

I really resonate with Luther's characterization of his efforts as directed toward offering to "all pious souls who desire to [understand] the genuine sense of the [s]criptures and the proper use of the sacraments." And I especially like the reason he gives therefor: "For it is a gift of no mean importance, to [understand] the gifts that are given to us, as it is said in 1 Cor 2[:12], and what use we ought to make of them" (*LW*, 36: 125).

If this gift is most obviously the Christian teacher's to give, it is, in a somewhat different way, the Christian theologian's also—no less real or important for being yet more indirect.

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