

*‘When you heard the Wonder of the Word...’* [John Ylvisaker ‘I was there to Hear...’]

*‘The ear is the organ of faith’* Luther

It’s the WORD\* that keeps on renewing us. We can’t depend on Luther (or Ylvisaker!) to give us the words. We keep on praying that the word ‘be born in us today’ as the carol sings (borrowing from Phillips Brooks!). ‘In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh (σάρξ!) and lived (tabernacled!) among us and we beheld his Glory...full of grace and truth.’ [John 1:1 & 14].

*‘My conscience is captive to the WORD of God.’* Martin Luther [At Worms, and he concludes-a moment later-with ‘Here I stand!’]

A brief excursion into Luther’s ‘Freedom of the Christian’ --- Behold the WORD! *‘One thing, and only one thing, is necessary for Christian life, righteousness, and freedom. That one thing is the most holy Word of God: The Gospel of Christ, as Christ says in John 11:25, “I am the Resurrection and the life...” and in John 8:36 “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed! Let us then consider it certain...that the soul can do without anything except the word of God...You may ask, “What then is the Word of God, and how shall it be used, since there are so many ‘words’ of God?” I answer: the apostle explains this in Romans 1. The Word is the gospel of God concerning His Son, who was made flesh, suffered, rose from the dead, and was glorified through the Spirit who sanctifies. To preach Christ means to feed the soul make it righteous, set it free, and save it”.*

*‘What about “WEAL and Woe”! Isn’t that the WORD?’* Nah Nah Nah Nah! Let’s talk!

*“How ‘bout: I’m the same yesterday—today—and tomorrow?”* O.K. ‘Splain!’

[Fundamentalists and their crypto and not at all ‘new’ New Covenant] Mt/Lk 4! Let’s talk, The Theology of the Cross: LOOK you BLIND ONES, LOOK! [John 9! The BLAME GAME IS OVER!]

You still want, the WORD? Let’s ‘take’ the “*I am*” passages from John’s Gospel: “*I am the Bread of Life* (6:35/48) *Living Bread* (6:51) the *Light* (8:12) *the Door of the Sheep/the Door* (10:7/9) *the Good (the beautiful!) Shepherd* (10:11) *Resurrection and the Life* (11:25) *the way the truth and the Life* (14:6) *the true vine* (15:1) *I am he* (18:6)!”

\*[b.t.w. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic hymn ‘Faith of our Fathers’ is not about the ‘Word’: ‘Whene’er we hear that glorious word’ doesn’t refer to the ‘Word’ it refers to the ‘faith’ of ‘our’ fathers. We can’t depend on ‘their’ faith (!). More than that, we can’t depend on our own mother’s faith even though our hearts are warmed. ‘There are no 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Christians.’ CLH]

*“Say the word and you’ll be free...The WORD is LOVE.”* [the Beatles *Rubber Soul*]

*“Lord Keep us Steadfast in Thy WORD”*