

**ONE:
FOUNDATION
FOR MISSION**

OR

MISSION: WHY?

**2022 SID
CONVENTION ESSAY**



1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11 (NET):

“In accordance with the grace that God gave me, I laid a foundation as an expert master builder . . . no one can lay any other foundation than the one that is already laid, and that is Jesus Christ.”

WILHELM LOEHE:

“...mission is nothing but the one church of God in motion...” (*Three Books about the Church*)



PROMISSIO
IS FOUNDATION FOR
MISSIO

OUTLINE FOR PART ONE:

Promissio
underlies
missio

Promissio
for all
results in
missio to
all

Without
God's
promissio,
there's a
new *missio*

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PROMISSIO
UNDERLIES
MISSIO

APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

“... the forgiveness of sins is something promised on account of Christ. Therefore it cannot be received in any other way than by faith alone, since a promise cannot be received in any other way than by faith alone.”

ROMANS 4:16

“For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed.”

Thus: “If the matter depended on our merits, the promise would be uncertain and useless since we could never determine when we had earned enough merit” (Apology IV).

GALATIANS 3:22

“But the Scripture has said that everything is a prisoner of sin, so that the promised blessing might be given to believers through faith in Jesus Christ.”

Apology IV: This is “Paul’s chief argument, which he often repeats . . . based upon the nature of a promise.”

JESUS BREAKS
NO PROMISE

UNDERLYING *MISSIO*
IS *PROMISSIO*.

PROMISSIO IS THE
SECRET TO *MISSIO*.

JOHN 20


“As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you . . . Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

MARTIN LUTHER:

“God does not deal with us, nor has He ever dealt with us, otherwise than through the word of promise, and we in turn cannot deal with God otherwise than through faith in the Word of His promise”(AE 36, 42).

MARTIN LUTHER:

“... the true understanding and fulfillment of the First Commandment is a faith which is neither elevated by prosperity nor cast down by adversity” (AE 9, 96).

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***PROMISSIO* FOR
ALL RESULTS IN
MISSIO TO ALL**

LUKE 24:46-47 (NET)

“This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day; and on the basis of His Name, repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations.”

WHY SMILE?

UNIVERSALISM



ELECTION

- None of the elect will be lost.
- Why mention the elect in a discussion of evangelism?

DON'T FALL OFF
THE HORSE ON
THE OTHER SIDE

BE CAREFUL ABOUT SAYING:

“God’s elect are going to be saved even if you do nothing.”

“If someone is lost in hell, this is because God did not elect him.”

UNIVERSAL GRACE

- God wants all to be saved – 1 Tim. 2:4.
- God does not delight in death of wicked – Ez. 33:11
- Grace of God appeared to all – Tit. 2:11
- Christ died for all – 1 Tim. 2:6. See John 3:16.
- Atoning sacrifice for sins of whole world – 1 Jn. 2:2
- God was reconciling the world to Himself – 2 Cor. 5:19

FORMULA OF CONCORD:

“. . .the promise of the Gospel is *universalis*, that is, it pertains to all people” (FC SD XI 28).

ELECTION AND THE GOSPEL

- God chose people for salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:13).
- That is, the Spirit blesses the elect in time by giving them faith in Christ through the means of grace.
- “For this purpose also He called you by the Gospel which we preach” (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

WHEN YOU TELL SOMEONE
THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT
JESUS, GOD IS SERIOUSLY
OFFERING THAT PERSON
FORGIVENESS IN CHRIST.

IF *PROMISSIO* IS LIMITED,
THE RESULTING *MISSIO*
WILL BE LIMITED.

IF GOD WANTED TO
SAVE ALL, WHY DID HE
NOT ELECT ALL?
-
WE DON'T KNOW.

GOD HAS NOT ELECTED
ANYONE TO DAMNATION.
THE ELECTION OF GRACE IS
ALL GOSPEL, NOT LAW.

“THE ELECT WILL BE SAVED, EVEN IF YOU DO NOTHING.”

- Statement of Gospel
- Do not apply it without due distinction, when the Law is needed.

REASON TO SMILE

- Not about people going to hell, but smiling in spite of hell.
- *Promissio* results in *missio*. Promise *for* all results in mission *to* all.



**WITHOUT GOD'S
PROMISSIO,
THERE'S A NEW
*MISSIO***

GOOD NOT TO GATHER FOR CHURCH?

- “Decentralized” mode that some wanted for a while
- “Take the queen off the chessboard.”
- Spotlight God’s work with and in individuals and small groups.
- Why? “Missional” approach does not recognize that means of grace truly are means of grace.

MEANS OF GRACE REALLY CONVEY FORGIVENESS AND SALVATION

- Made clean by the Word – John 15:3
- Implanted Word saves souls – James 1:21
- Baptism now saves us – 1 Peter 3:21
- “New Testament” is God forgiving iniquity and remembering sin no more – 1 Corinthians 11:25; Jeremiah 31:34

LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS ON THIS:

- “. . . we must call ourselves back . . . to the gospel and the promise of mercy in which the forgiveness of sins on account of Christ is freely offered” (Ap IV).
- “We are talking about that particular faith that believes the promise being offered . . . that believes the forgiveness of sins is being offered. This use of the sacrament comforts devout and anxious minds” (Ap XIII 21-22).

WE DON'T GET TOGETHER TO HEAR SERMONS?

- But in fact we DO ... and to hear the absolution and the reading of Scripture and to receive Lord's Supper
- For the Lord works through the Gospel and Sacraments to communicate forgiveness and life in Christ.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS . . .

- You might relegate church services to a backseat.
- You might think “the action is” a variety of things that God is doing in your neighborhood
- You might start looking for God and His work elsewhere
- The real Good News can be muted
- The real Good News can be mis-stated

HERMANN SASSE:

“Both [Lutherans and Reformed] acknowledge that the chief article of the Christian faith is the forgiveness of sins . . . the Lutherans consider it the *whole* content of the Gospel, while the Reformed consider it the *principal* content of the Gospel.”

NEW *MISSIO*

- Expressing love and bringing about order, not preaching Gospel
- Transforming the culture, not proclaiming the Good News

CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE OF GOD . . . BUT HOW DID THEY GET TO BE ?

- “...in the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith”
(Small Catechism, Third Article explanation)
- “The church is the assembly of saints in which the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly” (Augsburg Confession VII).

SINCE GOD CREATES AND SUSTAINS CHURCH THRU MEANS OF GRACE . . .

- The church takes the public ministry seriously
- The church's life is centered around the Divine Service
- The church prioritizes Evangelism and Missions
- The church's members respond to God with good works

MISSION CAN SHIFT

When people do not recognize that the *promissio* is concretely available in the means of grace, a new and different *missio* comes about.

But the key to the *missio* given by God is the *promissio* given by God.

MISSION: WHY? – RECAP:

- *Promissio* forms the foundation for *missio*.
- The *promissio* for all results in *missio* to all.
- This *missio* is profoundly shaped by the *promissio* offered by God in the Gospel, in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper.

NEXT:

- “Mission from the Foundation”

OR

- “Mission: How, Now?”