

No More No Man's Land

The Baseclogger

“You know when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:2

Practicing Pickle with Zwingli

“In Zurich we have churches which are positively luminous; the walls are beautifully white!”

- *Ulrich Zwingli*



Old Testament (First Base)

Exodus 25:17-20, 26:1

Exodus 36:1-2

1 Kings 6:18, 29, 35

New Testament (Second Base)

Colossians 1:24

Acts 5:41



“I approached the task of destroying images by first tearing them out of the heart through God’s Word and making them worthless and despised... For when they are no longer in the heart, they can do no harm when seen with the eyes.”

- *Martin Luther*

Caught in the Pickle

Isaiah 6:1-10

Revelation 4:1-11

Revelation 5:6-8

We Give Voice to Mute Idols

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal to a sacrificial grudge match. Each has a chance to call on their god to answer and accept a sacrifice. “And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention” (1 Kings 18:28-29). The image of the idol may captivate the eyes, but the voice of the idol comes from our own fallen hearts. The idols are mute. When we think we hear a voice, we hear our own unrepentant hearts. White-washed walls are no protection for the voice of the idol. Worse, when we pat ourselves on the back, thinking we have kept the commandments in exterior acts, our ears let down their defenses. So, in Luke 18:9-14, when Jesus tells the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee, each praying in the Temple, we see how Luther’s approach is rooted in Scripture. The Pharisee gives voice to his own idol praying about and to himself. The tax collector, however, does not look up, so it doesn’t matter that the Pharisee has brought his idol into the temple. The tax collector is justified by the faith secured in his heart by the gifts of the one, true God.