## **Understanding Lutheranism**



I am posting this video (below the text) about Lutheranism to help explain some of the Lutheran-specific doctrines the Lutheran author, Gregory L. Jackson PhD, is teaching in his book, <u>Liberalism: Its Cause And Cure – The</u> <u>Poisoning of American Christianity and the Antidote</u>, which I posted on this website. Dr. Jackson also wrote another great book, <u>The King James Version:</u> <u>Precise Translation versus Fraudulent Texts and Heretical Translations</u> which is also on this website.

First of all, it's very encouraging to me that true Bible-believing conservative Lutherans do exist! I used to think they were all apostates and totally ignorant of everything Martin Luther taught! What did Luther teach? He taught from the Bible about Who Jesus is, the Son of God, and about true salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ's work alone, and in God's Word alone, for the glory of God alone. In other words, the <u>Five Solas</u> of the Protestant Reformation, the doctrines that all true Protestants embrace! They also believe that the Bible is inerrant which even some socalled evangelical Christians do not believe. Some of them put private revelation above Scripture such as the revelations Margaret MacDonald had in the 19th century which resulted in the <u>popular but false doctrine of the pretribulation rapture</u>.

However, there are also doctrines conservative Lutherans teach that surprised me because they sound very much like Catholic doctrines. I know Catholic doctrines well and used to believe all of them. I was raised a Roman Catholic and attended 8 years of Catholic school in Chicago. When I got saved in 1997 at 20 years old, I began to attend regular Bible study with my new Protestant friends. After 3 months of reading and learning what the Bible has to say, I came to the conclusion on my own that I didn't need to attend Catholic Mass anymore.

I then began to seek out Christians from various Protestant churches to learn their views about the Bible and how they are living for Christ. The churches I had the most contact with were evangelical churches, mostly Baptists, and Pentecostals. There's only once in my entire life that I remember attending a Lutheran church, and that was when I lived in Niigata Japan. I was surprised, therefore, to read from Lutheran Pastor Gregory L. Jackson that he believes in infant baptism and in the "Real Presence of the body and blood of Christ" in the celebration of the Lord's Supper which Catholics call the sacrament of Holy Communion. Reading that stumbled me and I considered not posting the final chapter of Liberalism: Its Cause And Cure – The Poisoning of American <u>Christianity and the Antidote</u> because of its Lutheran doctrines which sounded identical to Catholicism. However, after researching it, I learned the Lutheran doctrine of the "Real Presence" is not the same thing as the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation. They don't believe that the wafer or bread actually becomes the body and blood of Christ. The YouTube video explains it and other doctrines the Lutherans teach and believe. Just watch the YouTube and find out! It has some very interesting charts and is only 11 minutes long.

That being said, I am not telling you to become a Lutheran or that I agree with everything the Lutherans believe and teach. There's nobody in this entire world I have ever met with whom I agree 100% on everything. The closest person to near total agreement with all my views is my wife.  $\Box$  But I do find it interesting to see the differences between Lutheranism and Calvinism. I like the Lutherans' emphasis on the Gospel.