

To All Who Love Christ and His Gospel

by John Calvin

A Modern Translation by Aaron M. Shryock

Part I

God the Creator, the most perfect and excellent Maker of all things, made man as His masterpiece of creation. An unequaled excellence was discernable in mankind, for God formed mankind in His own image and likeness. The light of His glory shone brightly in them, and they surpassed all other creatures, whose creation had already shown God to be more than marvelous.

Now they would have been able to remain in the state in which they were created if they had bowed themselves lowly, in humility, before the majesty of God. They should have magnified God with thanksgiving and not sought glory in themselves. They should have looked solely above and glorified the one and only God to whom belongs praise, recognizing that all good comes from above. But these wretched beings wanted to make themselves somebody. Without careful consideration, they stopped thinking about and appreciating where their blessings came from. With an outrageous attitude of ingratitude, they attempted to exalt themselves in their own pride above their Maker and the Author of all blessings. Because of their pride, they plunged themselves to their ruin, losing all the dignity and supremacy they first had at creation. They were stripped of all their glory and separated from all the gifts which were entrusted to them. God did this to confuse them in their pride and force them to recognize what they would not accept by themselves—that they were nothing in themselves but vanity. They would never be anything else without the sustaining support of their Creator.

From that moment, God also began to hate mankind, and it was well deserved. He disavowed them as His work, seeing that His image and likeness was removed from them and that they no longer had the kind gifts entrusted to them. At first God had commissioned them to go forth and had decided to take pleasure and delight in them, as a father would take pleasure in His well-beloved children. But after their fall, the opposite took place; God despised them and found them abominable. All which had been pleasing to God now gave Him displeasure; everything in which He had taken delight, angered Him; everything that He had contemplated with kind thoughts like a father, He now detested and considered with regret. In short, mankind in every respect was completely displeasing to God—their deeds, thoughts, words, life, and all that was associated with them. It was as though they were a special enemy and adversary of God, and so God repented of having made them.

After Adam and Eve were cast down into such confusion, they were fruitful and gave birth to a cursed seed, descendants like themselves. They were vicious, perverse, corrupt, and empty of any good yet rich and abounding in evil. Nevertheless, the Lord of mercy, who not only loves but is Himself love and pity, was ready in His infinite kindness to love them who deserved no love. He did not entirely expel, consume, and destroy mankind, as their iniquity demanded. Rather, He sustained and supported them in kindness and patience. He gave them time and opportunity to return to Him and try again to live in obedience to Him, which they had earlier rejected. He withdrew from them and kept silent, as though He sought to hide Himself from them, leaving

them to go after their own desires and lustful yearnings, without law, order, or any correction from His Word.

However, God had given them enough signs in creation which should have moved them to seek Him, to even reach out to Him and find Him with a desire to know and honor Him as He deserved. Saint Paul said that the Lord had never left Himself without a witness, not even among those without His Word, those to whom no knowledge was sent. From the heights of heaven to the center of the earth, all that God has created is able to testify of His glory and serve as messengers to mankind, drawing them to seek Him. And after finding God, they should honor and serve Him in His dignity as He deserves. He is so good, powerful, wise, and eternal.

Yes, every creature contributes, each in its own place, to this endeavor of glorifying God. The young birds that sing, praise God. The beasts bellow aloud to Him. The elements proclaim His might while the mountains echo back. The rivers and fountains sparkle and reflect His glory. The herbs and flowers are pleasing to Him. Truly, no one needs to go far to seek God, because we can find Him in ourselves, since we are all sustained and preserved by His power which is working in us.

God was not content to instruct mankind by the means we have just described. To manifest still more largely His infinite goodness and kindness toward humanity, He caused a certain people to hear His voice in a special manner. He elected these people by His good will and free grace from among all the nations of the earth. The people to whom He revealed Himself were the children of Israel. He clearly revealed to them who He was by His Word, and by marvelous works He made known what He could do. God brought the Israelites out from their subjugation under Pharaoh king of Egypt, under whom they had been detained and oppressed. He delivered them from slavery and set them free. He accompanied them day and night as they fled from Egypt, as a fellow fugitive in their midst. He fed them in the desert and enabled them to possess the promised land. He gave them victories and triumphs. And as though the other nations were nothing to God, He wanted to be explicitly called the God of Israel and to have Israel called His people. He established a covenant so that they would recognize no other lord and receive no other god. God confirmed this covenant and ratified it with the Israelites by a written testament and His own testimony.

Nevertheless, these people revealed that they were descendants of cursed ancestors and showed themselves to be truly heirs of the wickedness of their father Adam. They were unmoved by all these different kinds of warnings about their behavior and did not listen to God's teaching by which He sought to admonish them. The works of creation inscribed with the glory and magnificence of God were powerless to bring the Gentiles to glorify God, to whom they testified. And the Law and the prophets did not have the power to lead the Jews in the right way. All have been blinded to the light, deafened to God's admonitions, and hardened against His commandments.

It is true that the Gentiles, astonished and convinced by so many good and beneficial things which they saw around them, were forced to recognize the unseen hand from which so much good came. But instead of giving the true God the glory which they owed Him, they invented for themselves a god pleasing to themselves. They clothed their god with foolish fantasies which they created from vain and deceptive dreams. They did not invent just one god but as many as their audacity and presumption enabled them to imagine and forge. As a result, there was not a people nor a region whose people did not create gods according to what seemed good to them. In this way idolatry began to reign. Like a deceitful panderer, idolatry has turned men away from God and toward making for themselves countless idols which they fashion, name, and treat as though alive.

As for the Jews, they received and accepted with approval the messages and commandments which the Lord sent them by His servants. Yet they no sooner agreed than they broke their agreements with God, turning away from Him without a care. They violated His law, hating and despising it, refusing to walk in His ways. They became strangers to the house of God and ran after other gods, committing idolatry like the Gentiles, contrary to the will of God. As a result, a new covenant was needed so that God could approach His people, whether Jews or Gentiles. It should be a covenant that is certain, sure, and inviolable. And to establish and confirm this covenant, it was necessary to have a mediator to intercede and go between the two parties to reconcile them. Without such a mediator, mankind would be under the wrath and indignation of God forever, with no means of escaping the curse, misery, and confusion into which they had plunged themselves. It was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the true and only eternal Son of God, who had to be sent by the Father and given to mankind to restore a world otherwise scattered, destroyed, and desolate.

From the beginning of the world, there has always been the hope of recovering what Adam lost. Immediately after his ruin, God gave Adam the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head, to console and comfort him. This promise meant that Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, would strike down Satan and destroy his power. In the course of time, God fully renewed this same promise to Abraham when He said that by Abraham's seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed, which meant that Jesus Christ, humanly speaking, would be a descendent of Abraham. Jesus Christ would bring a blessing by which all mankind, regardless of their ethnic background, would be sanctified. God made the promise to Isaac in the same form and with the same words.

Century after century, different prophets proclaimed, repeated, and confirmed their testimony many times until it was fully revealed, giving even more assurance as to where the Messiah would be born and at what time and location. These prophets also prophesied about the afflictions He would suffer and about His death. They foretold His resurrection, reign, and how He would lead and guide His people safely.

It was first foretold in the book of Isaiah that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel." In the writings of Moses, the good Jacob set forth for us the time of the Messiah's birth when he said, "The

scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." This prophecy was confirmed at the time when Jesus came into the world. About 37 years before the birth of Jesus, the Romans took complete control of Israel from the Jews and established their rule over them. They appointed Herod as king over them. He was not Jewish, his father Antipater being an Idumean and his mother Arab. It had happened several times that the Jewish people were without a king, but they had never been, as they were at that time, without counsellors, governors, or magistrates. Daniel provided another description of this period of time by counting the seventy weeks.

The prophet Micah clearly gave us the place of Jesus' birth when he said, "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." As for the afflictions He was to bear for our deliverance and the death He was to suffer for our redemption, Isaiah and Zechariah spoke of these matters fully and with certainty. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah treated in full the glory of His resurrection, the nature of His kingdom, and the grace of salvation that Jesus Christ would bring to His people.

These holy men, filled with the Spirit of God, declared and testified to these promises which were the comfort and consolation of the children of God. The elect nourished, supported, and sustained their hope with these promises, waiting for the time the Lord had ordained to reveal what He had promised. Among the children of God and elect were many kings and prophets who desired to see the accomplishment of these promises. They never ceased to believe in their hearts and spirits the things they could not see with their eyes. During the long wait for the great Messiah, God confirmed the faith of His people in every way, providing them with His written law, containing ceremonies, purifications, and sacrifices. Yet these were figures and shadows of the great blessings to come with Christ, who alone was the embodiment of the truth contained in the law and its requirements. For the law was incapable of bringing anyone to perfection. It only pointed to Christ and, as a teacher, spoke about Christ and led us to Christ who was, as Saint Paul says, the end and fulfillment of the law.

In a similar manner, God sent His people kings, princes, and military leaders, many times and in a variety of periods. They delivered God's people from the power of their enemies, governed them in peace, recovered their losses, restored their flourishing regions, and made them renowned among the other peoples by their great exploits. God accomplished all this to give His people a foretaste of the great miracles that they were to receive from the great Messiah, who would be endowed with all the power and might of the kingdom of God. When the fullness of time had come and the period foreordained by God was ended, this great Messiah, so promised and awaited, came. He was perfect and accomplished all that was necessary to redeem and save us. He was sent not only to the Israelites but to all mankind, including every ethnicity in every land, so that by Him humanity might be reconciled to God. This is what is plainly stated in the following book, the New Testament, and set forth there openly.

Part II

We have translated this New Testament as faithfully as possible in accordance with the truth and the literal meaning of the Greek language, so that all Christians who know the French language, men and women, will be able to understand and acknowledge the law they ought to obey and the faith they ought to follow.

This book is named the New Testament in relationship to the Old Testament which contains the old covenant, for the old had to be superseded by the new. The old covenant was weak and imperfect, and it was abolished and abrogated. The new and eternal covenant will never grow old nor fail because Jesus Christ is its Mediator. He has ratified and confirmed it by His death, by which He has brought about the full and complete remission of all sins which remained under the first covenant.

The Scriptures also refer to the New Testament as the gospel, that is, new and joyful news, because in the New Testament it is declared that Christ, the only true and eternal Son of the living God, was made man to make us children of God by adoption. Thus, He is our only Savior. We owe our redemption, peace, righteousness, sanctification, salvation, and life to Him. He died for our sins and rose again for our justification. He ascended to heaven and opened a way for us to enter as well, taking possession of a heavenly place on our behalf and preparing us a home there. He is always before His Father as our Advocate and Helper, and He is perpetually offering up sacrifices for us. He sits at the Father's right hand as King, having been made Lord and Master over all, so that He may restore all that is in heaven and on earth. None of the angels, patriarchs, prophets, or apostles knew how to restore anything in heaven or on earth, nor were they even able to attempt it, because God had not ordained them to accomplish that.

In the Old Testament the prophets gave many testimonies about the promised Messiah, and in the New Testament Jesus Christ was declared by sure and certain testimonies to be the one who was to come and who the people were to wait for, and there would be no one else. The Lord God has made us so completely certain of this matter by His Word and His Spirit, by His angels, prophets, apostles, and even by all His creatures. No one is in a position to contradict this testimony without resisting God and rebelling against His power.

The eternal God first testified to us by His own voice, which was without doubt irrevocable truth, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." And Saint John said that the Holy Spirit Himself is a great witness to Jesus Christ in our hearts. The angel Gabriel was sent to the virgin Mary and said, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The essence of this message was also given to Joseph and then later to the shepherds, to whom it was announced that a Savior, who was Christ the Lord, was born. And this message was not simply brought by one angel but was confirmed by a multitude of angels who glorified the Lord in unison and announced peace on earth. Simeon the Just confessed out loud that Jesus Christ was the Savior as the Spirit moved him. Taking the little child in his arms, he said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.” John the Baptist also said something most fitting about Jesus when he saw Him coming to the Jordan River. He said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Peter and all the apostles confessed, testified and preached all the things which relate to salvation. And the prophets had foretold that these things would be accomplished in Christ, the true Son of God. And down to our own age, those whom the Lord ordained to become His witnesses have richly demonstrated by their writings what Christ has accomplished, as their readers know well enough. All that these witnesses say fits together so well that they form a single message, and their prophecies agree with each other so completely that it is not difficult to recognize in such harmony that what they say is most certainly true. Such harmony could not exist in lies.

Moreover, it is not only the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who bear witness. In addition to the angels, prophets and apostles, the wonderful works of Jesus Christ show His most excellent power. The sick, lame, blind, deaf, mute, paralytic, insane, lepers, demoniacs and even the dead raised by Him to life—they all displayed His power. He was resurrected by His own power, and He has pardoned sins in His own name. Indeed, He was right in saying that the works that His Father had given Him to do were sufficient testimony. Moreover, even wicked people and enemies of His glory were constrained by the force of truth to confess and acknowledge something of His glory, as did Caiaphas, Pilate and his wife. I don’t want to bring to our attention the witness of the devils and unclean spirits, seeing that Jesus rejected them.

In short, the elements and all created things gave glory to Jesus Christ. At His command, the winds ceased, the raging sea became peaceful, and the fish brought a four-drachma coin in its stomach. The rocks bore witness to Christ as they were crushed. The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom, the sun grew dark, the tombs opened by themselves, and many were resurrected. There was nothing, either in heaven or on earth, which did not testify that Jesus Christ was God, Lord, Master and the great Ambassador of the Father sent here below to accomplish the salvation of mankind.

All these things are announced to us, demonstrated for us, written for us in this New Testament, and ratified for us by the new covenant. By the new covenant Jesus Christ makes us His heirs in the kingdom of God His Father. Now we are called to this heritage without respect for persons: male or female, small or great, servant or lord, master or disciple, cleric or layman, Hebrew or Greek, French or Latin. No one is excluded from the kingdom of God who receives Jesus Christ as the one sent for them themselves, embracing the Savior who is presented to them, acknowledging Jesus Christ for who He truly is, the One given by the Father.

Now will we who bear the name of Christian, whether male or female, permit ourselves to dishonor, conceal and corrupt this testament, which so rightly belongs to us? Without it we would have no rights to the kingdom of God. Without it we would be ignorant of the great blessings and promises which Jesus Christ has given us as well as the glory and blessings He has prepared for us. We would not know what God had commanded us to do nor prohibited us from doing. We could not tell good from evil, light from darkness, the commandments of God from the rules of men. Without the gospel, everything would be useless and vain. Without the gospel, we would not be Christians. Without the gospel, all wealth would be poverty, all wisdom would be folly before God, strength would be weakness, and all the justice of man would be under the condemnation of God.

But by knowing the gospel, we are made children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, fellow townsmen with the saints, citizens of the kingdom of heaven and heirs of God with Jesus Christ. By Jesus Christ the poor are made rich, the feeble powerful and the foolish wise. By Him sinners are justified, the afflicted are comforted, doubters become confident, and slaves are set free.

The gospel is the Word of life and truth. It is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. It is the key to the knowledge of God, opening the door of the kingdom of heaven to the faithful by releasing them from their sins yet closing it to the unbelievers, binding them in their sins. Blessed are all who hear the gospel and keep it; for in this way they show that they are the children of God. Cursed are those who will not hear it and follow it; for they are children of the devil.

Part III

O Christians, listen to what is written here and learn, because the ignorant will certainly perish in their ignorance. When a blind person follows another blind person, they fall together into the same pit. There is only one way to life and salvation—faith and certainty in the promises of God which can only be had through the gospel. God grants a living faith to those who hear and grasp this gospel. He also grants us a sure hope and perfect love for Him and a fervent love for our neighbors.

Where is your hope to be found, if you regard this Holy Gospel with contempt and scorn the thought of listening to it, looking at it, reading it and holding it tight? Those who focus their longings on this world pursue what they think will bring them happiness by every means, even sacrificing their work, body, life and reputation. All this is done for this wretched body with its fleeting, miserable and uncertain life. Shouldn't we endeavor to pursue a life that is immortal and incorruptible, with eternal and immeasurable blessing and all the treasures of paradise?

Those who devote themselves to studying technical studies, regardless of how low and lacking in dignity their field may be, endure pain and work hard to learn and comprehend their studies. Those who seek the highest reputation in the humanities torment themselves day and night to understand something of their field, though it is nothing but wind and smoke. Shouldn't we be much more engaged and diligent in the study of this divine wisdom which surpasses the whole world and extends to the mysteries of God? This is the divine wisdom which God was pleased to make know by His holy Word.

What then would make us strangers and aliens with regards to this Holy Gospel? Would injuries, curses, disgrace and the loss of honor in the eyes of the world? But we know very well that Jesus Christ has travelled the same road which we have to follow to be His disciples. We must accept being despised, mocked, humiliated and rejected by others, because we then have the promise of being honored, prized, glorified and exalted at the judgment of God.

Will we be banished, exiled and deprived of possessions and riches? But we know that if we are banished from one country, the whole earth is the Lord's. If we are thrown out of the earth itself, we will not be outside of His kingdom. When we are plundered and impoverished, we have a Father who is rich enough to nourish us. We also have Jesus Christ who was made poor so that we might follow Him in His poverty.

Will there be affliction, imprisonment, torture and torment? But the example of Jesus Christ teaches us that this is the way to reach glory. Will there finally be death? But death does not deprive us of the life that should be desired. In short, if we have Jesus Christ with us, we will not encounter anything so cursed that He will not turn it into a blessing, nothing so desecrated that He will not make it holy, and nothing so evil that He will not make it good.

Let us not become discouraged when we see all the earthly powers and forces against us, because the Lord's promises cannot fail. The Lord on high scoffs at the men who meet and devise their efforts against him. Let us not despair as though all hope could be lost when we see true servants of God die and perish before our eyes. Tertullian was correct when he said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church—a statement always true and which will continue to be so until the end of the age.

And when we turn our eyes away from this whole world and set aside all that we can see before us to wait with patience for the great judgment of God, we have an even better and firmer consolation. At the great judgment, God will strike down all the machinations of mankind in an instant, reducing them to nothing, completely overturning them. This will happen when the kingdom of God, which we now see in hope, becomes visible, and Jesus Christ appears in majesty with His angels.

Then it will come to pass that those who are good and those who are evil will be presented before the judgment seat of the great King. Those who have remained firm in this new covenant, who have followed and kept the will of this good Father, will be at His right hand as His true children and will be blessed with the fulfilment of their faith, which is eternal salvation. Since they were not ashamed to confess Jesus Christ when He was despised and condemned before men, they will also share in His glory and be crowned with Him for eternity. But at the left hand of the Father will be those who are perverse, rebellious and condemned, who have despised and rejected the Holy Gospel, as well as those who were unwilling to humble themselves and take a lowly position with Jesus Christ because they wanted to retain their riches, honors and exalted position. They discarded the fear of God out of a fear of others, disobedient to their father like illegitimate children. They will be cast out with cursing and receive eternal death as the wages of their unbelief.

Now the gospel presents Jesus Christ to you. In Christ all the promises and gracious gifts of God are realized, and the Scriptures declare that He was sent from the Father, descended to earth, lived with His people, and completed all that was necessary for our salvation as foretold in the Law and the Prophets. From the moment you hear the gospel, you ought to find it very sure and clear that God has opened to you the treasures of Paradise, spread riches before you and revealed eternal life to you. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and the One that He sent, Jesus Christ. God has established in Jesus Christ the beginning, middle and culmination of our salvation.

Christ is Isaac, the well-beloved son of his father, who was offered as a sacrifice but did not succumb to the power of death. He is Jacob, the watchful shepherd, who took such good care of the sheep that he guarded. He is Joseph, the good and compassionate brother, who was not ashamed to acknowledge his brothers even though he was in a high position and they humbled and impoverished him. He is the great priest and bishop Melchizedek, who has made an eternal sacrifice, once for all humanity. He is Moses, the sovereign lawgiver, writing His law on the tablets of our hearts by the Spirit. He is Joshua, the faithful captain and guide, who leads us to the promised land. He is King David, noble and victorious, subduing every rebellious power by His hand. He is King Solomon, magnificent and triumphant, who governs His kingdom in peace

and prosperity. He is Samson, strong and powerful, who overwhelmed all His enemies by His death.

Furthermore, every good thing we could think of or long for is found in this Jesus Christ alone. He humbled Himself to exalt us, made Himself a servant to set us free, became poor to enrich us, was sold to buy us back, became a captive to free us, was condemned to absolve us, was cursed to bless us, was sacrificed for our sins to claim our righteousness, was marred to make us fair and died to give us life.

By His death our hardened hearts were softened,
our awaiting wrath was appeased,
our darkness was turned to light,
our fear was reassured,
the despising we received was itself despised,
our debt was cancelled,
our labor was lightened,
our sadness was turned to joy,
our misfortune was turned to fortune,
our difficulty was eased,
our disorder was brought into order,
our division was turned to unity,
our shame was turned to admiration,
our rebellion was suppressed,
our intimidator could no longer intimidate,
ambushes set for us were uncovered,
assaults against us were assailed,
forces coming against us were forced back,
the combat around us was combatted,
the war waged against us was warred against,
vengeance planned against us was avenged,
the torment we deserved became His torment,
our damnation was damned,
our abyss sank into its own abyss,
our hell was halted,
our death made to die and
our mortality became immortal.

In short, His mercy has swallowed up all our misery, and His kindness all our misfortune.

All these things were the weapons with which the devil once fought against us. They were deadly stingers reserved for piercing us. But Christ has turned them into experiences from which we benefit. So, we can boast with the apostle and say, "O hell, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

And so it is that by the Spirit of Christ, promised to the elect, we no longer live but Christ lives in us. We are seated by the Spirit in the heavens until the world is no longer our home. While we live on this earth, we are content in everything, regardless of our country, our place, our condition, our clothes, our food, or anything else. And we are comforted in tribulation, joyful in sorrow and glorifying God when abused. We are abounding despite our poverty, warm despite our nakedness, patient in the face of wickedness and living abundantly in face of imminent death.

This is all the wisdom which people can understand and must learn in this life, which no angel or person, whether living or dead, may add to or take away from. This is the point where we ought to stop and put a limit to our search for understanding, not mixing anything of our own with the wisdom of Scripture nor accepting any teaching whatsoever which might add to it. Whoever attempts to teach one syllable more or less than what we are taught in the Scriptures should be cursed before God and His church.

And you kings, princes and Christian lords, who are ordained by God to punish the wicked and support the good in peace according to the Word of God, it is your responsibility to have this sacred doctrine, which is so useful and necessary, published, taught and understood in all your lands, realms and domains. The goal of these endeavors is for you to magnify God and exalt His gospel. It is the rightful duty of all kings and kingdoms to obey Him in all humility and serve His glory.

And all you who call yourselves bishops and pastors of the poor, ensure that the sheep of Jesus Christ are not deprived of their proper food. And ensure that no Christian is kept from or forbidden to read, study and understand this Holy Gospel in his own language, given that this is the will of God and the command of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this, Jesus Christ sent His apostles and servants throughout the whole world, giving them the gift of speaking in all languages so that they could preach in every language to every creature. He made them debtors to the Greeks and the barbarians, to the wise and the simple, so that no one would be excluded from their teaching. Surely, if you are truly vicars, successors and imitators of the apostles, it is your responsibility to follow their example. You should watch over your flock and seek every possible means to train everyone up in their faith in Jesus Christ by the pure Word of God. Otherwise, your sentence is already pronounced and recorded; God will hold you personally responsible for their souls.

By His Holy Spirit, through this holy and saving gospel, it is the will of the Lord of lights for the ignorant to be taught, the weak to be strengthened, the blind to gain their sight and His truth to reign over all peoples and nations, so that the whole world may know one God, the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ; one faith and one gospel. Amen.