

THE THREEFOLD FORM OF THE WORD OF GOD

Revealed Word

(God's event, self-utterance and self-bestowal;
i.e., the living Lord Jesus Christ)

Written Word (Scripture)

Proclaimed Word (Church's preaching/teaching)

- [1] WW and PW bear witness to RW.
- [2] WW and PW *become* the Word of God when God speaks his RW through them. (Note: God reveals *himself*, not a book or an institution. The Word didn't become words. Jn. 1:14)
- [3] We know RW from WW as the WW is PW (or through the PW whose content is the WW.)
We know the WW only because of the RW as announced by the PW.
We know the PW only as the Spirit renders the WW the vehicle of the RW.

- [4] The Word of God comes to us clothed in the garments of creaturely humanity: Jesus Christ in his
humanity, as attested by human writing and speech.
- [5] The Word of God is never our possession. (God certainly gives himself to us in Jesus Christ, but never gives himself *over* to us or *up* to us.)
- [6] The Word of God comes to us as a creaturely event in the midst of a *fallen* creatureliness.
Therefore the Word of God is indirectly known twice over. For this reason only the miracle of
of
grace (Holy Spirit) can acquaint us with the W of God (=God himself.)
- [7] Since God is never in our control, knowledge of the Word of God always has to be given afresh.
(This however, does not imply the spasmodic or the episodic or the spastic.)