

## FOREWORD

Christian bookstores nowadays are full of books written about the Christian life. Such books try to explain how to “live like a Christian” by answering questions such as: How can I increase my faith? How can I live my life in the world as a Christian? How can I be a Christian employee? How can I know God’s will for my life? How can I have a Christian marriage? How can I love my spouse? How can I raise my children to be Christians? How can I talk to people who are not Christians? How can I have true inner peace? All of these questions are certainly important and are asked by those who, having come to faith in Jesus Christ, basically wonder: Now what?

In the short work that follows, the great Reformer Martin Luther answers this “Now what?” by heading to the writings of Apostle Paul and pointing out that the Christian, having come to faith in Christ, is a lot like Jesus Christ Himself. As Christ has two natures, a divine and human, so too the Christian has two natures: An old and a new. It is because of this situation that a Christian can frequently have a hard time answering the multitude of questions posed above. The old nature of the Christian constantly tugs at the new and the result can frequently be nothing but confusion. What is to be

done?

Luther sorts out this mess by taking two seemingly contradictory statements from the Apostle Paul and in the process of harmonizing them, not only answers the basic question of “Now what?”, but also helps to explain how the basic aspects of the life of the Christian (the Bible, the 10 Commandments, the Gospel, faith, love, good works, pastors, sermons, church services) can all be clearly and simply understood. In so doing, Luther constructs a small Christian dogmatics of sorts, and describes the essence of the Christian life.