

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

(Romans 3:23-24)

I want to talk with you about Jesus. Why? Because in Him alone there is substance. There is depth. There is forgiveness. There is life eternal. There is no other name by which we are saved.

St. Paul testifies so plainly in Romans 3 of our great need of Jesus. We have a great need for Him, because we are great in our sin. We are sinful by nature (*Romans 7:7*) and conceived as sinners (*Psalms 51:5*). From the very first moments of our lives we have but one fate, and that is death.

Many of us have sat in the doctor's office waiting to hear the diagnosis for our ailment. When we hear it and aren't pleased, we immediately begin to ask if we can seek a second opinion.

The Law gives one diagnosis, in that we are sinners incapable of saving ourselves. It condemns us because of our sin. So if the Law condemns, what saves? The Gospel! Only the Gospel pro-

nounces what Christ has done for us. It is the Good News of Christ dying and rising for the forgiveness of our sins.

This is why there is still a need for the Reformation in our own day and age. We are not saved based upon our morals, nor are we saved because of our feelings. We are saved because of Jesus and His work on our behalf. We are saved by the shed blood of Christ on the cross and His bodily resurrection from the grave. This is the Gospel message that is delivered into our lives through the preached Word and the announcement of Absolution. It is delivered in Baptism where the Word with the water forgives and washes us with Jesus' blood (*Rev. 1:5, 7:14*), and seals us for the day of our complete redemption (*Ephesians 4:30*). This Gospel message is delivered to us in the Sacrament where the Word offers the same gracious, life-giving body and blood of Christ

in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:25*), which, unless we eat and drink, we have no life (*John 6:53*).

Jesus is the only One who saves and brings us justification. When the Spirit kindled the gift of faith in our lives, and we believed that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, Scripture says that we are justified. Justification has been explained as “just as if I had no sin.” When you believe Jesus is your justifier, in God's sight it is “just as if you had no sin.”

That is what our Reformation faith is all about – Jesus Christ. Jesus is the object of faith, the earner of grace, and the content of Scripture.

Worship the Savior and invite to your local church those who need to hear this Good News!

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