

November 17, 2020

Dear Rev. Slopsema,

I would like to meet with you to discuss your meditation in the October 15, 2020 issue of *The Standard Bearer*.

In particular, I would like to talk to you about the statement, "In fact, the more faithful the saints are to God's law in the grace of Jesus Christ, the more they prosper in the great blessings of the covenant."

How is that statement different than the many statements that Synod 2018 condemned, the principle of which was, the more we do, the more we will receive from God?

I believe that the statement you made in that editorial compromises the gospel of grace and displaces the perfect work of Christ. In your statement, "good works are no longer fruits and are no longer the way of grateful conduct...but good works are performed to obtain something, or good works function as an instrument/means for the reception of something..." (2018 Acts of Synod, 75). In this case, the faithfulness of saints is used to prosper more and more in the great blessings of the covenant.

What you have done is displace Jesus Christ. You have said, what Jesus Christ did was not enough to prosper in the great blessings of the covenant. Something more is needed. That something more is man's faithfulness. You have replaced Jesus Christ with dung.

When I met with you in July 2019 about your authorship of the doctrinal statement, you said that you were not sure what you believed on the topic. That struck me as odd then and does so today. The words of Jesus to Nicodemus come to mind, "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:10).

But what you have done is to *continue* teaching the same false doctrine that Synod condemned, false doctrine that was found in sermons from Hope Church and approved by Classis East, and false doctrine that was found in the doctrinal statement that you, with others, authored.

This is inexcusable.

Synod 2018 taught us the truth of the matter: "If we will speak of God *causing* us to experience the blessings of salvation, then we must speak of *faith*, which is the one and only instrument. We must say, God causes us to experience the blessings of salvation *through faith*."

You continue to replace faith with man's working which is to make salvation by faith and works. In this public writing, you assert that "Christ is not sufficient, but that something more is required" (BC Art. 22).

About this, I want to talk to you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dewey Engelsma