

**Men's Bible Study:**

Zion's monthly Men's Breakfast group met October 10<sup>th</sup> for breakfast, fellowship and the first session of the study "His Way or Our Way" on Luther's Catechism as applied to our lives and times.

**October 10th Wrap Up:**

Jim Newman led us in an overview of the course and an introduction. The Catechism is a book of instruction for Christian Teaching. The study of the Catechism should be a life-long endeavor. It is not to be taken alone; it must be accompanied by the Bible, which it references continually.

We reviewed the historical context to explain why Luther, a Catholic monk, was inspired to produce the Bible in German—the common language. His Catechism became the guide for both the lay person and (in a more detailed version) for pastors as well.

In his Preface Luther bemoaned the state of affairs in his country: "the common man, especially in the villages, knows practically nothing of Christian doctrine, and many of the pastors are almost entirely incompetent and unable to teach."

He decided that the study of the Ten Commandments were like the medical diagnosis, the Creed was the needed treatment of mercy and grace and the Lord's Prayer was the medication that needed to be applied to cure this ill. Giving the scriptures to the people was revolutionary for that time. Telling people that they did not need to earn salvation got Luther in trouble with the Roman church.

We read the introduction (p. 47-53) which addressed numerous questions like "What does God teach and do in the Gospel?" and the role of the Holy Scriptures in understanding our faith. We had a lively discussion about the subtle difference between worshipping Jesus (the man) and Christianity which focuses on the role of Jesus the Christ in reconciling us with God. (see John 20:31) We also talked about what it means that the scripture is *inspired*. (See for example 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Looking forward to November 14th:**

The next session on November 14<sup>th</sup> will begin the discussion on the Ten Commandments (up through the Third Commandment. (see pages 54--67) See Bruce Merle to purchase your copy of the Catechism. They are \$11.

We welcome men of every age and background to join us the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 am in the Parish House for breakfast followed by class and discussion on "HIS Way or Our Way". Our hope is that the fellowship will be a support to you and the study will be an inspiration as you seek to live out your faith in your family and community.