

Preface and Articles Overview

Magdeburg, Session Two

Preface

“There can be no doubt that God by his great kindness raised up Dr. Martin Luther as a third _____, in order that he might reveal in these last days...the Antichrist and to rebuild the entire doctrine of God’s Son” (3).

“And God has blessed this man, His prophet...” (3). In what ways can we say Luther was a prophet? What are we saying? What are we not saying?

While supporters were “few and weak” and the enemies were “very numerous and powerful”, nevertheless “the poor sheep straightway stopped the jaws and mouth of the opposing wolves by this confession of the truth” (4).

“For when their theologians had been ordered to write a refutation of the confession produced by a few Lutherans, those men not only did it with difficulty and timidly, but also clumsily and without the true _____ of the word of God, that once the refutation met the ears...it testified greatly of the emptiness of the popish doctrine” (4).

“They admitted they were the priests of Baal, that they were not able to defeat the Lutheran religion by the word of God, and that maybe they could by the Church _____” (4).

“The truth, moreover, is not defeated by arms” (4).

“Luther, although dead, both lives forever himself and the fruit of his work, as if it were a dead man, also lives and shall live, and shall flourish in all ages and among still more nations” (5).

“The confession of the doctrine of Luther, which is the doctrine of Christ Himself, as it was first made at Augsburg, with great faith and glory of those who confess is, has now at Augsburg, been cast off again in a horrible crime against conscience by the majority of the princes and German states who were broken only by outcome of the recent war” (5). What military victory is referenced here?

“It was necessary for them to be accused _____ of this public crime, both individually by their own pastors, and as a group by their superintendents, and for them to give proofs of their repentance _____. So long as that does not happen, there is no remaining place of forgiveness with God, nor shall the plague be removed from the families of their leaders, nor from the rest of Germany the apostate” (5).

What does this tell us about necessary action the church should take regarding public sin?

The Magdeburgers equated the rejection of Augsburg as a rejection of Christ. And yet, God always preserves a faithful _____. “Nevertheless, there still remains some poor vestiges of states, however weak, and of other pious persons even under the apostates who agree with us in this...they confess Christ like the thief on the cross” (6).

“We judge that is part of our duty, since by the kindness of God we seem to be singled out from the whole church to have a _____ that is still free, that we publicly put forth something to vindicate in some way the revealed doctrine of the Gospel from this unjust oppression” (6).

We are not these guys! Who are they? “Papists, Interimists, Adiaphorists and likewise the Anabaptists, Sacramentarians (Zwinglians), and similar fanatics—from all of whom we have most distantly withdrawn ourselves” (7).

“We had to put the glory of God ahead of the glory of men, just as he had to in his own calling; and that we had to value the health of this mortal body less than the eternal salvation of our souls; and that the preservation of a few of His own members is dearer to Christ than the entire remaining world of the impious, with all its trappings and gifts” (7).

Principal Articles of Christian Doctrine

“We shall only repeat—we shall not argue—the articles of doctrine made plain by Luther and set forth at Augsburg as Christian, orthodox, catholic, and so far unconquered...” (6).

- 1) Of God and the distinction of the persons
- 2) Of creation, of the cause of sin, and the chief kinds of sin.
- 3) Of the Law
- 4) Of the Gospel and Justification
- 5) Of the Sacraments
- 6) Of the Church and its ministers, and of the power of the Church and its ministers
- 7) Of polity and economy, and of the power of each