

According to J. W. Baier, "*Finis . . . scripturæ ultimus est salus nostra; [finis] intermedius [est] fides in Christum*" (Schmid: 560).

Baier's distinction is not between "end" and "means," but between "ends," i.e., "ultimate end" and "intermediate end." But if one allows that the significance of Jesus Christ both is and is not constitutive, depending upon whether what he is said to constitute is Christianness (*die Christlichkeit*)—of which he *is* constitutive—or salvation/ultimate transformation—of which he is *not* constitutive—one might well use Baier's distinction to make the same point I usually make by saying that Jesus Christ is the *primal* means of salvation. In other words, just as Baier distinguishes between ends—ultimate and intermediate—so I distinguish between means—primal, on the one hand, and primary and secondary, on the other.

In any event, the distinction Baier makes between "our salvation" and "faith in Christ" makes clear that they are not simply the same thing. To this extent, it fits nicely with my reflections on the distinction between *media salutis exhibitiva* (including the primal *medium s. exhibitivum*) and *medium(a) s. apprehensivum(a)*.

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