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## Miscellanea

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#### Miscellanea

#### Grunbfage für Rinbergottesbienfte

Bir zitieren aus einem Artikel von Siebrasse in der "Monatsschrift für Gotiesdienst und kirchliche Kunst", der in einem Artikel über "Die Liturgie des Kindergottesdienstes" unter anderm schreibt:

- "1. Luther wollte die eingebeutschte, altfirchliche Kirchenordnung der Mette vornehmlich als den Schuls und Jugendgottesdienst für alle Tage ansgesehn wissen. . . .
- "4. Die Forberung nach der Kindertümlichkeit des Kindergottesdienstes ift abzulehnen.
- "5. Es ist zu fordern, daß der Kindergottesdienst nicht kindertümlich, sondern gemeindemäßig und Gottesdienst im vollen Sinne sei. Richt das Kind ist das Maß der Dinge im Kindergottesdienst, sondern die Anbetung Gottes und die Verkündigung seines Wortes.
- "a. Darum follen auch grundfählich die Eltern und fonstige Gemeindes glieder bom Kindergottesbienst nicht ausgeschlossen fein.
- "b. Darum läuten zum Kindergottesdienst die Gloden, gehört in den Kindergottesdienst das Orgelspiel, brennen die Lichter auf dem Altar und bollzieht der Liturg seinen Dienst im Talar."

Diese Grundsätze finden ihre Anwendung auch unter unsern Verhältnissen hier in Amerika, sowohl im Mettens wie im Vespergottesdienst, besonders auch an den großen Festtagen und sollten uns so bald als möglich veranlassen, von dem bloßen Katechesen und Vortragsgottesdienst abzusommen und der ganzen Gemeinde ihr Recht, auch in dem Weihnachtskindergottessdienst, einzuräumen.

### Bas die theologische "Bissenschaft" sich neuerdings in der übersetzung der Bibel leistet

Ein ganz neues Werk, das von Deutschland aus sehr hoch gepriesen wird, ist Emil Faders "Die Vildersprache der Evangelien". Es ist wirklich traurig, daß ein Mann, der auf dem Gebiete der theologischen Wissenschaft arbeitet, die Geschichtlichkeit der Evangelien beiseitelzen will, wie der Bersleger schreibt: "Wit unserer neuen Verdeutschung der Evangelien wird der Beweis [?] erbracht werden, daß diese Schriften nicht als historische Bestichte, sondern als symbolische Kunstwerke, die die Einheit der Idee wahren, aufzusassen sind."

Die bermeintlichen Ergebnisse der "sprachschöpferischen Forschung" sind von so merkwürdiger Art, daß wir hier eine Probe mitteilen, hauptsächlich um zu zeigen, wie weit man von der Schrift abirren kann, wenn man die Borte nicht einfach annimmt, wie sie kauten. Matth. 6, 24—28 kautet beskanntlich: "Niemand kann zweien Herren dienen. Entweder er wird einen hassen und den andern lieben, oder er wird dem einen anhangen und den andern verachten. Ihr könnt nicht Gott dienen und dem Mammon. Darum sage ich euch: Sorget nicht für euer Leben, was ihr essen werdet, auch nicht für euren Leib, was ihr anziehen werdet. Ist nicht das Leben

mehr denn die Speise und der Leib mehr denn die Aleidung? Seset die Bögel unter dem Himmel an: sie säen nicht, sie ernten nicht, sie sammeln nicht in die Scheunen; und euer himmlischer Vater nähret sie doch. Seid ihr denn nicht viel mehr denn sie?"

Die neue "symbolische Verbeutschung" gibt diesen Passus so wieder: "Niemals sind zwei verschiedene Geistesrichtungen zu vereinigen. Die eine Richtung schließt ja doch stets die andere aus. Deshalb ist es auch sür die Schaffenden unmöglich, die schöpferische Geistesrichtung zu vereinigen mit der materialistischen Geistesrichtung. Also müssen die Schaffenden wissen mit der materialistischen Geistesrichtung. Also müssen die Schaffenden wissen, daß für sie die Bemühung um eine besondere materielle Lebenshaltung nicht in Betracht kommen kann. Es steht doch auch ganz außer Frage, daß das inwendige Leben über materielle Außerlichseiten erhaben ist. Es ist auch zu beachten, daß die Vitalität, wie sie verschiedentlich vorhanden ist und den Untergrund des Schöpferischen bildet, nicht von materieller Zielsehung abhängig ist; denn allemal wird die Vitalität in ihrem Bestand von dem autoritären schöpferischen Geist maßgebend beeinslußt. Alles Leben, das diesen Einsluß erfährt, erhebt sich dann in seiner Steigerung ohne Frage bedeutend über das bloß Vitale."

Sierüber wird jeder Lefer fein eigenes Urteil bilden fonnen.

P. E. R.

#### Der Gottesname in ber alteften germanifden Bibelüberfebung

In seinem Lieserungsweise erscheinenden Werk "Die Bekehrung der Germanen zum Christentum" kommt der Verfasser, Prof. D. Kurt Dietrich Schmidt, auch auf die Wahl des Gottesnamens dei Wulfila, der in seiner übersetzung der Bibel neue, dem gotischen Bolke unbekannte Dinge und Begriffe formte und seinen Brüdern nahezubringen suchte. Der Verfasser fährt hier fort:

"Für den neuen Gottesbegriff fett er gup, das gwar dem Beidentum befannt, aber, nach bem Nordischen zu schließen, nicht fo geläufig war wie ass (ans). Die Bahl war ficher flug, benn fonft waren falfche Borftellungen immer wieder hochgefommen. Das Wort ift ursprünglich Reutrum, wird aber bon Bufila maskulinifch bertvandt. Stauffmann bermutet, bag bas heidnische "Gott' für Bulfila neutrisch geblieben ift. Gine Fulle bon Busammensehungen mit gup wird Bulfila erft felbst geprägt haben. Die beide nischen Götter werben 3. B. mit galiuga-gup = Lügengötter bezeichnet; vgl. ferner gudaskaunei, die Schönheit Gottes = θεού μορφή: gagups = εύσχήμων, ,mit Gott seiend'; gagudei = εὐσέβεια, ,das Einssein mit Gott'; afgups = doeβής, ,unfromm'. Bum Teil ist hier der biblische Sinn besser getroffen als im Griechischen. Das neutestamentliche χύριος (HErr) wird mit frauja übersett, das etymologisch mit Frehr', aber auch mit unserm Abjektiv ,froh' zusammengehört und ben Begriff bes Beiligen und Herrlichen, Erfreuenden wiedergibt. Die Enade Gottes aber gibt er mit hulps, unferm Borte ,holb', wieder; hulps wisan ,gnädig sein'; daher gup, hulps sijais mis fravaurhtamma: ,Gott, fei mir Günder gnädig!"

In diesem Zusammenhang schreibt Schmidt ganz richtig: "Bulfilas Werk ist also die Christianisierung und nicht die Hellenisierung der gotischen Sprache."

B. E. R.

#### The Objectivity of Grace

Dr. Alfred E. Garvie writes: "Luther's emphasis on the corporeal presence of Christ in, with, and under the elements (consubstantiation) was not merely sacramentalism, for he always subordinated the Sacraments to the Gospel, but was zeal for the gospel of the real saving presence of Christ, the objectivity of grace, whether faith responded to it or not; always available, whether accepted or not. To a subjective individualism, which lays such stress on the receptivity and responsiveness of faith as to give the impression that the human condition is creative of the divine reality, instead of recognizing that it is the divine reality which evokes the human faith, this teaching is a salutary correction; what is to be regretted is that Luther bound up the truth of Christ's presence in the Sacraments with an artificial metaphysics." (The Fatherly Rule of God, p. 126.)

Dr. Garvie is telling the Church that it needs the teaching of Luther on the objectivity of grace. He is not right in thinking that Luther taught consubstantiation nor in speaking of "an artificial metaphysics" in connection with the Lutheran teaching on the Real Presence nor in mentioning only the "real saving presence of Christ" in the Sacrament, excluding the real presence of the real body and blood of Christ. He is right, however, in insisting that it is the divine reality of grace which evokes the human faith and asking the Church to listen to Luther.

He is thereby asking us to keep this testimony alive. It is the business of the Lutheran Church to uphold the objective nature of salvation, the objectivity and reality of the vicarious satisfaction as not being conditioned on any supplementary work and act of man and the objective nature of the means of grace, as offering the forgiveness of sins outright to men and exercising their power in every case where they are applied. It is the business of the Lutheran Church to warn against the subjectivism of the sects, which make the validity of the pardon offered in the means of grace and their efficacy dependent on the hearer's and recipient's subjective attitude; and we need to warn ourselves continually against this fatal aberration. Dr. Pieper writes: "The characteristic feature of our dear Evangelical Lutheran Church is her objectivity; this means that all her doctrines by their very nature keep man from seeking his salvation in himself, in his own powers, aspirations, performance, and condition, and lead him to seek his salvation outside of himself; while the characteristic feature of all other churches is their subjectivity; they all lead man to ground his salvation upon himself.' (Dr. Walther.) And that is done particularly through their denial of the Biblical doctrine of the means of grace." (Lehre u. Wehre, 36, p. 119.)

It is unfortunate that Dr. Garvie himself could write on page 113:
"It is only as in the Sacraments faith receives and responds to grace that they can be both signs and seals of the Gospel." It is by faith alone that we obtain the profit of the Sacraments, but they do not get their efficacy as signs and seals from faith.

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#### A Debito ad Posse non Valet Consequentia

The Romanists are unable to see the force of this logical truth. They say that, since God commands the keeping of the Law, man must be able to fulfil the Ten Commandments. Erasmus and the synergists labor under the same logical weakness. They say that, since men are asked to repent and believe, it follows that natural man has some spiritual ability. (Read up in Luther's De Servo Arbitrio on this logical and doctrinal heresy.) And not even the master of philosophy, Kant, was able to escape this fallacious reasoning. In his book Religion within the Bounds of Pure Reason he says: "In spite of that defection (the apostasy from goodness to evil) the command 'We ought to become better men' still resounds undiminished in our souls. Consequently, we must be able to become better men." On this point A. N. Rogness writes in the Journal of the American Lutheran Conference, February, 1938, p. 31 ff.: "All these thinkers have realized, as Kant in his final postulate, that the inescapable implication of a must is a can. It would be folly for man's rational nature or a government or God to say, 'Thou must' if there were not existent the possibility of 'I can.' Kant met the problem by postulating 'free will.' But his solution was not complete. For, though he boldly asserted the freedom of the will, his more practical observations caused him to admit that 'the niggardly provision of nature' prevented the will from conquest over the anarchy of man's perverse nature. So, in essence, freedom of the will became an ideal reality but an existential chimera. The problem of can was still unsolved, although in Kant the world received the classic of all philosophical attempts. . . . There have been those who, in order to produce a can, have implicitly discarded the must. These have been variously called materialists, empiricists, and later behaviorists. They have made man another unit in the deterministic order of a natural world."

Then why does God command men to keep His holy Law? And what does it mean when God asks the sinner to repent and believe? Luther told Erasmus that he had no right to turn imperative passages into indicative statements. The must does not imply the synergistic can. But there is a good reason why the must is demanded of the impotent sinner. And there is a divine way of turning the must into a can. Our article says, in the spirit of Luther: "What, then, does the Church offer this immoral man in his immoral society? First, it offers him despair. It seeks by the Word to bring him into the dreadful tension of the imperative must and the impotent can; and in this tension it leads him to a recognition of his dilemma. In other words, it makes him see himself lost in trespasses and sin, standing creditless before the awful judgment of a righteous God. For it knows that this is the impoverishment which alone can make him rich. Secondly, it confronts him with the redemptive forgiveness in Christ, in which the must is resolved in the vicarious can of Jesus. It gives man the faith to appropriate this reconciliation and stands him up on his two feet before God a new man, where he inherits the peace of full righteousness. And, finally, it makes him a new man not alone in a judicial sense, but in an actual. For the will of Christ living in him enlivens his will to all that is good, and he begins the journey of sanctification. It has removed him from the tyranny of the Law and has set him free on the high Gospel plateau of grace. In this Gospel is the resolution of the ethical difficulty. . . . The Law is the must of morals; the Gospel is the only synthesis of the must and the can."

#### Another Attempt to Improve the Liturgy

Among the various attempts to make a change in our Order of Morning Worship, or the Holy Communion, one which recently came calls for just a remark or two concerning the entire movement.

Whatever order is used, we must guard against the suggestion that the second part of the Morning Service, the Holy Communion, represents a higher summit than the service of the Word. It may have more significance for the faith of the communicant, inasmuch as it makes such a definite application of the divine promise of grace to the individual. But we must never forget that it is the word of God which is in and with the elements that gives the Sacrament its power and that the latter is effective only in the measure in which the word of the Gospel, as brought to the attention of the communicant specifically in the mystery of the Holy Communion, is understood, accepted, and trusted. As for all the rest, it will be advisable for all pastors to read and study frequently the paragraph of Luther in his preface to the Small Catechism. (Concordia Triglotta, 537 f. §§ 21—27.)

P. E. K.

#### Second Notice of the Summer Session at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Mo.

The Summer-school and Pastors' Institute at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., will be held immediately after the sessions of Synod, from June 27 to July 9, inclusive. The faculty and lecturers will include such men as Dr. L. Fuerbringer, Dr. Theo. Engelder, Dr. F. Pfotenhauer, Prof. E. J. Friedrich, Prof. O. P. Kretzmann, Dr. J. T. Mueller, Prof. F. E. Mayer, and possibly one or two additional men. Among the leaders of devotions we shall have Dr. H. B. Hemmeter and Pastor Paul Koenig.

All pastors who intend to take part are urgently requested to announce as soon as possible to the Director of the Summer Session, Prof. P. E. Kretzmann, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis, Mo.