Being a Theologian of the Cross

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I. Theological Foundations

Being a Theologian of the Cross
Theology, Two Meanings

- Two Meanings, Senses
- 1) Theology as Content
- 2) Theology as Aptitude
- Examples: Do you love me?
- From knowing theology to becoming a theologian
- What is then is the “cross”? 
Theologian, Two Types

- Everyone is a theologian…
- The question is: What type of theologian are you?
- Two Stories:
  - 2) Cross – Man looks bad. Lets God be God.
- Key question: Is the movement from God to us or from us to God?
Theologian of the Cross

• “The cross is our theology”
• 1) The cross leads us to die with Christ
• The cross attacks our best, our righteousness
• Works
• Will
• Example: Christ died for you. All you have to do…
• Reason (More on this later…)
Theologian of the Cross

- 2) The cross leads us to rise with Christ
- Celebrates God’s works and will in Christ
- Key Thought: God kills in order to make alive
- Daily significance or use of Baptism
- Putting our works, will, and reason in their proper place
- Story: Luther goes to heaven
II. Practical Applications

Being a Theologian of the Cross
Justification by Grace

1) Justification before God
The human need to justify one’s life before someone
Not by performance
Not by choices, good or bad
Not by condition or status in life, poor or rich
Not by rationalizing God in the midst of suffering
Key: Focus on God’s works, will, and justification in Christ
Why Have You Forsaken Me?

2) Dealing with Suffering

The problem of theodicy: Why some, not others?

Example: Problems with justification through reason. Good looks bad.

Holy silence in the face of the “hidden God”

Praying without “explaining”

Accompanying the sufferer

Proclaiming the “revealed God” at the proper time
3) Temptation

Rough times: Doubting God’s promises

God’s devil: The devil is the best teacher of theology?

The wilderness is real. Awareness of vulnerabilities.

Reliance on God in the wilderness

Prayer: Putting One’s Life in God’s Hands

Word: Receiving God’s Promises by Faith