



Quotes from Martin Luther Concerning Justification by Faith Alone

(From *What Luther Says*)

Commenting on Galatians 3:5 Luther says: “*The article of justification, which is our only protection, not only against all the powers and plottings of men but also against the gates of hell, is this: by faith alone in Christ, without works, are we declared just and saved.*”

Commenting on Galatians 4:1-7 Luther says: “*Nothing more is required for justification than to hear of Jesus Christ and to believe on Him as our Savior.*”

Commenting on Psalm 51:2 Luther says: “*A Christian ... is righteous by the mercy and grace of God. This mercy and grace is not something human; it is not some sort of disposition or quality in the heart. It is a divine blessing, given us through the true knowledge of the Gospel, when we know or believe that our sin has been forgiven through the grace and merit of Christ.... Is not this righteousness an alien righteousness? It consists completely in the indulgence of another and is a pure gift of God, who shows mercy and favor for Christ’s sake.... Therefore a Christian ... is righteous ... only in respect to divine grace and the free forgiveness of sins, which comes to those who acknowledge their sin and believe that God is gracious and forgiving for Christ’s sake, who was delivered for our sins (Romans 4:25) and is believed in by us.*”

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession -- CLC

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OCTOBER 30, 2011 – REFORMATION SUNDAY

Pre-service Meditation: Ps. 46, pg. 134

Organist: Kristen Friedrichs

Pastor: Opening Prayer

Hymn 262 - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pastor: The Invocation

People: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord!

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

People: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that, by Thy grace, we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Pastor: The Absolution

People: *Amen.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Prayer for the Day

People: *Amen.*

1st Scripture Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **From CLC Board of Missions Chairman, Pastor Ohlmann:** We recently learned of a tragic fire that destroyed the homes of several families in one of the congregations of the CLC-India. While we are saddened and concerned over this earthly trial, we are thankful that the Lord has allowed us to offer a small amount of emergency assistance through the MDF to help the affected families including CLCI Pastor Isaiah who also teaches at the CLCI Seminary. What follows is a portion of an email received from Pastor Jyothi Benjamin: *“We are sorry to write this letter to you regarding recent fire accident in Mannava village. Sudden fire accident destroyed 10 houses of our Mannava CLCI congregation members including Pastor Isaiah’s house. The cause of the fire was due to the sudden breakage of electrical live wire and causing extensive damage. 10 families suffer huge loss, and have lost everything in these fire accident not even dry clothes. Ten thatched huts were fully devastated. The accident site presented pathetic sight of families crying inconsolably over their belongings and utensils getting burnt in the fire... Nothing left for all families especially Pastor Isaiah who has four kids...We are short of words to describe the sufferings of our effected CLCI members. Pastor Isaiah and those members lost their belongings, paddy, clothes, books and everything...We are sorry to report you that an old woman (V.S. Benjamin’s aunty) died in this fire accident and four water buffaloes were dead and three water buffaloes were severely injured. At least three bicycles were damaged in the fire. We provided some temporary rehabilitation shelters to these families with the help from other members.”* Please remember Pastor Isaiah, his family, and the members of the congregation he serves in your prayers. **“This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.”** – Psalm 119:50

Our Response of Faith — October 23, 2011

Attendance: 22

Unified Budget.....	\$271.35
Total	\$271.35

Hymn 373:6, 7 - "By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless"

The Offering

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

All: Amen, amen, amen!

Hymn 376 - *Rock of Ages*

+ + +

Announcements

- **Next Sunday** — Sunday School is scheduled to precede next Sunday's worship service. Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services (communion) begin at 9 a.m. Worship (communion) here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m. Confirmation class is scheduled to follow next Sunday's worship service.
- **Carl Syverson:** Carl Syverson continues to experience health difficulties, most recently suffering from a serious infection in his foot. Please continue to keep Carl in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Pastor Libby's New Cell Phone Number:** Please update your records accordingly - Pastor Libby's cell phone number has recently changed to 507-382-2281.
- **E-mail List:** Pastor Libby is planning to send out a weekly e-mail reminder concerning website updates (bulletins, video services, CLC "Ministry by Mail" printed sermons), especially for those who are at times prevented from worship service attendance due to distance, health issues, work schedules, etc. If you would like to be added to this weekly e-mail list, please indicate this by e-mailing pastor Libby at: ericlibby@hotmail.com.

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia! ... *the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."* (Romans 1:17) Alleluia!

People: *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2nd Scripture Reading – Romans 3:19-31

People: *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Pastor: Here ends our 2nd Scripture reading.

People: *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

The Apostles' Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 12

Hymn 388 - *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

Reformation Sunday Meditations:

+ “Justification by Faith in Christ” +

1st Meditation - Galatians 2:16

... knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

“The Central Doctrine of the Bible: Justification by Faith in Christ”

Hymn 373:1 - “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”

2nd Meditation - Galatians 2:16

... knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

“Justification: Declared Not Guilty”

Hymn 373:2 - “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”

3rd Meditation - John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

“Justification: A Father’s Gift to His Believing Children”

Hymn 373:3 - “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”

4th Meditation - Romans 6:15

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

“Justification: Justification for Sinning? Certainly Not!”

Hymn 373:4 - “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”

5th Meditation - Galatians 2:19-20

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

“Justification Cannot Come to Men through Works of the Law”

Hymn 373:5 - “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless”

6th Meditation - Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.

“Justification in Christ: The Cost of Our Salvation”

The Offertory

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free spirit.*