

9-1962

Notes: Seminary Address: St. Louis, 1962

O.P. Kretzmann

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Memorandum

For _____

*St. Louis
Sept. 1962*

"The Word was made flesh, and there is a new beginning, and if he wills the prodigal can return to His home. The dry bones can live again. Yet this can be so only if we utter the responsive word to the word, only if we renounce our spurious self-sufficiency and accept the destructive and creative fire of the living God. St. John in his Gospel shows us what this process involves in his account of the seven miraculous events which he calls the signs (miracles) performed by Christ: the wedding at Cana, the curing of the nobleman's son, the cripple at the pool of Bethesda, the feeding of the 5,000, the walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee, the blind man, the raising ~~of~~ to life of Lazarus. These are the seven great signs. They are not pointing to something beyond themselves but to what is implicit in themselves. ~~The~~ In the language of symbols seven signifies completeness of a single whole so that the seven signs make up one complete manifestation or communication like a tale told in seven chapters or a poem comprising seven stanzas. What the series tells in a

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dramatic crescendo of more and more explicit and ultimate conflict between life and death, light and darkness, wholeness and corruption, is that transfiguring of man which the coming of the Light, and the birth of the Word makes possible."

DATE _____ OCCASION _____

THEME _____

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Theology requires:

- a. Unending attention to voices from the silence of the past;
- b. A continuing empathy with the agonies of contemporary man; *God*
- c. The assurance to carry on theological tasks whether or not the results gained immediate attention; and
- d. The courage to venture boldly in the name of Christ.

Most notable is the current interlocking of ultra-conservative religion with ultra-conservative social and economic views. There is a good deal of overlapping between religious fundamentalism and social reaction--an overlapping too extensive to be ascribed to pure coincidence.

*Sum 16
Christie*