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President's Office

October Devotion

God speaks. And in this speaking, He gives us instruction. He tells us what to do and what not to do. This “instruction” is none other than the commandments of God. So, do we keep the commands of God? Our natural reason probably says something like this, “I tried my best.”

But the truth of the matter of this; we are all lawbreakers. *“For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). We simply can’t dance around that little word “all.” It goes all the way back to the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. We inherited this natural sin when the moment our lives began at conception. To put it plainly, we are all guilty, and because we are all guilty, we deserve nothing but God’s wrath, anger, and punishment.

Just about every error in the Christian church comes down to this — that we have a part to play in our salvation. Imagine for a moment you, yourself as a miserable rotten sinner before the eyes of God; you, with all of the filth and nastiness coming out of your heart and mind playing a part in your salvation before God. How wrong and Biblically untrue!

You see, the law exposes our sin. *“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”* (Rom. 3:19-20). It silences our prideful, boastful mouth before God.

All of this means that you cannot save yourself. You cannot start, add to, or finish your salvation. What are we to do? This is the whole point — there’s nothing to do. **Jesus did the saving.** He does **all** of the work. *“... justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation (atoning sacrifice) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins”* (Rom. 3:24-25).

Christ alone is good and perfect. In His death, in His resurrection, He gives all of His perfection, righteousness, and innocence to you through the means of His Word and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. *“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”* (Rom. 10:17). *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him”* (Rom. 6:3-9).

What a joy and gift this is as you are accepted by God without any merit or grace or work done on your own! He has done it all for you and gives it all to you by grace through faith. Jesus loves you that much. **All of our faith is in the One man, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** Lord, keep us steadfast in this saving Word and come soon! Amen.

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