



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

**A Summary Workbook on  
"The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel"  
by Dr. C.F.W. Walther**

**Point 2**

**A true teacher of God's Word must do more than simply present all the different Bible teachings according to the Word of God. To be a true Bible teacher, he must also understand and teach the difference between the Law and the Gospel.**

This point has two parts. The first part says that a true teacher must present all of the Bible teachings in agreement with the Bible.

The Bible requires that teachers have the pure and unchanged Word of God; when a teacher is done preaching he should be able to say, "I could swear, even to an angel coming down from heaven, that I have preached the Word of God accurately. Martin Luther said that a preacher should pray the Lord's Prayer before preaching a sermon, because there should be no need to pray, "Forgive me my trespasses" after a sermon. After preaching he can say, "I spoke only truth."

Maybe someone could correctly say, "I spoke only truth in my sermon," even though the whole sermon was wrong. The second part of this point says that. He is a true teacher only if he correctly divides the Law and the Gospel. That is how you know a sermon is proper: It has value if every part is taken from the Word of God and is in agreement with the Word of God, and also if the Law and Gospel are divided correctly.

The Gospel is used incorrectly if it is preached to those who are not afraid of sinning. The person who is not afraid of sinning needs to hear only the Law.

Another mistake that pastors sometimes make is to say "These people will not make good use of the Gospel." Your Christian listeners need to know that God's grace is absolutely free and complete. Anyone who doesn't provide the Gospel to someone who needs to feel forgiven is not dividing the Law and Gospel correctly.

**QUESTIONS**

---

1. Why is it important that a pastor preach and teach only according to the truth of God?
2. How can a pastor or teacher be sure that he is giving His people only the truth of God?
3. Besides saying only things that are true from the Bible, what must a preacher and teacher do in order to give his people the right kind of message that saves?
4. What is a mistake that pastors sometimes make about the message that they give to a unrepentant sinner?
5. What is a mistake that pastors sometimes make about the message that they give to a repentant Christian?