

BY FAITH ALONE

1 OF 5

WE BELIEVE, as SCRIPTURE clearly teaches, that faith is a gracious gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9).

Faith trusts in and clings to CHRIST ALONE, depending upon him for all things with confidence and without bounds.

Faith is a shield by which God guards us for salvation! (1 Peter 1:3-5) "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust... his faithfulness is a shield and buckler." (Psalm 91:2-4)

Thus God is "my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior" (2 Samuel 22:3)

(See also Proverbs 2:6-7; Psalm 119:114; Psalm 5:12 Deut. 33:29; 2 Samuel 22:36; Psalm 28:7; Psalm 115:11; etc.)

Therefore by Grace Alone through Faith Alone: "my shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart." (Psalm 7:10)

Martin Luther confessed: "Christ has overcome death, sin, hell and the devil all for [our] good.

"For he was innocent, as Peter says: "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." (1 Pet 2:22)

"Therefore sin and death were not able to slay him, hell could not hold him, and he has become [our] Lord, and has granted this to all who accept and believe it.

"All this is affected not by [our] works or merits; but by pure grace, goodness and mercy...

"For where Christ is, the Father will come and also the Holy Spirit.

"There will then be pure grace, no law, pure mercy, no sin; pure life, no death; pure heaven, no hell." (1)

(1) "Sermons of Martin Luther" First Sunday after Easter, of True Godliness, on John 20:19-31, J. Lenker, 2nd Vol., Pages 371-372, 1988 printing.

PASSAGE OF THE DAY

(Psalm 144:2); "[The Lord] is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge..."

Reflect upon the following passages this week; (Ephesians 6:16-17; 2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 18:2)

NOTABLE QUOTE

"All Christian doctrines and works, all Christian living, is briefly, clearly and completely comprehended in these two principles; Faith and Love.

"They place man as a medium between God and his neighbor, to receive from above and distribute below.

"Thus the Christian becomes a vessel, or rather a channel, through which the fountain of divine blessings continuously flows to other individuals."

Martin Luther; Second Sermon for Christmas Day; Titus 3:4-6

NEXT WEEKS THEME

Christ preached both Gospel and Law!

*Other than quotes all passage - ESV

