⁾ Ibid, p. 56. 4) Ibid, p. 57.

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die ' for the remission (pardon) of sins.' Paul taught: 'We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.' Kagawa discredits the bodily resurrection of Jesus. 'We do not know in what form the resurrection did come. Whether it was in the flesh, as the gospels teach, or in the spiritual body, as Paul tells us, it makes no difference.'5) After His resurrection Christ said: 'A spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have.' Kagawa's teaching on the nature of man is just as anti-Christian as his teachings on the person and work of Christ. Man is not at all in need of regeneration. He is inherently good and simply needs to believe in the evolutionary development of himself into divinity. 'Belief in evolution is a bolder faith than Abraham's belief in the Promised Land. His land was the lean country of Palestine; the Promised Land of evolution is growth from electron to divinity.' 6) God's Word says: 'All have sinned and come far short of the glory of God.' Christ said: 'Ye must be born again.' It is the privilege of Dr. Kagawa to prefer his naturalistic philosophy to that of supernatural Christianity. But Dr. Kagawa does not have any rightful claim to the name 'evangelical.' And the fact of his being invited to speak to the one-time-evangelical Student Volunteer Movement, far from assuring us of the orthodoxy of Dr. Kagawa, convinces us of the unorthodoxy of any oragnization that welcomes his message."

Strange to say, the Lutheran Companion of April 18, 1936, has the following short article, signed by C. A. Wendell: —

"This Man Kagawa. - It looks as if Pietists, orthodoxists, Fundamentalists, and profiteers had entered into an agreement to squash every effort of this Kagawa of Japan. As for me, if I may venture to add a word to the tumult, I have only this to say: When I have suffered half as much for my Savior as Kagawa has; when I have surrendered every worldly preferment rather than deny Christ; when I have become humble enough to be 'Christ's fool, a public laughing-stock' (see Axling's Kagawa, p. 70); when I have 'ticked off, in tears, day after day, half my life' out of sympathy for suffering humanity; when I can call myself 'Christ's captive, a slave of the Cross,' determined to abandon everything that bears the mark of this world; when I have given up every luxury and every comfort and gone down into the slums, not merely to visit their inhabitants now and then, but to live among them that so I may tell them the more effectively of the love of Christ; when I have been beaten and bruised and kicked and imprisoned because of my determination to follow in the footsteps of Christ and have come out of it with my heart still full of love and compassion; when I have done all this, as Kagawa has, then maybe I shall feel justified in joining the pack and helping to hound him, - if that be the Christian thing to do, - but till then I shall let others do the judging." (C. A. WENDELL, Lutheran Companion, April 18, 1936.)

⁵⁾ Ibid, p. 103.

⁶⁾ Toyhiko Kagawa, Love the Law of Life, p. 299.