

# Back to the Basics

August 10, 2020

Greetings, in the name of the Lord,

I must admit, I have come under conviction lately. I realized it had been quite a while since I updated this page. It's my goal to update it weekly with a new meditation. This is where I came under conviction. As I was thinking about what to write and started perusing the Concordia. I began to read Luther's Preface to the Large Catechism. He complained that preachers were being "lazy" and "shameful." Their sin? Not reading the Catechism daily. I confess that I found myself in that category. I become busy with writing sermons, preparing Bible studies, working on Confirmation, and since the Lockdown, recording sermons and meditations to be posted on the Internet. Not to mention meetings, counseling and calling. But that's no excuse. That's no reason to neglect my own soul care. In fact, all that responsibility is reason to expand personal soul care. I was told that John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church, got up at 5:00 Am every day to spend an hour in devotions and prayer. When he got busier and didn't have the time, he got up at 4:00! As a result, I have come to three conclusions:

- (1) I am going to read the Catechism every day (I probably shouldn't I have put that in writing).
- (2) My weekly meditation will be a series on the Catechism.
- (3) I challenge you to do the same and read the Catechism every day.

If you think that sounds unnecessary, here's what Martin Luther, the author of the Catechism had to say: "I am also a doctor and preacher; yes, as learned an experienced as all the people who have such assumption and contentment. Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so" (Preface to the Large Catechism).

Let's follow the lead of Martin Luther and get back to the basics.

In Christ's love,

Pr. Dale