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READING WITH TINTED GLASSES

Those who deny that the body and blood of Christ are in the Lord's Supper have not remained with the words of Christ. They have instead thought it over and come up with this line of reasoning: Should Christ really be in bread and wine? Would he not be spread all over the world? Should each Christian actually eat Christ? This would truly be strange!

So their presuppositions. From the outset they are wearing a pair of tinted glasses which cause the words of Christ to mean what they want them to mean.

But this is what all factious people do! First they come

up with an idea. Then if they like it, they brazenly conform Scripture to it.

Whoever would receive the true faith from the Word of God, however, believes in this way: “May God grant that Christ crawl into the bread or the wine or wherever he wants to be. If I have the Word I will look or think no farther. I will stick with what Christ says.” This is how a person wraps himself in the Word, is not diverted from it, and is preserved by it.

***If I have the Word
I will look or think
no farther.***

These words of Christ are not, after all, hard to understand. If these words are not clear, then I do not know how one can speak clearly.

Would I be confused if someone were to place a roll in front of me, saying: “Take, eat; this is bread?” Likewise: “Take and drink; this is a glass of wine?” Accordingly, when Christ says, “Take, eat; this is my body,” even a child clearly understands that Christ speaks about what he is offering.

It is common for someone to point to something while speaking, so that another person knows what he is saying. If I now am to throw such words into question, and invent some sort of subtlety, I am simply fooling myself.

All these words are clear and simple: “Take bread;” “give thanks;” “break;” “give;” “eat and drink;” “this is my body;” “this is my blood.” Yet all that our opponents with all their efforts can do is come up with their own ideas and consequently split into factions. Apparently these words mean whatever each of them has decided they mean.

This is why we simply stick with the words and close our

eyes and ignore our senses. For everyone knows what this means: “This is my body,” especially when he adds, “... that is given for you.” We surely know what Christ’s body is, namely, that which was born of Mary, suffered, died, and rose.

We simply stick with the words and close our eyes and ignore our senses

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1. Do those who deny that Christ is present with his body and blood in the Lord’s Supper do so on the basis of Christ’s words?
 2. What reasons are given for such a denial?
 3. Is it possible for a person to conform Scripture to his own ideas?
 4. How does a person “Wrap himself in the Word?”
 5. Are Christ’s words concerning his supper complex or simple?
 6. Why were the opponents of Luther splitting into factions?