

19. What did the revered Roman Catholic theologian, Robert Bellarmine, say about whether an individual can be assured of going to heaven? (pg 187 bottom.)

20. The “Ministry of the Keys” is the Christian’s authority to forgive sins of penitent sinners, and retain the sins of the impenitent. But what does Martin Luther say this power of the keys is *not* based upon? (pg 188 bottom)

21. In Walther’s view, which comes first — God’s pronouncing absolution in heaven, or our pronouncing absolution on earth? (pg 189 bottom.)

22. Again Walther says that contrition is necessary — without contrition, the individual cannot receive the benefits of Christ’s atonement. But does the lack of contrition change the genuineness of God’s absolution? What is Walther’s analogy of a king and a castle? (pg 190 bottom.)

23. The Roman Catholics teach that, if a priest uses the keys to pronounce absolution on a scoundrel (impenitent unbeliever), that person is not forgiven, and the reason is because *the key is faulty*. What is Walther’s response? (pg 192 top.)

24. What did Luther say many people would be surprised by on the Day of Judgment? (pg 192 middle.)

The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel

by CFW Walther

The Eighteenth Evening Lecture

1. Walther is great when it comes to analogies! For a sinner not to be certain of his salvation is comparable to what situation? (pg)178 bottom.

2. Given the fact that God has sacrificed his only Son for us, Walther says that it is impossible to conceive of Him doing what? (pg 179 middle.)

3. In view of this fact, Walther says, “our bliss beggars description!” Everywhere and anywhere, he says, all things cry to us... *What?*(pg 180 top of.)

4. The “priesthood of all believers” — the Bible teaching that every Christian has the authority to forgive sins — is foundational to Lutheran theology. Which episode in Jesus’ ministry does Walther reference as supporting this teaching? What is his logic in doing so?(pg 180 – 181)

5. In Walther’s time, Lutheran churches in Germany were still struggling with rationalism. But rationalistic preachers weren’t very popular with the people. Which kind of preachers were? (pg181 middle.)

6. Walther comes back to the subject of preaching at the bottom of page 181. Not only must preachers proclaim the truth, he says, but they must also do what?

7. If *people* don't deliver God's message of forgiveness, it's hard to imagine who would! According to Walther, if Christians desire the forgiveness of sins, what must we not do? (pg 182 middle.)

8. When you go to your pastor — or any other Christian! — and desire to be comforted and absolved from your sins, and he says to you, "I, in God's place, announce to you through Christ the forgiveness of all your sins," what are you to believe? (pg 182 bottom.)

9. List some of the people *who are called by God* to deliver consolation and forgiveness to you. (pg 183.)

10. The Anabaptists (and their reformed descendants) reject the idea that a human being can pronounce the forgiveness of sins. What does such a pronouncement sound like to them? (pg 183 bottom.)

11. Speaking of cows... the Reformed criticize baptism and say that it is nothing more than water. Walther says that this is like looking at Baptism *how*? Where does the real power of Baptism come from? (pg 184 top.)

12. If you have insulted someone, what is the only way to discover whether that person has forgiven you? (pg 184 bottom.)

13. God does not come to us in a vision to tell us he has pardoned our sins. Where does God tell us that he has forgiven us? (pg 185 top.)

14. This clearly applies to the Word and sacraments. Where else does God come to us with his word of forgiveness? (pg 185 middle.)

15. John Calvin was dissatisfied with Ulrich Zwingli's interpretation of the Lord's Supper, but what was the problem with his own interpretation? (pg 185 bottom.)

16. Jesus said, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them." What meaning have the Roman Catholics forced upon these words of Christ? (pg 186 middle.)

17. What was God, in effect, doing when he raised Christ from the dead? What does that have to do with one Christian's authority to pronounce absolution upon another? (pg 187 top)

18. What is the removal of sins definitely *not* based upon? What *is* it based upon? (pg 187 middle.)