

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

June 2018

A Joyful Heart!

Mark Sunnarborg
Rhinelander, Wisconsin

*And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. **Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.** And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*

Isaiah 12

“Smile like you mean it!” We have all heard this before. A joyful heart is that which comes not from what this world can give. A joyful heart is that which comes not from satisfying the flesh. True joy comes from true contentment that man cannot produce of himself, but it is a gift of God in Christ Jesus. *Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.* If one could only understand this, that one would be the most blessed person in all the world.

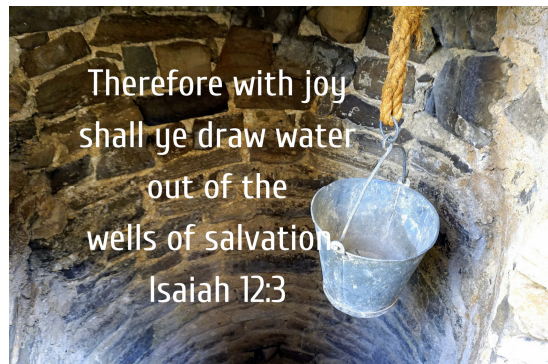
Yes, one can have true contentment, the well of water springing forth from within their undying soul. John 7:37-39: *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* There is great joy knowing that all is well with your soul, you have peace with God, and the shame and guilt of sin has been removed. Your name is written in the Lamb's book of life, heaven is your home for all eternity, and you are given a new measure of faith each day to walk by. The joyful heart is one that rests in the faithfulness of the Lord, for He is faithful who has promised.

The promises of God are for the believer as well as the unbeliever. For the believer the promise of God is of a life more abundant, and the kingdom of heaven is theirs. They have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost; and heaven is the believer's home. For the unbeliever the promise is of a life without true joy, full of sorrow. The promise is that their sins will haunt them for all eternity, and hell is reserved for them for all eternity. *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)* Never coming to know the forgiveness of their sin, never knowing the joy found in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is not lasting or true joy in the abundance of the things which a person possesses in this world, either, *for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. (Luke 12:15)*

As a believer our life is not our own. It belongs to the One who has purchased it with His life. We belong to Him and He belongs to us, for He has purchased us. Have you come to Him, and have you placed your trust in His redemptive work alone? Do you have this joy in your heart and does your soul rest in the joy of salvation found in Jesus Christ alone as Lord

and Savior? *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (Hebrews 4:9-11)* Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto your own understanding. This topic of a joyful heart is not complex, but is impossible for one to experience unless one comes to know the salvation and forgiveness that comes through Christ Jesus. The world

or the flesh cannot give you what you long for deep inside your soul. The joy of this world will not last, as it is only temporal. Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. A joyful heart can be yours, and this joy will last for all eternity. Do not stop until you find this joy. Jesus is the answer for all those who lack a joyful heart. ~



Therefore with joy
shall ye draw water
out of the
wells of salvation.
Isaiah 12:3

Three-in-One

Pastor Charles Bergstedt
June 2008 CM

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26a, 27

ONE OF THE MORE INTRIGUING beliefs that comes out of Christianity is the Trinity! We wonder and we ponder this idea a lot, but we fail to truly grasp it because we cannot comprehend how three separate beings can be one. It has been said that we can not truly support the belief in the Trinity from Scripture. There is no book in the Bible written specifically about the Trinity and there is no verse that even mentions the word Trinity, but we believe in the Trinity by faith. We believe in the concept of the Trinity by faith and that comes by the Word of God!

So then, Pastor Charles, how do we believe in the Trinity if there is no direct reference to It in the Bible! I believe the Bible does speak of the Trinity even if it does not use the word directly in phrase.

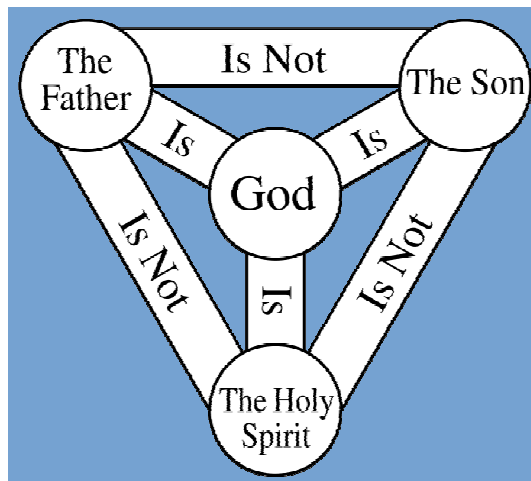
For example, let us look at Creation and see in Genesis 1:26-27, where God speaks of creating man in Their image. God says, *Let us make man in our image...* We see later on in Genesis 3:22, where God says, *Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil.* We see here in the beginning of the Word of God two examples of God speaking to others. These others are being spoken to as if they are on a similar level to God Himself. With this in mind I would say that God is speaking to what makes up the Trinity: Jesus and the Holy Spirit, as well as the Heavenly Father. Now someone who majored in logic could maybe challenge my assertion, but I add by faith that He is speaking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

We cannot attempt to prove the idea of the Trinity, and I, a measly scholar, am not going to make an exhaustive attempt. But I offer a few tidbits from Genesis that may help from time to time. The reality we find with the Trinity is that the whole of Scripture identifies with these three Beings and points to their necessity in our understanding of God, life, and salvation. We also see the Trinity spoken of in the Great Commission from Matthew 28, as we are told to go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We learn of the Trinity in the early teachings of our youth when we learn the three creeds that speak of the Trinity. The statements of belief are the Apostles', the Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds.

Here we learn of the natures of God and try for a moment to understand how God works and brings us unto Himself. The Father brings creation even though we find that Jesus is the Word and the Word brought about creation. They are One and yet they are individual. Jesus brought us redemption and forgiveness for our sins and thus brought us life and life eternal. The Holy Spirit directs us to the Word and through the Word as well, so we may come to know our sinfulness and need for the redemptive work of Christ Jesus.

Martin Luther said that we cannot distinguish the Trinity from each other by anything other than their respective relationships to one another. He says this about the Trinity: "In these three articles God Himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of His fatherly heart, His sheer, unutterable love... We could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart. Apart from Him we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But neither could we know anything of Christ, had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit." (Large Catechism II, 64, 65)



The Trinity is a concept we must grasp by faith, but it is truly brought forth and lived out in the life of a child of God. As children of God we cannot escape the Trinity for they are all One and at work in our lives. The Trinity is a concept that we have trouble putting together in our own minds, but it is evident when we look at the work of our Heavenly Father.

For more study on the Trinity look up the Council of Nicea; also look up

Athanasius. Remember there is always time to learn, but we also need to continue to rely on God through the faith He provides us through the reading and hearing of the Word!

May the Lord richly bless you.

The Three Ecumenical Creeds

"Ecumenical creeds" is an umbrella term used in the Western Church to refer to the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed and, less commonly, the Athanasian Creed. The ecumenical creeds are also known as the universal creeds. These creeds are accepted by almost all mainstream Christian denominations in the West...

A creed by definition is a summary or statement of what one believes. It originates from the Latin *credo* meaning "I believe." The purpose of a creed is to act as a yardstick of correct belief. A creed is an epitome, not a full definition, of what is required for orthodoxy. It was hoped that by memorizing this summary of the faith, lay people without extensive theological training would still be able to recognize deviations from orthodox doctrines based on the Bible as interpreted in Christian tradition.

Wikipedia, Ecumenical Creeds

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* catholic means "universal" and is not a reference to the Roman Catholic Church.

The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Athanasian Creed

Written against the Arians.

WHOSOEVER WILL BE SAVED, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith. Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son,

and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty. And yet they are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before or after other; none is greater or less than another; But the whole three Persons are coeternal together, and coequal: so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped. He, therefore, that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is, that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world; Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood; Who, although He be God and Man, yet He is not two, but one Christ: One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking the manhood into God; One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead; He ascended into heaven; He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies, and shall give an account of their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire.

This is the catholic faith; which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.

From The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

Oh, How He Loves Us!

Gwen Wilson
Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Children,

Hello to each of you. I do hope your day is going well. Mine is starting well.

It seems that Easter was so long ago but it's just the busyness of life that makes things seem distant. That is the way it is for me anyway. As I thought about what to write, I had something else in mind, but I thought it fitting to ponder on Jesus' ascension.

JESUS CAME INTO THIS WORLD as a little baby, born as any baby is born, but in the lowliest place, where cattle sleep. His bed was the trough where the animals' food was placed.

He grew and grew, and when He was only twelve years old, He began to do "His Father's work." When He was thirty, He began His public ministry.

He taught all who would hear about His Father, God, and how much He loved and would always love mankind. His love would never fail His people, those who would be given the Holy Spirit and serve Him.

Jesus was always sought after by those who hated Him, right from His birth. Everywhere He went, He had followers, those who hung onto every word and liked what He taught, and those who only listened to His teachings to try to find fault and a reason to kill Him.

God always protected Jesus, and Jesus would not die until the appointed time. We know that time came and Jesus was hung on the cross and died the death of a criminal. It was here on this cross that His LOVE for mankind was shown when He shed all of His blood. He took all of our sins on Himself, and it made His death even more painful. His blood covers us today, and through it, we can have eternal life. We are forgiven.

After Jesus died, He arose the third day and walked again on the earth for forty days. He showed Himself to His friends and disciples several times.

Jesus had walked and talked with those two disciples (who had no idea it was Jesus) on the road to Emmaus, and spent a little time with them at their home, breaking bread with them. When Jesus did this, they knew who He was! Then He vanished out of their sight.

Those two disciples hurried immediately to the eleven disciples who were hiding from the public for fear they would be treated as Jesus was. They told the eleven in excited voices that they had actually seen Jesus. As they were talking, Jesus just silently showed up in the room, much to their surprise.

Jesus saw their fear and said, "Peace be unto you." (Luke 24:36) They were all so scared they couldn't talk or probably move. They thought Jesus was a spirit (ghost).

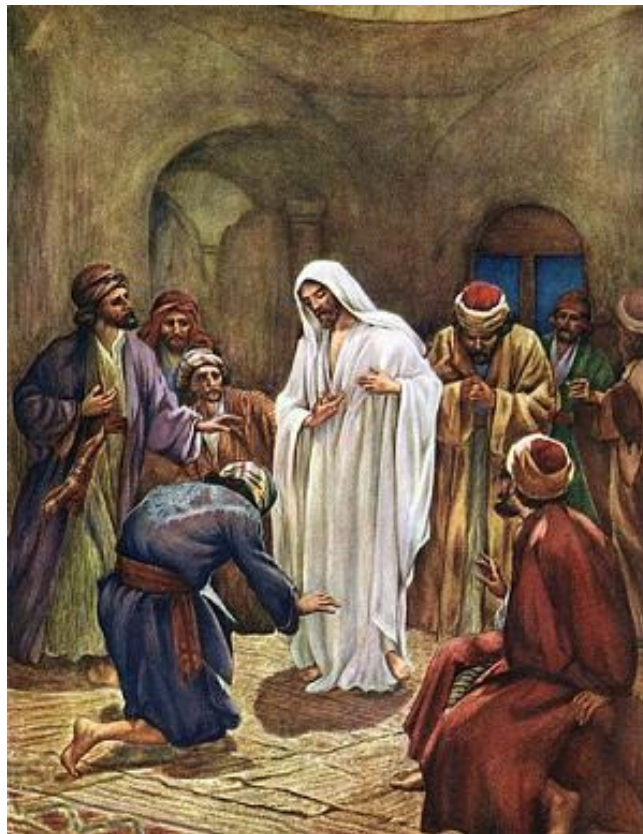
Jesus then asked them why they were so afraid. He offered for them to look at His hands and His feet to show to them He was Jesus. The men were joyful but not believing, so Jesus asked if they had any food. Some broiled fish and a piece of honeycomb were given to Him and He ate them. He then went on to tell them so many things He had told them before, and He encouraged them and opened their understanding.

He told them again that He had had to suffer and rise from the dead. He told them that it was now their duty to go and preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. He reminded them that they were witnesses to all He had to go through and what they were taught by Him for the sake of saving mankind from their sin.

The last thing Jesus said before leaving this room with His disciples as recorded by Luke (24:49) was, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but stay in the city

of Jerusalem, until you are provided with power from on high."

For Jesus the end of days on earth in the physical form of a man and to be with His disciples was now going to come to a close. He left that room with His disciples and led them out to a place called Bethany. While the disciples looked on Him, He blessed them and then in a moment He rose from the place where He was standing and a cloud took Him out of sight. The disciples stood there looking up in awe over what had just happened and knowing He was not going to be with them in His manly form any more. I can only imagine how they felt that day. What a moment. The disciples worshipped Him there and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy! They remained in the temple praising and blessing God.



*Jesus Appears to the Disciples, William Hole
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*

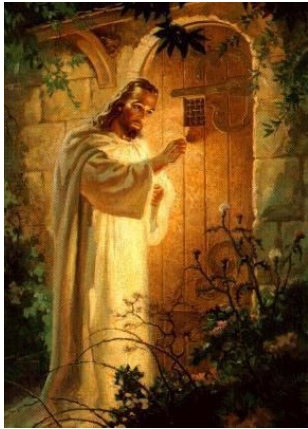
OH, HOW HE LOVES US!

We must never forget how He loves us, despite our weaknesses and failings. He is ever ready to forgive. I pray you children will pray to God and ask Him to give you a heart to serve Him.

God's peace.

Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock

Pastor Alvin Holmgren
July 1988 CM



And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and

miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:14-22

These words of Jesus are often applied to the unchurched—specifically, those who are living outwardly in sin and in defiance of the will of God as it is revealed in the Word of God. Taken in context, they present a startling revelation! Jesus was speaking to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans. He was the minister (messenger) of that church and was held as a star in the right hand of Jesus (Revelation 1:20).

It is apparent that he was not in fellowship with the Lord. The words paint a graphic picture of the Savior standing at the door and seeking entrance. It is alarming to think that this angel's spiritual life had deteriorated to the extent that he was no longer in communion with his Lord and Savior. The Master, in whose ministry he served, appeared outside of the door of his heart.

He was in a lukewarm condition, in a state of spiritual indifference. He had lost consciousness of his sinfulness and his need of grace and developed such spiritual independence that he felt rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing. This self-sufficient, lukewarm condition resulted not only in complacency, but also in spiritual blindness of the magnitude that Jesus said that he did not know that he was wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

The better way was found by the Lord in the hearts and spiritual lives of two of the other angels of the seven churches addressed in these divinely inspired letters. The Lord knew the works, tribulations, and poverty of the angel at Smyrna, but comforted him with the statement that he was rich nevertheless (Revelation 2:9). The Lord also approved the condition of the angel at Philadelphia, whom, He said, had a little strength and had kept His Word and had not denied His name (Revelation 3:8)

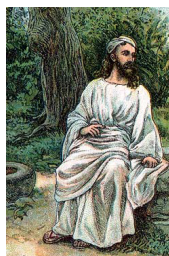
It is evident that the condition of the angel at Laodicea was deplorable in the Lord's sight because He said *...I will spue thee out of my mouth. (Revelation 3:16)* Yet Jesus showed him the way back to spiritual health by counseling him to buy of Him gold tried in the fire so that he might be rich, white raiment so that he would be clothed and his nakedness would not show, and eye salve so that he would be able to see (verse 18).

What prompted this straightforward message to this angel? The love of the Lord shines in every word He spoke, even in this seemingly stern admonition. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:19-20)* These words of Jesus teach us that the essence of Christianity is communion with Him. There is no substitute for this relationship. Communion with Jesus is the only means for restoring and preserving a living relationship with God. Through His Spirit, He imparts to us the gifts of grace which enable us to feast upon His truth. Then we can say with the Psalmist, *My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. (Psalm 45:1-2) ~*

The Living Water

John Ruotsala, Foreign Mission Administrator
New Ipswich, New Hampshire

This account in John chapter 4 is another wonderful portion of God's Word. So much is revealed here about the heart of our Lord. We notice that Jesus was going from Judaea to Galilee, and that He *must needs go through Samaria*. Going through Samaria was the most direct route, but the Jews took the long way around because they despised the Samaritans. Since these people were only partly Jewish, the Jews felt they were a lower class of people and wanted no part of them. Our Jesus, however, did not partake in these feuds; rather, He had a "divine appointment." It was not by accident, or just to take the shortest way, that Jesus went by way of Samaria.



When Jesus got to Sychar, He came to Jacob's well and sat down. Jesus was weary, and He sat on the well. This shows Jesus was true man. He walked the dusty roads; He got thirsty, tired, and weary. Jesus experienced the discomforts, aches, pains, trials, and temptations that we experience.

We notice in the Bible that God, perfect in power, is also perfect in love, and deals with us in our weakness, not His strength. Augustine wrote, "The strength of Christ created you, the weakness of Christ created

you anew.” Jesus died on the cross for us all! He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and save His life, but He died on the cross for you and me!

Jesus was at the well at the sixth hour, which was high noon. In Palestine no one goes to the well at noon; it’s too hot. No one, that is, except a social outcast like this Samaritan woman. In this we take heart: if Christ is willing speak to a Samaritan woman, who is He unwilling to touch? No one!

Jesus was already there when the woman came. It is no accident that He was there, or in the other accounts in the Bible when He showed up to heal, to care, to save. Even today, Jesus waits for sinners in need, and is willing and able to forgive.

Jesus came by the way a Jew would not come. He ministered in ways that the church in those days would not. Can we agree that we should also be ready to minister, and in ways and places other than the customary ones? Jesus is always willing and able to listen and forgive. He will never leave or forsake us. Can we understand that Jesus loves all mankind?

He said to the woman, “Give me to drink.” Jesus started the conversation. The Jews were not supposed to talk to Samaritans, much less ask them for help. The woman recognized this right way and pointed it out. Then Jesus answered: *If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (John 4:10)* Living, eternal water is spoken about often in the Scriptures, and Jesus offers Living Water. People do not understand this, and the woman surely did not understand whom she was talking to.

The women told Jesus that He had nothing to draw with and the well was deep. Jesus answered: *Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. (John 4:13-15) Now she wanted some of this special water. She envisioned never having to drink again, or come to the well in public, where her shame would be shown. She did not yet see her sin; she was not yet penitent or repentant. She was not yet ready to die, so that she could live.

Notice how Jesus gently dealt with her at this point. Love is a mark of Jesus. Jesus not only loves all of us, He loves each of us! Jesus told the woman, “Go, call your husband.”

She said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said, “You have had five husbands, but you said correctly that the one you are with now is not your husband.” Jesus did not come down fiercely on her, but dealt with her so patiently. He even found something that she was correct in saying and gave her credit for that. Jesus put the best construction on her. Do we do this? Jesus’ goal was to get her to see who He was, and that He could save her.



Let this be a lesson to all believers today. Let us deal with the sinner as Jesus did. Let us have patience and, above all, point them to Jesus. The most important thing is that they would come to see Jesus, come to know Jesus by faith.

Let this portion of Jesus being able to see this woman’s sin also be a lesson to people in our day. We cannot hide from God. Men sometimes think that they can have “secret” sins. Well, maybe they can be hid for a short while from people, but God sees all.

The woman understands that Jesus is a prophet, but she goes on about the proper worship of the elders. She said, “They worshiped on this mountain, but you say to worship in Jerusalem.” Jesus tells her what is important: *Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true*

worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:21-24)

Jesus gets to the point lovingly. He said, “You don’t know what you worship.” Going through the motions and methods is not enough. God is a Spirit, and true worshippers will worship in spirit and in truth. It must be the One True God, no other gods. Jesus is God, and we worship Him! Our worship must be because we desire and appreciate the Living Water, and that we know and see Jesus.

The woman says that Messiah is coming, called Christ, and He will teach us all things. She still could not SEE Jesus. Our Lord is so long suffering. He said, “I that speak unto thee am he.” He wants all of us to see Him. With unending love and patience He reveals Himself. Do we understand this? Do we see Jesus?

The woman left her water pot there, and went to proclaim about Jesus. No longer was she concerned about natural water. She had been in the presence of the One who provided Living Water that will last forever. She no longer needed the water pot, since she had Living Water.

She was a sinful woman who came to the well in shame when she thought no one would be there. She left a new woman, and went straight into the city and told everyone about Jesus. This woman became quite an evangelist. She went forth and presented Christ Jesus, who knew all that she had done. She admitted she was sinful. She did not care who knew now, she had been visited and she had seen Jesus. She was no longer shackled by her sin.

Let us also be witnesses for our Lord. Let us share about Jesus who knows and sees all things, and about the Living Water supplied by Christ Jesus, so people who partake will never thirst again! Do you know of someone thirsty with whom you can share this Water? Believe the Bible: *If any man thirsts, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:37-38)*

Praise and thank the Lord for the Living Water!~

Saints and Sinners

Lois Matson
Yacolt, Washington

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 7:21 - 8:4



THE CHRISTIAN IS A DUAL-NATURED BEING, described by the Latin phrase *simul justus et peccator*, which means “simultaneously righteous and sinner.”

When God has brought us to life by His Word, and has worked His good and gracious will in our hearts, we are made completely righteous. Only perfection is allowed in the presence of God. Not one blemish, not one taint of sin will be found in heaven. Through faith we are clothed in Christ's righteousness, and we are perfect in the sight of the Father. Even here on earth, our “inward man” delights in the Law of God, not reluctantly, but joyfully. The saint delights to do the will of God.

At one and the same time, our sinful nature clings to us until we die. The original sin nature that we inherited from our parents was in turn inherited from their parents before them, all the way back to Eden. This “old man” will never

delight in the Law of God. The sinner delights in the law of sin and death, and wants to bring us back under the condemnation we (justly) deserve.

Martin Luther, in his *Lectures on Romans* says:

For inasmuch as the saints are always aware of their sin and implore God for the merciful gift of his righteousness, they are for this very reason also always reckoned righteous by God. Therefore, they are before themselves and in truth unrighteous, but before God they are righteous because he reckons them so on account of this confession of their sin; they are sinners in fact, but by virtue of the reckoning of the merciful God they are righteous; they are knowingly righteous and knowingly unrighteous, sinners in fact but righteous in hope...

Thanks be to God that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made [us] free from the law of sin and death. Through the Spirit, we are righteous and holy. In our fallen nature, we are unjust and unholy, but our sin is not imputed to us. It is not marked as payable on our account, because God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 6:5-14: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Our sinful flesh is dead; it just doesn't know it. Our “old man” has been crucified with Christ, and buried with Him in baptism, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we also should walk in newness of life. We consider ourselves dead to sin, and alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ~

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The Father's Love

Pastor Phil Wilson
Hockinson, Washington

OH, THE JOY OF FAMILY and oh, the love of a father toward his children! What is it to have the love of a father? Is it not to be assured he will take care of your every need? Is it not that he listens to your cries and answers you in your distress? Is it not that he would provide a lap of comfort and an arm of consolation? Is it not that this would emanate from selflessness, which is the very essence of love?

We as fathers and children can point to a day in our lives when this natural love began: for fathers it was when we first realized the joy of bringing a little one into the world; for children it was when we first felt the love glow of a parent's voice, warmth, and touch. When did the love of *the* Father begin for His children? Jesus prayed for His disciples: *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.* John 17:24, 26

As earthly fathers, we can comprehend this earthly love, for our children are so intimately close to us; they are indeed flesh after our flesh. But how can we begin to comprehend the depth of God's love toward us that we would be called His children and enter into His family unit? John, the apostle of love, who had an intimate experience of the love of God in Christ exclaimed with great wonder, *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.* (1 John 3:1)

Whether a child enters into an earthly family by birth or adoption, there is a means whereby this inclusion occurs. Likewise there exists a means, howbeit divine, wherein we enter the family of God: *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.* (Galatians 3:26) This happens through the grace of God, whereby He imputes His righteousness - which is the righteousness of faith - giving us the power to become a child of God.

A relationship built on trust between a father and child grows to the point where *if a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone?* (Luke 11:11) Jesus continues by asking, *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?* (Luke 11:13) This same Spirit then testifies to us that we are children of God, where we receive the spirit of adoption into this family freeing us to cry out, *Abba, Father!*

We fathers strive hard in this life to provide for our children and trust there will be an inheritance for posterity's sake. But what awaits the child of God—an inheritance that is corruptible and that will fade away? God's Word is marvelous in that it never leaves us in such want! The Apostle Paul continues, *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* (Romans 8:16, 17)

The infinite heavenly treasures (some we enjoy today, others will be fully revealed in eternity) are for those adopted into this great family, where birth order is forgotten, last names are dropped, and there is a room prepared and a crown provided.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (John 15:9) ~

Happy and Blessed Father's Day!

MEETING NOTICE

The 110th Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Pasco, WA and will be held on July 12th at the TRAC Center, 6600 Burden Blvd., Pasco, WA 99301.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the Annual Reports will be read; the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, the Western Mission Board, and the Southern Mission Board will be elected. All matters will be considered and acted upon. Congregations are requested to send their delegates to this meeting.

The schedule of meetings and services are as follows:

Tues, July 10	Ministers Mtg 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church 1207 W Court St., Pasco, WA 99301
Wed, July 11	National Sunday School Mtg 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and Eastern Mission Mtg 3:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church 1207 W Court St., Pasco, WA 99301 Opening service 7:00 PM Apostolic Lutheran Church 1207 W Court St., Pasco, WA 99301
Thurs, July 12	Annual Business Mtg 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM TRAC Center, Pasco, WA Foreign Mission Business Mtg will immediately follow Annual Business Mtg

Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning Thurs, July 12th through Sun, July 15th at the TRAC Center, Pasco, WA. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the devotional services.

On behalf of the Central Board of the
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Gary Bertram, Chairman
David Myllymaki, Secretary