

Promissio

A Journal of Confessing Theology

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Scripture as the Language of Faith

"I certainly grant that many *passages* in the Scriptures are obscure and hard to elucidate, but that is due, not the exalted nature of their subject, but to our own linguistic and grammatical ignorance; and it is not it does not in any way prevent our knowing all the *contents* of Scripture. For what solemn truth can the Scriptures still be concealing, now that the seals are broken, the stone rolled away from the door of the tomb, and that greatest of all mysteries brought to light—that Christ, God's Son, became man, that God is three and one, that Christ suffered for us, and will reign forever? And are not these things known, and sung in our streets? Take Christ from the Scriptures—and what more will you find in them? You see, then, that the entire content of the Scriptures has now been brought to light, even though some passages which contain unknown words remain obscure. . . . If you speak of *internal* perspicuity, the truth is that nobody who has not the Spirit of God sees a jot of what is in the Scriptures. All men have their hearts darkened, so that, even when they can discuss and quote all that is in Scripture, they do not understand or really know any of it. They do not believe in God, nor do they believe that they are God's creatures or anything else. . . . The Spirit is needed for the understanding of all Scripture and every part of Scripture. If, on the other hand, you speak of *external* perspicuity, the position is that nothing whatsoever is left obscure or ambiguous, but all that is in the Scripture is through the Word brought forth into the clearest light and proclaimed to the whole world" (Luther against Erasmus [*The Bondage of the Will*, Packer and Johnston, trans., p. 71, 73-74, italics in original]).

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Theology is not freethinking but “freed thinking” and therewith bound to its liberating Lord. Therefore, *Promissio* undertakes theology for the sake of informing and enabling the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In order to do so, it operates within a zone in which constraint and freedom are neither separable nor confused.

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A Call for Papers

Promissio seeks submissions for the upcoming issues:

Volume 1, No. 4 (Autumn 2026):

How do creeds and confessions provide
the grammar of the scriptural language of faith?

Volume 2, No. 1 (Winter 2027):

The doctrine and proclamation of the Fatherhood of God

Volume 2, No. 2 (Spring 2027):

The doctrine and proclamation of the divine Sonship of the man Jesus

Volume 2, No. 3 (Summer 2027):

The doctrine and proclamation of the personhood of the Holy Spirit

Volume 2, No. 4 (Autumn 2027):

The doctrine and proclamation of the Holy Trinity

All submissions should be emailed to the General Editor

All accepted authors will need an account at promissio.ilt.edu

Please see the Submissions Guidelines there for important information!

All questions can be directed to:

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