

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15



# Daily 5 With Luther

GOOD SHEPHERD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA

*Serving all people with the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ*

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*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

### March 1

Before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

Galatians 3:1b

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It was bitterly spoken where the Lord's apostle said before that they were so bewitched that they could not obey the truth. But it is revealed as even more bitter. Christ had been so vividly described before them that they might handle Him with their hands. Yet they would not obey the Truth.

***"You are so bewitched!*** You are deluded with the devilish opinions of the false apostles. Now you will not obey the truth. Even though the Lord has through me, with great effort and diligence, set forth the Christ, plainly, before your eyes, you have refused to be benefited at all. –

***"Crucified among you"*** is a harsh, very rough and sharply worded phrase. God wants them to think long and hard: before they had been seeking to be made righteousness by doing right, by the Law. The Galatians had rejected the grace of God. Now, it is as if Christ had died seemingly for nothing. Now, the Holy Spirit adds, they crucify Christ all over. They had kicked out the very One who once lived and reigned in their hearts and lives.

"You have now not only rejected the grace of God, not only did Christ die in vain on your account, but now He is shamefully crucified among you- again!!?"

The Holy Spirit said elsewhere (Hebrews 6) ***"it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again continually crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame."***

The Apostle therefore is inflamed with a vehement zeal. With sharp and with bitter words the LORD's spokesman reproves and condemns the presumption of humanity's own righteousness. God lays the charge against this type of brazen impiety, that it crucifies again the Son of God.

Although the Law is holy, just, and good, yet it must here appear just as if it were a hypocrite, seeking to help the wicked feel like they can be justified by works. None can.

*But since my own strength never will suffice me to crucify desires that still entice me, to all good deeds, O let Thy Spirit win me, and reign within me!*

### March 2

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Galatians 3:2.

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The Holy Spirit teaches His spokesman to use these words with absolute holy indignation and righteous contempt for those who twist or deny the truth. Their own

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experience testifies against them: they had received the Holy Ghost not by works of the Law, but by the preaching of the Gospel.

He reminds them: it has not been seen or heard that the Holy Ghost was ever given, to any person, at any time or place, to neither doctor nor disciple, through the preaching of the Law.



If God the Holy Spirit had been given by the Law, where was He? You were not only teachers and hearers, but also doers of the Law, and yet you cannot show me that the special manifestation of the Holy Spirit was given at any time.

But, as Luke witnesses in the Acts, at the preaching of Peter and Paul, *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message."* (Acts 10:44).

*"And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying."* (Acts 19:5-6).

It is perfectly clear that only by the preaching of faith they received this special first century public evidence of the Holy Ghost. Their Law-based activities to gain God's favor are vain and unprofitable, as far as justification is concerned.

*'Tis through the purchase of His death Who hung upon the tree,  
The Spirit is sent down to breathe on such dry bones as we.*

### March 3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit,  
are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Galatians 3:3

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Now the Holy Spirit uses words that begin to exhort and terrify with a double danger. It is the Spirit against the sinful flesh. When speaking of the flesh here, Paul does not mean sensual appetites, which may be good or bad depending upon the proper use.

Instead, the "flesh" refers to the self-righteousness, self-centered wisdom of the flesh. The arrogant judgment of sinful reasoning stands opposed to God. The "flesh" seeks to be justified by the Law.

Sinners want to pile up enough good to outweigh, or overshadow, the evil that is done. The Holy Spirit reveals clearly that for rejecting God's Words you are utterly destroyed. God has graciously revealed His Word and desires His Word to be trusted by faith,

Therefore whoever teaches people to feel good by doing good, or to quiet their consciences by Law-based activities, actually injures them. Souls who seek to be justified on their own are condemning themselves. Why? They are rejecting

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

God's revealed Savior from sin, found in His Word alone!

False teachers and preachers continue to press that faith alone in Christ does not take away sin. Therefore they reject God's gracious sacraments. God's Gospel, they falsely teach, does not pacify the wrath of God. One must also do good.

False teachers deceive others by saying faith does not justify enough. If you wish to be free from sin, they falsely claim one must not only believe in Christ, and must also keep the Law, be circumcised, keep the feasts, the commandments, etc.

But the Spirit reveals that such false teachings and false teachers provoke the eternal wrath of the living God. They add sin to sin, increase the wickedness, quench the Spirit, fall away from grace.

This is the first danger by which the Spirit's Words terrify the Galatians. Adding "being good" to faith for justification would forego their good beginnings. Such path would bring on them a wretched end at their death. Self-condemned and self-deceived and eternally destroyed!



*Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor, good works cannot avert our doom, they help and save us never: Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone; He is the Mediator.*

**March 4**

**Did you suffer so many things in vain -  
if indeed it was in vain?**

**Galatians 3:4**

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The other danger or evil result is this: Did you suffer so many things in vain? Consider how well you began! Think of how miserably you have forsaken your good beginning even after your course was well begun. Consider that you have suffered much, for the Gospel's sake.

But now all is abandoned, both doctrine as well as faith. The blessings and the blessings Giver, the Spirit, are dismissed completely. First, here is shown plainly the indescribable benefits of God; then is revealed how it is all lost by any and all who trust in their goodness.

On the one side are a) the glory of God, b) victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; c) righteousness; d) everlasting life. On the other side is no Savior! There is only a) desperation, b) eternal death, and c) hell.

The Holy Spirit is moved by mercy to teach Paul God's life-giving words. God reminds the readers of His Word how He is constrained to write, somewhat roughly, in this matter. The LORD's spokesmen, and the LORD's believers, must be fervent, zealous,



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passionate in the defense of the Truth.

God's people must at times be somewhat sharp in chiding the false and erring. Spiritual matters of eternal life are so weighty! No one is to trifle with or reject the pure doctrines of Holy Scriptures and receive other, tainted and unsafe.

Rather we are to daily repent and amend. God wishes to cure our infirmity; therefore God does not handle us too sharply, lest souls fall into desperation and hopeless anxieties.

*In vain would boasting reason find the path to happiness and God; her weak directions leave the mind bewildered in a doubtful road.*

March 5

Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Galatians 3:5

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'You have not only received the Spirit by the hearing of faith, but whatever you have either known or done, it all came by the hearing of faith. The same God who gave you hearing and faith, the self-same God, also enriched you with the gifts of His Holy Spirit. God has increased His blessings. With His Word, Christ Jesus desires His gift of His Spirit might always grow and be more effectual in you.'

The Galatians had obviously worked miracles, or at least, had showed such fruits of faith as the true disciples of the Gospel are accustomed to bring forth. The Spirit revealed in another place (I Corinthians 4:20): "***The kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.***"

Now this godly power is not only to be able to speak about the kingdom of God; but also in actual deeds. Such good and godly activities display that God, through His Spirit, is truly at work in His followers. As Paul was taught to say: "***for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles***"

God has not only brought to pass faith through preaching so that souls believe, but also that His believers live in a holy manner. God sustains His people though they suffer through many afflictions.

Remember: you received and enjoyed these long before these trickster, slick-tongued teachers came among you. The Lord's Gospel had been having a most happy course among you, in teaching, believing, working, and suffering.

*The Gospel is the power of God to save from sin and Satan and the grave; It works the faith which firmly clings to all the treasures which it brings.*

## March 6

Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:6

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Look at Abraham! Recall the testimony of the Scripture! The first is out of Genesis 15:6. “**Abraham believed God,**” etc. Abraham was justified before God. This did not occur because Abraham did a single good work. Abraham was justified because Abraham believed.

Now Abraham’s own body was old, as good as dead, almost a hundred years old! Sarah’s womb was also dead, unable to have had children her entire life. Yet Abraham’s faith was alive and strong.

Abraham did not doubt the Words and promises of God through arrogant self-will or stubborn unbelief. Abraham was strengthened in the faith. Abraham gave glory to God.

Abraham was fully assured of this one incredible and undeniable truth: whatever God had promised, whatever, God was also able to do. In addition, the LORD would accomplish His keeping of His Word at the very best time and in the most fitting manner.

By these words, “**Abraham believed,**” the Spirit focuses the reader on a great truth: faith in God and His Word is the chief worship, the chief duty, the chief obedience, the chief obligation, of each and every soul.

Faith alone gives glory to God. Now, to give glory to God is to believe in Him, to count Him true, wise, righteous, merciful, almighty – in short, to acknowledge Him to be the Author and Giver of all goodness.

This is the very matter that sinful human reason chooses to not do; faith does. Whoever then believes the Word of God, just as Abraham did, stands righteous before God, as Abraham did. Such a believer is righteous because he has faith, like Abraham had.

Faith says, *I believe You, O God, when You speak.* Have you looked at those matters that God *does* say? God speaks impossible things, things that appear to be so wrong, so foolish, weak, seemingly absurd, apparently abominable, heretical, and devilish things. That is how God’s words sound if we are limited to, and follow feelings and thoughts of sinful human reason. Therefore, do not follow such judgments and feelings of sinful reason! Reason shouts that God is angry with sinners.

So one must silence the voice of deceiving sinful reason! Believe in Christ Jesus and you are righteous. His Gospel plain, simple, clear, life-giving: this is how God has designed for people to return all glory to God.

Let God be God. Yield to Him His divinity and whatever else belongs unto Him. Trust God and His words and promises! Such faith God blesses: your sin, which remains ever present in you, is not laid to your charge.

Instead, all sin is pardoned for Christ’s sake. This is the One in Whom you believe. God is perfectly just. Christ’s righteousness is your righteousness, and your sin, His

*Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15*

sin. You have been set free by faith alone.

*Just as I am Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I Come.*

### March 7

Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:7.

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This is the whole discord the Jews brought against the Holy Spirit. Instead of elevating the race of the Jews and their customs, God reveals salvation His righteousness does not belong merely to those who are born of Abraham's flesh and blood (Romans 9:7-8).

This is what God taught His apostle to emphasize and record for us. The greatest false confidence of the Jews was their claim to be the *true* children of Abraham. Therefore they *must follow our father,*" etc.

Now surely, it is an excellent glory and dignity to be of the seed of Abraham. After all, God spoke to the offspring of Abraham. But this privilege did not eternally benefit any unbelieving Jews. Therefore the Holy Spirit sets Himself against this false belief. Against these Jews God exposes, as hollow and deadly, their strong, misplaced-faith in their heritage.

They had claimed, *"We are the seed of Abraham. Abraham was circumcised and kept the Law; we do the same." Want to be justified? Saved on that account? Let us come to the Patriarch Abraham himself.* Let us see by what means Abraham was justified and saved. There is no doubt that it was **not for his excellent virtues and holy works**. Abraham was not justified because he was circumcised and kept the Law. Abraham was justified because he believed. Done and done.

Since this is true, according to the written Word God has revealed, why do any stand so firmly on Law-based works? Why contend that you have righteousness and salvation by such works? Abraham himself was justified without these deeds; Abraham was saved without these works! Abraham was saved by faith alone!

*Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him,  
Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!*

### March 8

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

Galatians 3:8

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*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

Glory in the Law beyond measure? Highly commend Moses because God spoke to him in the burning bush? This proud boasting of yours really has no purpose. The Scripture's Gospel came first. God foresaw that the Gentiles should not be justified by the Law but by the Blessing of Abraham's Seed—the Blessed One, Christ Jesus.

The false teachers advanced the Law and the glory of it. But the promise was made to Abraham four hundred and thirty years *before* the Law was given. This is the testimony of Scripture, the truth they disregarded, despised, and denied. Abraham lived four hundred and thirty years *before* the Law. Yet God declared Abraham righteous by no other means than by faith alone.

Remember, the Scriptures plainly testify: ***"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness."*** Afterwards, when he was already accounted righteous because of his faith, the Scriptures makes mention of circumcision, etc. (Genesis 17:10).

The Holy Spirit uses His Word to expose and condemn false deceiving teachers. The Spirit's Word showed plainly that Abraham was justified only by faith, four hundred and thirty years before the Law. The testimony of Holy Scripture, the truth, stands alone and sure against the false.

And the glorious Inheritance, the Seed, the Savior of the Gentiles, was not given to Abraham by the Law and circumcision! Long before either, God gifted Abraham with God's Gospel and Abraham was declared righteous by faith alone.



*The ancient Law departs, and all its terrors cease;  
For Jesus makes with faithful hearts a covenant of peace.*

March 9

So then those who are of faith are  
blessed with Abraham, the believer.

Galatians 3:9

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All the weight and force of this passage lies in the Spirit's words, ***"With Abraham, the believer."*** For God puts a plain difference between "Abraham" and "Abraham". It would be as if we said, *'There is a "working-Abraham" and a "believing-Abraham."*

Have nothing to do with the "working-Abraham". For if that one is justified by works, he may boast, but not before God. Instead, let the Jews admire as much as they will of that "working-Abraham" and Law-keeper.

But believers praise God for the "believing-Abraham". Scripture says that "believing-Abraham" received the blessing of righteousness through faith. And this great gift was not only for himself, but also for all those who believe as "believing-Abraham" did.

*Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15*

The glorious Gospel has done this! Therefore each in the world is blessed, each receives the imputation of Christ's righteousness. And God is the One who does this when one believes as Abraham believed.

It was indeed a great glory that Abraham obeyed God in all things, as it is also great virtue to follow the example of Christ working; love your neighbor; pray for your enemies. But all this "good-doing" avails nothing toward righteousness before God. God speaks here of *Christ redeeming and Abraham believing*. **God does not urge us to follow Christ's example. Again, God does not command any to follow Christ's example to be saved, nor to follow Abraham's example.**

But God desires us to **believe** Christ.

*Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race;  
Look, and be saved through faith alone; be justified by grace.*

March 10

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written,  
"CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE  
BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW,  
TO PERFORM THEM."

Galatians 3:10

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Here we see that the curse is a flood swallowing up whatsoever is outside the faith and the promise of the blessing of Abraham. God's Law itself, given through Moses, makes those who are under it subject to its curse.

One who desires to avoid the Law's curse, must lay hold upon the promise of blessing, just like the faith of Abraham. If one does not, he shall remain under the curse. All nations, whether they were before Abraham, in his time, or after him, are thus accursed. God's blessing covers all nations, tribes and peoples.

Therefore, it is reasonable to acknowledge the truth that all were in need of being so blessed. God desired the Gospel of Abraham's Offspring to be published throughout the whole world.

God is not speaking about civil laws, manners, or matters political (which are ordinances of God, good things). Rather, God is speaking of a spiritual righteousness needed to be justified before God. This spiritual righteousness God rightly looks for, is found only by the grace of God and His blessing. This Gospel was freely given by Christ, promised to Abraham and by him believed.

Therefore, are you paying attention? If we hope to receive this blessing by Christ alone, then it follows necessarily that it is *not* received by addition of the Law but by God's way, by faith alone! Those are under the Law are *not* blessed, but remain under the curse, as God purposed by His Law. All stand in need the Gospel of Christ.

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

*Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;  
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice, and sing His bleeding love.*

March 11

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for,  
"THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Galatians 3:11

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The wicked, who readily corrupt the Scriptures, do always twist and pervert this passage. False teachers wildly stress: *'The just one does live by faith, that is to say, by a "working faith", or formed and made perfect with love.'* Therefore, the false teachers wickedly claim, *"If faith is not formed and "made complete by your love", then it does not justify'.*

They speak of a faith not on its own, but a faith formed and made perfect by love. Thus they invent a double faith, that is to say, formed and unformed, a regular Christian and a real-Christian.

Although one has the gift of the Holy Ghost, they claim eternal salvation must be obtained by adding our own efforts. Yet our own efforts lack perfection. Why? We, and all our works, are lacking in love.

The false teachers prefer feelings to faith. They attribute to faith nothing at all. But the Holy Ghost knows how to clearly and correctly and plainly speak. God could have said: *The righteous man shall live by faith, formed and beautified, or made perfect by love.*

However God, the Holy Spirit, purposely does not do that! God simply states the truth: ***The just shall live by faith.*** And we still hold to this faith, which God Himself calls faith. Faith does not hold onto doubts about God. Faith does not entertain worries about God's promises of complete forgiveness of sins through Christ.

Faith dwells sure and safe in the object of our faith, Christ. By faith we keep before our eyes the passion and blood of the Mediator and all His benefits for all sinners of all time.

*From faith in Christ, whene'er 'tis right,  
The faith is dead that shuns the light,  
By faith alone the just shall live,  
Of love, which true faith worketh.*

March 12

However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM  
SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

Galatians 3:12

\* \* \*



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

God takes great pains to lay before the reader the true righteousness of the Law and of the Gospel. The righteousness of the Law is to fulfill the Law, to keep it exactly and perfectly. This is according to the saying, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

And the righteousness of faith is to believe. Period. This is according to the saying, "The just shall live by faith."

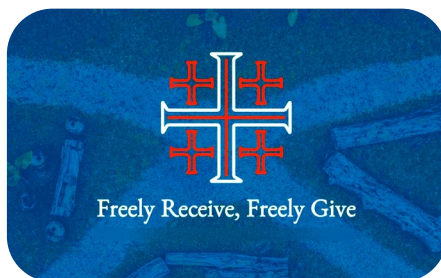
The Law therefore requires that we give something to God; faith requires no works of us, or that we should give anything to God, but that we, believing the promise of God, should receive good and gracious gifts from Him.

God's Law has its proper office; so has God's Promise. To the Law pertains doing, and to the promise believing. For this reason, as far as the Law and the promise are separated, so far also are doing and believing.

In this way God also separates love from faith. God teaches that love does not justify. The Law helps or works nothing toward justification. Faith alone justifies and quickens.

For God has created the office of the Law *not* to justify or give life. The Law is to highlight sin and to destroy. Indeed the Law says, The man who practices them shall live by them. But where is that one who does what the Law commands, that is, loves God with all his heart and his neighbor as himself?

Therefore a man does not live because of *his doing*, but he lives because of *his believing*. But a believing man performs the works of the Law. And what he does not accomplish or breaks is forgiven him through the remission of sins for Christ's sake.



*The Law reveals the guilt of sin and makes man conscience-stricken; The Gospel then doth enter in the sinful soul to quicken. Come to the Cross, trust Christ and live; the Law to you no peace can give with all its good endeavors.*

March 13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--  
for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"

Galatians 3:13

\* \* \*

How may Christ be accused of God and hanged upon a tree? Christ is no malefactor or thief, but He is righteous and holy.

God's Word is clear and does not say that Christ was made a curse for Himself, but *for us*. All the weight of the matter stands in this word, "*for us*."

For Christ is innocent as concerning His own person. He ought not to have

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

been hanged upon a tree. But because the Law has every thief and evildoer hanged, therefore Christ also, according to the Law, is hanged. Why? He has taken upon Himself the person of a sinner and a thief. And Christ took upon Himself not just one sinner, but of all sinners and thieves.

For we are the sinners and the thieves, and therefore guilty of death and everlasting damnation. But Christ took all our sins upon Himself. For our sins Christ died upon the cross. Beyond all doubt, this is what was revealed to all the Prophets and through all the Prophets. The Lord showed Christ should become the greatest Transgressor, Murderer, Thief, Rebel, and Blasphemer that ever was or could be in the world.

The Lord showed Christ who became a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. On the cross, He was not an innocent person and without sins. Rather He was bearing all the sins of all people in His body. This does not mean that He Himself committed them. Rather, Scripture declares that Christ received them. We sinners committed them. But they were laid upon His own body. In this way Christ made satisfaction for them with His own blood.

*The sinless Son of God must die in sadness: The sinful child of man may live in gladness; man forfeited his life, and is acquitted – God is committed.*

March 14

In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ: that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:14

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Always keep these words before your eyes: *"In Your Seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed."* This Blessing promised to Abraham could not come upon the Gentiles except through Christ, the Seed of Abraham. So, it was appropriate for Christ to be made a curse so that God's promise made to Abraham might be fulfilled.

Jesus Christ had to become a curse and join Himself to those who were accursed. Christ had to do this to take away the curse from them. Then, through His blessing, Christ might bring to them righteousness and life. And here mark and note, that this word *"blessing"* also is not used carelessly.

The Holy Spirit moves us to embrace in this word all matters concerning sin and righteousness, of death and life before God. We review what merits we need and review by what means we obtain God's blessing.

What exactly is the merit we bring? What are these the preparatory works through which we obtain this righteousness? Plainly: Christ Jesus was made a curse for us. There is no other way to avoid the curse but to believe, and with assured confi-



*Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15*

dence to say: Christ is made a curse for us.

The promise of the Spirit is freedom from the Law, sin, death, the curse, hell, and from the wrath and judgment of God. **We receive this by no other merits, no good preparatory feelings, nothing other than by faith alone.** For that alone takes hold of the promises of God.



*To You, Lord Jesus, thanks we give, Who died for us, that we might live, And through Your holy precious blood has made us righteous before God.*

March 15

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

Galatians 3:15

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Following this principal and invincible argument, The Holy Spirit gives His apostle another reason. God uses the analogy of a man's last will and testament. This may seem to be a very weak reason. But civil ordinances are also of God. For God has ordained them and allows them, as He does the sun, the moon, and other creatures.

Therefore an argument taken from the ordinances of the creatures of God is good, if we use them rightly. When our Savior walked upon the earth He laide before His listeners explanations starting from earthly things to explain heavenly things.

Christ says: *"If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"* The Lord's apostle also said when standing before a tribunal of wicked ones, We must obey men; therefore much more must we obey God.

Therefore civil law, which is an ordinance of God, says that it is not lawful to break or change the final testament of a man. Yes, it commands that the last will and testament of a man be precisely kept. This is one of the holiest and most laudable customs that are among men.

Now, therefore, how does it come to pass that man is obeyed and not God? Political and civil ordinances concerning testaments and other things are diligently kept. There nothing is changed, nothing is added or taken away; how much more ought the last will of God be faithfully kept which He promised and gave to Abraham and his seed after him?

*Seven times our blessed Savior spoke, When on the cross our sins He took, And died lest man should perish: Let us His last and dying words In our remembrance cherish.*

*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1*

**March 16**

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to One, "And to your Seed," that is, Christ.

**Galatians 3:16**

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Here the Holy Spirit calls the promises of God made unto Abraham by a new name: testament. These promises concern Christ who was bringing the blessing upon all nations, And indeed, the promise is nothing else but a testament, not yet revealed, but sealed up.

Now, a testament is not a law, but a donation or free gift. For heirs look not for new laws, exactions, or any burdens to be laid upon them by the testament. Heirs they look for their inheritance to be confirmed by it. There were no laws given to Abraham, but a testament was made and delivered to him.

That is to say, the promises were pronounced of Him as touching a spiritual blessing. That is to say, something was promised and given to him. If, then, the testament of a man is to be kept, why should not rather the testament of God be more surely kept?

Concerning this, the testament of man is but a sign. Now the promises are made to Him. They were not made concerning all the Jews or concerning many seeds. The Scriptures point to but one Seed. That Seed is Christ. Those who will not accept this revelation must therefore change the meaning of God's Word. And so they say that God meant to say something else. They claim the singular number is here put for the plural, one for many.

But believers gladly receive God's plain and clear meaning and interpretation of the Scriptures. Let the unbelieving Jews deny it as much as they will, the Scriptures are clear enough and strong enough, and unbelievers cannot refute them.

*You seed of Israel's chosen race, all ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him, who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!*

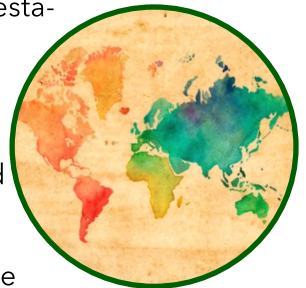
**March 17**

What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

**Galatians 3:17**

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The deceiving claim of the false teachers could go along this line of reasoning: "God was not only content to give promises to Abraham, but in addition, after four hundred and thirty years, God made the Law. God, therefore, mistrusted His own promises.



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

God thought that His promises were insufficient to justify. Therefore God added to it a better thing the Law."

What a devilish lie to teach that the Law which followed the promise nullified God's promise!

The Holy Spirit points out the wicked flaw in such rebellious and sinful reasoning. The Law, God says, was given four hundred and thirty years *after* His promise was made. Now, that which God once has promised and confirmed He does not call back again – it remains ratified and sure forever.

The Law could not make the promise void and unprofitable. The promise of God the testament of God, confirmed by God Himself, in Christ, so many years before the Law.

It is the office of the Law to bring men under the curse, and not to bless. Therefore it is reasonable to ask why the Law was added.

God revealed it was His will to have in the world a certain people. This people would be a keeper, a hold, which would have God's Word and testimony of Christ. They would be preserved and sigh and groan for their deliverance through the coming Seed of Abraham, which is Christ.

Moreover, the ceremonies commanded in the Law fore-shadowed Christ. So the promise was not abolished. Rather by the Law, as by certain seals, was for a time confirmed. This would happen until the writing down of the Testament, the Promise. Then the Promise might readily be announced published abroad. By the preaching of the Promise of the Gospel might be spread among all nations.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

March 18

For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

Galatians 3:18

\* \* \*

Sinful natural reason, even though it be ever so blind, is compelled to confess that it is one thing to promise and another thing to require. It is one thing to give and another to take. Just so the Law requires and exacts from us our works; the promise of the Seed offers to us the spiritual and everlasting benefits of God. And God does that *freely* for Christ's



*"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1

sake.

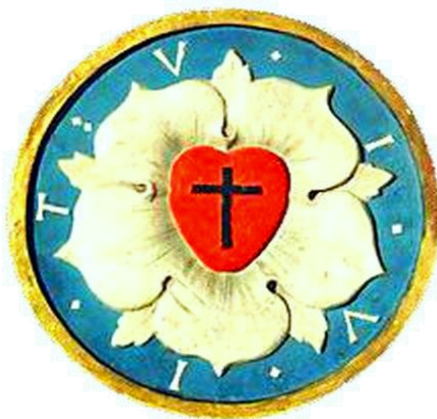
Therefore we obtain the inheritance or blessing through the promise, and not through the Law, by way of promise, not threats. He that has only the Law does not ever have enough, because he does not have the blessing. Without God's promise such a person is compelled to abide under the curse.

The Law, therefore, cannot justify, because the blessing is not joined to it. Think: if the Law could obtain the blessing, why did God then make this promise: ***"In your Seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed"***? Why did God not rather say: Do this, and you shall receive the blessing? It cannot be denied that God, before the Law existed promised to Abraham the inheritance or blessing, remission of sins, righteousness, salvation, and everlasting life. God's promise was that believers might be sons of God and fellow-heirs with Christ.

The blessing is given freely without respect to the Law or works. God gave the inheritance before Moses was born or before any man had even once thought about the Law.

*"Why do you boast that righteousness comes by the Law, seeing that righteousness, life, and salvation were given to your father Abraham without the Law, yes, before there was any Law?"* This is the question the Holy Spirit asks. Answer clearly: Trust God's Word and promises!

*His oath, His covenant, and blood, support me in the whelming flood;  
When every earthly prop gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.  
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.*



*Selections from Luther's Commentaries-St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 1535, Edwinus London; Epistles of St. Peter & St. Jude 1523, E. H. Gillett; Select Works of Martin Luther 1555, Rev. Henry Cole; Familiar Discourses of Luther 1566, Capt. Henry Bell, Rev. R.D.Fish; The Lutheran Hymnal, Rev. J.T. Mueller, 1925; Rev P.Tullberg, 2025.*