BJUG HARSTAD 1918 SERMON OUTLINE

1. **Introduction**
   1. Scattered sheep with no formal system of government
   2. Norwegian Synod founded on idea of congregational autonomy
      1. No other master than Jesus Christ
      2. Congregations freely united in external association for edification and mutual consolation
      3. Each local church is a member of Christ’s body and owes allegiance only to Him
      4. The apostles likewise defended the liberty and right of the congregation
      5. The Holy Spirit gives diversities of gifts, differences of administrations, and diversities of operations, along with differences of conditions and rank
   3. The faith confessed by the Synod’s founders should be remembered and followed
      1. Guided by the Holy Spirit and bears stamp of evangelical liberty
      2. Those gathered have right to retain it and not yield
      3. Doctrinal compromise caused great destruction and wreckage
      4. “Ask for the old paths… and walk therein”
      5. THEME: *“Our Christian Calling: A Walking in the Good Way.”*
2. **How we are to walk in it**
   1. God told Abram to leave his father’s house and go to strange land
      1. Abram called away from idol worship
      2. We also were called from darkness and regenerated through baptism
      3. By God’s will and not our own we are converted and saved
   2. Abram went by faith
      1. We trust the Word not knowing where it will lead
      2. We must not depend on our own might and ability, or worry how God should build His kingdom
      3. We believe, confess, and live according to God’s Word and suffer with Christ
      4. We deny worldly glory and seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness
3. **How we are to be strengthened to walk in the good way**
   1. God promised to make of Abraham a great nation and bless him
      1. Abraham did not travel with great crowds; following God’s Word can be lonely
      2. God’s promises encourage when the world and sinful nature tempt us
   2. Abraham did not know where the Lord was leading him
      1. We would rather see than trust
      2. The Lord keeps His promises
      3. He is present in Word and Sacrament to lead and comfort
      4. Progress in the journey only comes by the Word
   3. God’s promise brought Abraham both earthly and spiritual gift
      1. His many descendants would know the power of God’s grace
      2. Earthly altars were thanksgiving for heavenly gifts
      3. We trust the Word knowing it will bear fruit
   4. Abraham would be a blessing to others
      1. Given the honor of being a co-laborer with God
      2. Professed the Christ that was to come
      3. We confess the Christ who has come to a world that does not know Him
   5. God promised to bless or curse those who did the same to Abraham
      1. The Lord stood at his side and took care of him
      2. He does the same for we who are cursed and ridiculed by the world
      3. The Lord’s persecuted disciples are conquerors
      4. We stand firm in the armor of God through faith in Jesus