

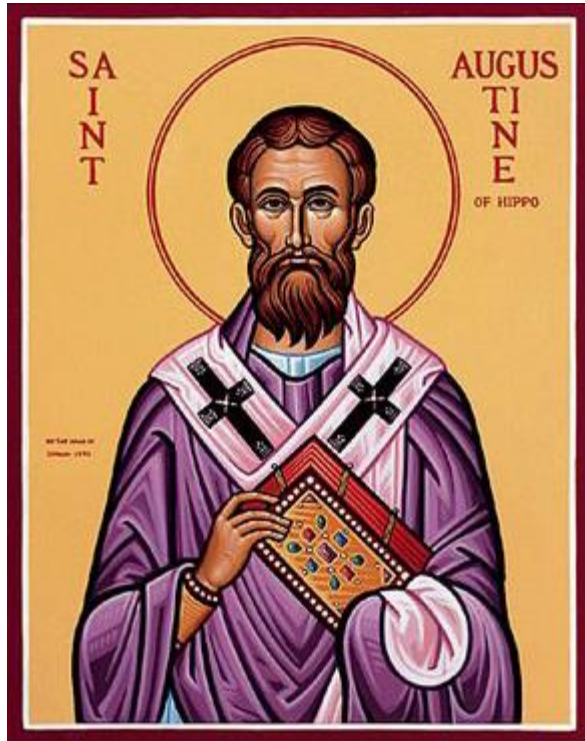


# Lutheran Theology Overview

*Mark W. Skinner*

“If our Christianity has ceased to be serious about discipleship, if we have watered down the gospel into an emotional uplift which makes no costly demands, and which fails to distinguish between *natural* and *Christian existence*, then we cannot help regarding the cross as an ordinary everyday calamity, as one of the trials and tribulations of life ... However, when Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

D. Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*



Augustine of Hippo  
354-430 A.D.

## *Civitas Dei* (The City of God against the Pagans)

- Sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410 A.D.
- Christianity must be understood as New Jerusalem
- Locus: City of God = catholic church



**Thy Kingdom come ...**

***What does this mean?*** *In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.*

***How does this come about?*** *Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.*

***2nd petition, Lord's Prayer Luther's Small Catechism***

# Kingdom of God



- How does God's will come about?
- Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will- as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh- that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in the faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.
- For where God's Word is preached, accepted, believed, and bears fruit, there the holy and precious cross will also not be far behind. (Large Catechism)

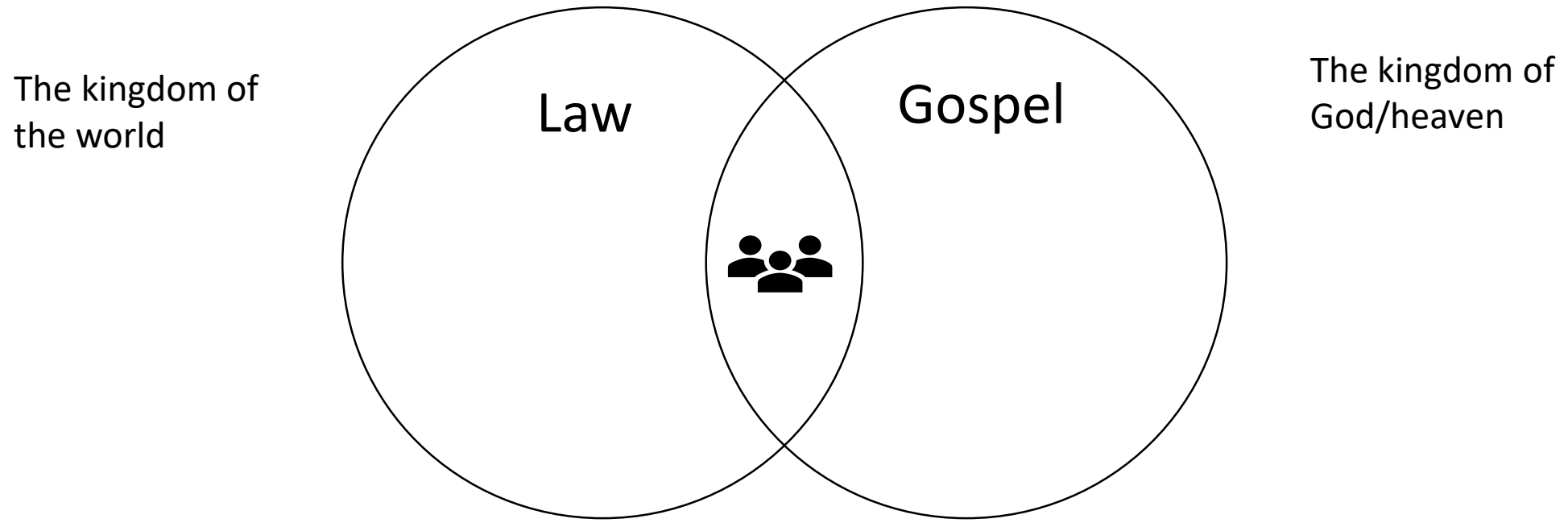
*3<sup>rd</sup> petition Lord's Prayer – Luther's Small Catechism*

“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his *kingdom* there will be no end.” (Luke 1:33)

“Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the *kingdoms* of the world ...” (Luke 4:5)

“I must proclaim the good news of the *kingdom* of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.” (Luke 4:33)

# The Development of the Two Kingdoms



“The distinction between law and gospel ... They are especially to serve the purpose that the spiritual remain spiritual and the temporal temporal, lest the two be confused.”

Bernhard Lohse, *Martin Luther's Theology*

# Natural Law

- Natural law : Universal moral and ethical principle that is discernable by human reason. Imbedded in the creation by God or other transcendent being.



Thomas Aquinas  
(1225-1274)



# Positive Law

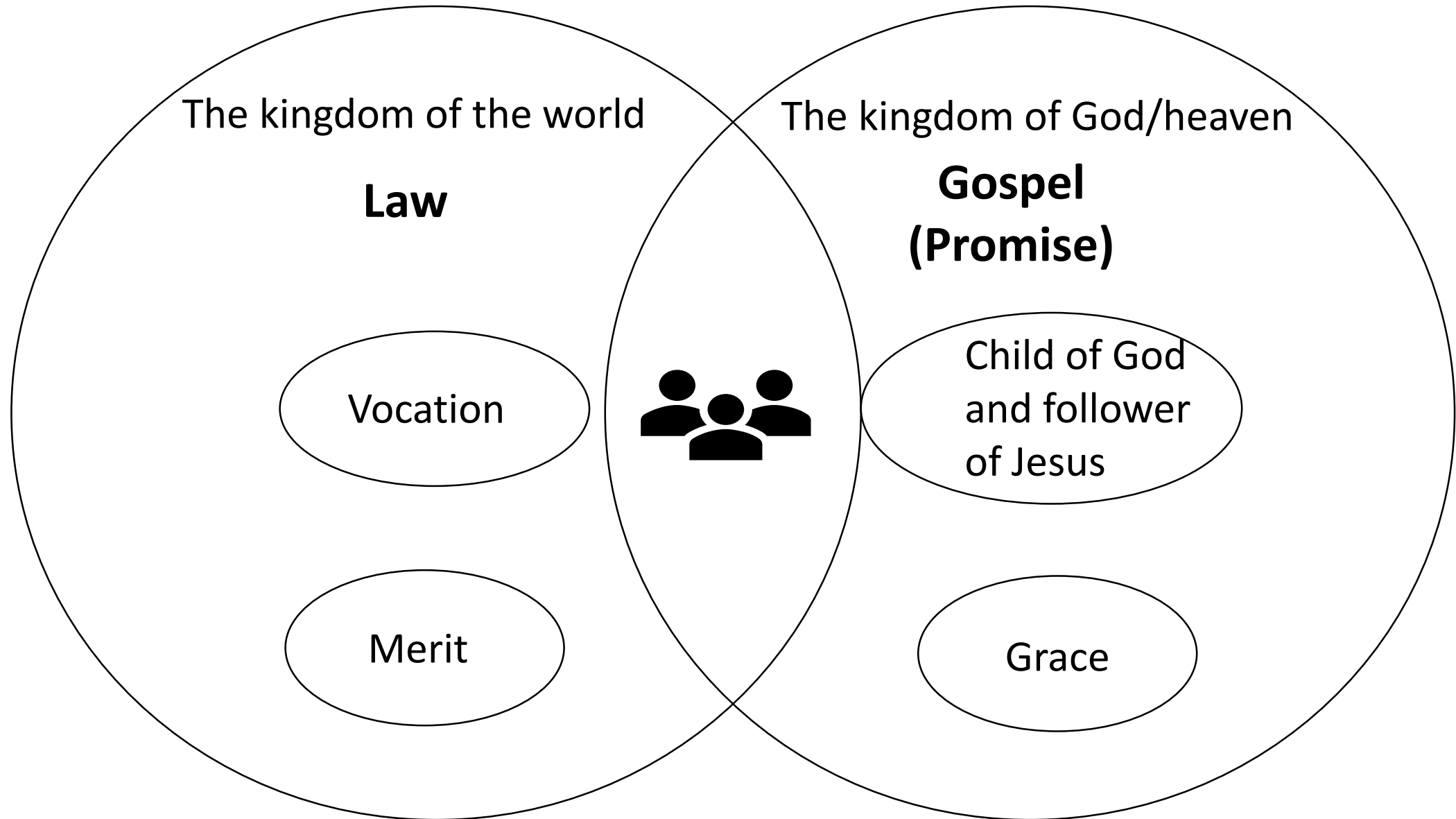
- Positive law : Any law that a legitimate authority enacts to govern a society. From that Latin root, meaning “to posit.”
- Came into full existence by early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Positive law is separate from the “laws of God.”
- Concerned less about what is “moral” and more about what is “fair or unfair.”



1<sup>st</sup> Use of the Law: Political or Civil Use

2<sup>nd</sup> Use of the Law: Theological or Accusing Use

# The Two Kingdoms



# Vocation

- One's occupation (modern definition)
- Vo-car-eh (to call)
- Luther's time ...



Martin Luther  
(1483-1546)

“If we follow this, the monastic life will be no more a state of perfection than the life of a farmer or an artisan. These too, are states for acquiring perfection. All people, whatever their calling, should seek perfection, that is, growth in the fear of God, in faith, in the love for their neighbor, and in similar virtues.”

*The Augsburg Confession; Article XXVI: Foods*



Vocation: *where* the cross and resurrection meet us,  
and our neighbor.

Luther: Daily *dying* and *rising* with Christ. Metaphor  
or reality?

# καλέω

- To call – invite – summon
- To name ( 1 John 3:1-2)
- Used 43 times in Luke; more than any other book/letter of the Bible



# Birth of John the Baptist

- 1: Vs 11 – the call
- The promises:
  - Vs 13 – bear a son, name him John
  - Vs 14 and 15
  - Vs 16 and 17





# Birth of Jesus foretold

- 1: Vs 26 and 27 – the call
- The promises:
  - Vs. 28
  - Vs. 29-30
  - **Vs. 31-32 (call/name him)**
  - **(See Matthew 1:21)**
  - Vs. 33



*The Annunciation* by Murillo (1655-1660)

# Presentation of Jesus

- 2: vs 21- and he was “called” Jesus
- 2: Vs 27 – the call of Simeon
- The promises:
  - Vs. 29-32
  - Vs. 34-35
- 2:vs 36 – the call of Anna
- The promises:
  - Vs. 38



Simeon the Godreceiver by [Alexei Yegorov](#).  
1830–40s

# Birth of Jesus

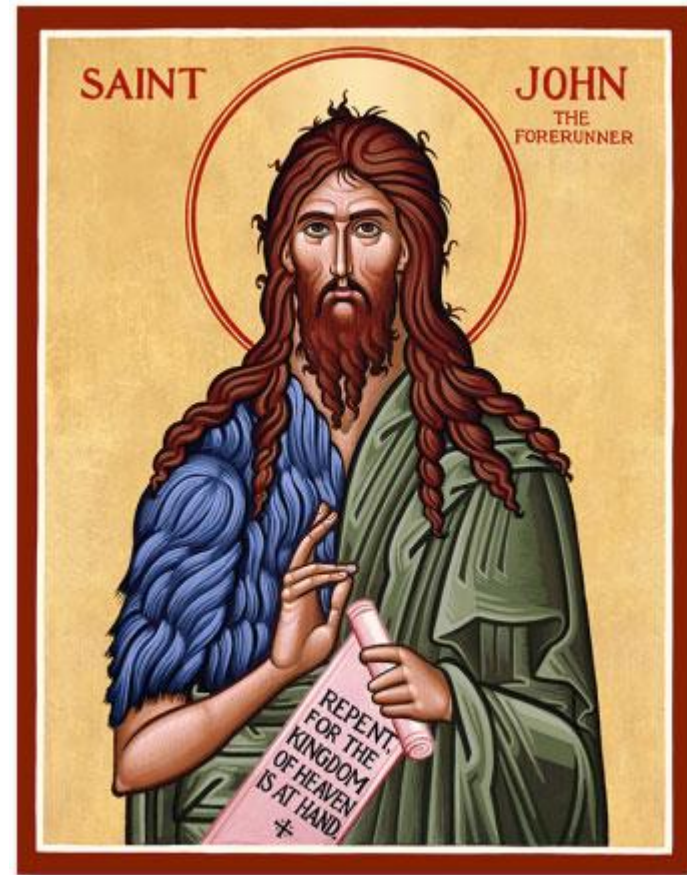
- 2: Vs 9 – the call
- The promises:
  - Vs. 10
  - Vs. 11
  - Vs. 12



Albrecht Dürer

# Proclamation of John / Baptism of Jesus

- 3: Vs 2 – the call of John
- The command and promises:
  - Vs. 4-6
  - Vs. 16-17
- 3: vs 21 – the call of Jesus
  - Declaration and promises:
    - Vs. 22



Luke 10:39-40 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying ... but Martha was distracted by her many tasks ...



*Christ with Mary and Martha*  
Hendrick Maertensz



**Luke 5:32** – “I have come not to *call* the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

**Luke 15:11-32**

Rembrandt: *Prodigal Son*

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God ... for it is God’s servant for your good.”

*Romans 13:1-3*

***Is this blind obedience to authority? What is the litmus test for “good” vocation according to Paul?***

# Luther on the vocation of marriage:





“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful ... it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things ... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13

“The first love is drunken. When the intoxication wears off, then comes the real marriage love.”

Luther, Table Talk

“One learns more of Christ in being married and rearing children, than several lifetimes spent studying in a monastery.”

Luther