

What Lutherans Believe, Teach, and Confess

I. GRACE ALONE, CHRIST ALONE, FAITH ALONE AND SCRIPTURE ALONE

GRACE ALONE

You cannot work your way to God, no one is righteous--no not one.

Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works so that no one can boast.

CHRIST ALONE

Human history can be divided into two categories:

1. All human activity falls short of the righteousness of God. That's every life except one...
2. The life of Jesus Christ being God and man who lived a perfectly righteous life. The sinless Jesus was crucified on a cross and all the sins from all time were placed upon Him. His death paid the price that God demanded for our disobedience. This historical event creates the "great exchange"--we bring our sin to Jesus and Jesus gives us His righteousness. His resurrection assures us that we have eternal life with Him.

FAITH ALONE

Faith is the hand that unwraps the gift of salvation through the work of Jesus Christ. Our journey with Christ starts with faith, it is sustained by faith and it finishes with faith in Him and Him alone. Faith -from first to last.

Romans 1:17 for in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

SCRIPTURE ALONE

Our thinking is flawed, we make mistakes. our feelings are pulling in all sorts of directions, and we cannot completely trust them. Our guidance comes from the Bible, God's Word to us for our salvation and edification.

2 Timothy 3:16 & 17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Corinthians 1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edge sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

II. LAW AND GOSPEL

Two conversations run throughout the Bible, one is the Law and the other is the Gospel. The Law reveals the absolute righteousness of God. The Law asks us to live our lives up to the standards of God but... we fall short. The Gospel asks nothing of us, it gives the free gift of salvation through the work of Jesus Christ. We cannot be justified by the Law; it reveals our need for Jesus Christ.

III. TWO SACRAMENTS...THREE MEANS OF GRACE

THE LORD'S SUPPER / COMMUNION

The true body and blood of Christ are present in, with and under bread and wine.

Matthew 26: 26-28, Mark 14:22-25 & Luke 22: 17-20 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it , all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

John 6: 53-58 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood; you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

BAPTISM

Joined to Christ and received in the Christian Community.

Romans 6:3-5 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life, if we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

SCRIPTURE

The Bible is the only judge and touchstone of eternal doctrines. All other writing is evaluated through Scripture.

Ps119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

May the peace of Christ be with you always

-Pastor Scott Ganas