"You Shall Bear Witness to Me": Thinking with Luther About Christ and the Scriptures

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Abstract
To get Scripture right, we must start with the right questions, as Martin Luther did: What is Scripture for? What is the relation between Christ and Scripture? Between law and gospel? How does the gospel function as promise?

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What is not Scriptural should not be considered Lutheran. In this respect therefore 'Lutheran' is in reality a personal and dated name for an impersonal and undated principle: unquestioning loyalty to Scripture as the Word of God." He wrote to direct men not to himself but to Christ in the Word.” Better yet, I also thought it would be a good way to help me to continue to learn Lutheran doctrine (a.k.a. orthodox Christianity) in the process. So, here's today's offering for your enjoyment and prayerful consideration What Luther Says About...CHRIST. 430 Christ The Key To Scripture. "Thousands have recognized in Luther the greatest witness of the truth since the day of the apostles and prophets” *- C.F.W. Walther (quoted in F. Pieper, Christian Dogmatics, I, 290). I pray they would bless you as you meditate on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Here are 31 Reasons Why Christ Came: 1. To Do the Will of the Father. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” John 18:37. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” Isaiah 9:6-7. Thus the Father bears witness to Jesus through Jesus’ testimony to Himself, through John the Baptist’s testimony, and through Jesus’ works. 4. The Father bears witness to Jesus through the Scriptures (5:37-40). John 5:37-40: “And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” Jesus continues this point through verse 47, but we only have time to work through verse 40 today. All of the Father’s revelation from the beginning of Creation had pointed to Christ and that revelation is contained in Scripture. Just after Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent’s head (Gen.