

# Reflection/Opinion: Paralogical Delusions

By Sarah Dixon Young

We have been doing a lot of addition and subtraction drills at our house. Before we can move on to multiplication, we need a firm grasp of what you get when you add two and two.

Sometimes, my son is frustrated.

"How can this and this add up to that?" he demands.

It's a reasonable request for proof. I give him proof, usually in the form



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of his own fingers or the beads on the abacus.

You can't argue with what is concrete.

The inventory has been taken. The computation has been done. If you resist now, you are practicing paralogic- going against what you know to be true.

For our homeschool, we watch a daily news program called WORLD-Watch, and this week, it included a segment called "Reality Check." It was five short minutes of resisting the paralogical advances of a world which resists facts. Male and female, right and

wrong, good and evil- God made distinctions based on His truth, and so can we.

The program proclaimed that the essence of truth isn't being our true selves but instead knowing the truth of Jesus Christ.

You can't argue with what is concrete, even when others try to bust up the foundation with a jackhammer.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians, he knew the plausible

arguments they were hearing, and he wanted to make sure they had a concrete foundation.

"[I want you] to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," he wrote to them. "I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments."

The Greeks are still famous today for their

methods of argument: the Socratic method, rhetoric, sophistry. They used their mental techniques on the Christians of Colossae, trying to convince them and entice them to believe that their true selves just needed to be liberated by secret knowledge. Their argument sounded plausible, but sprung from erroneous suppositions.

Paul knew that the only way to get the Colossians to see through these argu-

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# My faith journey, finished, for now! Have a Happy Easter, my friends, remember you are loved!

By Louise Oleson, DLJ Editor Emeritus

Continued from the March 24, 2026

"The rest of the story," or at least part of it, because I am still on that journey and will be until I am face to face with my Savior.

I wish I could tell you that I lived a holy life all my years (so far) but that would not be the truth. Like lots of people, including many in the Bible, my journey has



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been filled with joy and sorrow, great heights and deep lows. I have loved

the Lord my whole life, but I haven't always lived that out in all my life choices. I still struggle with that and I'm guessing, I always will.

I recently attended some ministry training provided for me by the ELCA Synod that Devils Lake is a part of. We had a lovely and lively speaker who talked about Martin Luther - he's kind of a big deal to us in the Lutheran Church - but he would be the first person to tell you to NOT look

to him for an example of perfect faith or obedience to God's word. In fact I learned that although he was an Augustinian Monk (Roman Catholic Church) he was particularly scrupulous when it came to confession. He saw himself for the sinner that he is and would go to confession so many times a day, often, that his own confessor reprimanded him for it.

I can relate to that, in my own way, because no matter how hard I try

to be the woman - the person - God wants me to be, I always fall short. I give my faults and my failings to God and in the next moment snatch them back! I know my great need for forgiveness and salvation but that is not something I can do - it is God who has to reign in the wilful, sinful Norwegian Irish woman I am.

Oh, I know God's love, I've experienced so many wonderful things in my life - blessings from God - yet I am disobedient and

in need of forgiveness and patience and love, constantly - just ask anyone I work with! They'll tell you!

I am trusting that God will continue his work in me for as long as he plans to.

Recently I drove home from an afternoon in Grand Forks to hit a nasty snow squall along the way home at Michigan, ND. If it weren't for the rumble strips along

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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> 20th St. &amp; Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am &amp; 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am &amp; 11:00am</p>	<p><b>ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.</p>
<p><b>ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 &amp; 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).</p>	<p><b>DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.</p>	<p><b>MORNING STAR PARISH</b> 701-262-4714 www.morningstarparish.com Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran</p>	<p><b>ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.</p>
<p><b>BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after</p>	<p><b>DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 294-2361 Tokio, N.D. 11 a.m. worship</p>	<p><b>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP</b> North Junction of Hwy. 15 &amp; 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service</p>	<p><b>ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August)</p>	<p><b>TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday</p>
<p><b>BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT</b> Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday</p>	<p><b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service</p>	<p><b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 7th St. &amp; 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.</p>	<p><b>WEBSTER CHAPEL</b> Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.</p>
<p><b>CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship</p>	<p><b>PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)</b> 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer</p>	<p><b>WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)</b> 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.</p>	<p><b>ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN</b> Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.  If you would like to make changes or corrections to this ad, please contact Louise at loleson@cmpapers.com</p>

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