

**Luther's Legacy for Laity**  
**Disc 1: Dr. Timothy Wengert**  
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This study guide will follow the 10 parts of Dr. Wengert's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages and citations from the Book of Concord (Wengert Edition) when used, and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

**Part 6: Functions of the Law**

**Summary:**

Luther and Melancthon describe the Law and the Gospel not by what they are, but rather by what they do. For Lutherans, the Law has two uses: Civil and Theological. The Civil use maintains order and restrains evil in the world and our families. The Theological use shows us our sin, but in such a powerful way that it terrifies us and drives us to Christ. It blows up our ladders and we find ourselves free-falling right into the wounded, loving hands of Christ. The Law isn't interested in making us feel bad or shameful. Rather, the Law tells us the truth about our condition. Dr. Wengert concludes this section by retelling the story of the Rich Young Ruler, which is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels. The Disciples question, "Who then can be saved?" has only one answer. Nobody can save them self. Only God can save us.

**Biblical References Part 6:**

Colossians 1:22; 2:12,20; 3:3,5

2 Corinthians 3:6

Romans 6:4

2 Samuel 12:1-14

Mark 10: 17-31

Matthew 19:16-30

Luke 18:18-30

**Confessional References in Part 6:**

Page 360 paragraphs 11-14

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Luther and Melancthon describe the Law and the Gospel not in terms of what they are, but rather in terms of what they do. Why does that matter for us today?
2. Write out Dr. Wengert's chart of the comparison between the function of the law and the function of the Gospel. How does that inform your life of faith?
3. The Law blows up our ladders. Why is that good news?

4. Did you think that the Eye of the Needle was a gate in Jerusalem? What impact does its invention in the 10<sup>th</sup> century have on your understanding of the question asked by the disciples about “Who then can be saved?”
5. Lutherans talk of two uses of the Law. What are they and what purpose do they serve in God’s plan for God’s creation?
6. Dr. Wengert suggests that Baptism is a good example of both Law and Gospel. Use Luther’s explanation of the significance of baptism to describe how this works.

**Glossary:**

*Stative* – A Latin term which describes what a thing is, rather than what a thing does.

*Civil Use of the Law* – This maintains order in society and families and restrains evil.

*Theological Use of the Law* – This shows us God’s righteous demands on us and it terrifies us. Luther actually says that it puts us to death and drives us to Christ.

*Synoptic Gospels* – Matthew, Mark, and Luke follow a similar outline and share many stories in common. They “see” the story in a similar fashion. The story of the Rich Young Ruler is an example of that.