

God Will Not Fit into the Containers We Make for Him

As sinners, everyone of us has preconceived demands that we place on God. We place the limits of our minds and our judgments on him and expect him to operate according to them.

But God’s thoughts and his ways are infinitely beyond our thoughts and ways – in terms of *goodness, wisdom, and power*.

God simply will not fit our demands of the way he ought to act and think. God is free to be who he is, and he is a God whose ways and thoughts are infinitely beyond us.

Note: Even when God reveals his ways to us, we still do not fully understand them.

Law: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD” (v. 7). You must give up on your ways and your thoughts and return to the Lord’s ways and thoughts.

The Power of God’s Word “My word...will accomplish that which I purpose...”

We try to do things with our words. With our words we try to convince, explain, provoke thought, comfort, encourage, condemn, discourage, etc. We hope it does what we are trying to do, but often they do something other than what we want or they are they fail altogether in our purpose.

Just as God’s thoughts and actions are infinitely above our own, so also is his word infinitely above our own.

Unlike you, God does not *hope* that his word will accomplish his purpose. Instead, God’s word goes out and he’s incomplete control of what it does. His word always succeeds. He never speaks in vain. It never returns to him empty.

The Effect of God’s Word

Gospel: We don’t have to *let* God do his work. We don’t even cooperate with it in order for it to be effective. God by his own grace leads us in joy and peace by the power of his word.

So how do we as wicked people forsake our ways and thoughts and return to the Lord’s ways and thoughts? *We turn to God’s word found in baptism/absolution, the written/preached word, and the Lord’s Supper.* All of these are God’s word.

Even when the seed of the gospel is sown on hard hearts and it does not grow, the Lord knows what he is doing and his word is not wasted (Matthew 13:19).

Implications

1. *Fill your life with God’s word.* God’s word is to be the center of our thought, our speech, and our conduct. Parents: teach your children the word at home. Instruct them in the word (an easy way to do this is to read from Luther’s Small Catechism as a family – it’s full of Scripture).
2. *Be comforted that God’s word is infinitely more powerful than those all other words which call for our attention.*
3. *As a congregation, we should not use on gimmicks and tricks to reach people, but proclaim the law and gospel in all of its fullness.* God promises to work through his word, not human-devised manipulation.