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J U L Y



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(*L. u. W.*, LXIII, 274). "The Law makes sin and transgression alive in the conscience of the sinner and therefore fills the heart with anxiety, fear, wrath, and terrors of hell. To such extremities the Law leads man — to hell. . . . As the Law leads to hell, so the Gospel again leads the sinners out and transplants them into heaven. . . . First sin, then grace. First death, then life. First fear, then comfort. Through hell the way leads to heaven." (*L. u. W.*, XXXIII, 158 ff.)

OUR CREEDS ARE TO BE USED

In an essay, entitled "The Perfect Law of Liberty," published in the *Theological Quarterly* (April 1957), the author directs the attention of his readers to the diligent use of our creeds. Having pointed out the necessity of creeds as tools for teaching Christianity and maintaining the truths of the Bible, he writes: "But it is not enough that our church has adopted certain creeds and confessions of faith. It is not enough that our pastors have pledged themselves to all the teachings of the Book of Concord. It is not enough that the members of our congregations have memorized and claimed to believe Luther's Small Catechism. For, after all, Christianity is not merely a matter of the mind. It is not merely a matter of memorizing something like two times two equals four or Boise is the capital of Idaho. Christianity is also a matter of the heart and of the will. To memorize creeds and then bury them in a corner of the mind where they will not affect the lives of ourselves and others, will benefit no one. To bury a creed in the corner of our minds is just as sinful as it was for the man in the parable to bury his one talent in the ground until his master would return and call for it. Our creeds are to be used. They are to be read and studied. They are to be proclaimed to the world. Yes, we want the Word of God kept pure even as we want our food kept pure. But even as pure food does not benefit anyone until it is distributed and eaten, so also the pure Gospel does not benefit anyone until it is distributed and received. See to it that the Word of God is taught in the community. Use an aggressive campaign to reach the unchurched people near your church. Personal contact still remains the most effective means of influencing an individual. Also the members of the congregation can do this."

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