

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 8: Good Works

Summary:

For Luther, the problem was not the good works people do. The problem is our faith, which doesn't believe that what we are doing is good works. From Luther's point of view, because we have died to sin and are alive in Christ, everything we do and say has new meaning. Everything is a way to use what God has put into our temporary care to serve the neighbor. Since we no longer have to serve ourselves by climbing the ladder, we are free to give our lives away in service of the neighbor. Acts as simple as changing our baby's diaper are good works, because they serve the neighbor. We don't have to decide to do it, as loving parents we simply change diapers. We have faith that this is what God is calling us to be – diaper changers.

Biblical References Part 8:

Ephesians 2:8-10

Confessional References in Part 8:

None

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What role do good works play in the writer's opinion?
2. React to this quote from Luther's sermon about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where Luther states that our tools in our workplace cry out to us saying: "friend, use me in your relations with your neighbor, just as you want your neighbor to use his or her property in their relations to you."
3. Dr. Wengert repeated a number of times this statement: "The problem is not our works, rather it is our faith." What do you think he means by that?
4. Would your church plan an April 15 procession to the post office to pay your taxes? Why or why not?
5. Can you tell the difference between a non-Christian and a Christian who are both doing good works?

Glossary:

None