

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



14

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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July 16

⁵For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also beautified themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, ⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and are not frightened by anything alarming.

1 Peter 3:5-6

* * *

As these women adorned themselves, we do the same: just as Sarah was obedient to her husband Abraham, and called him her lord, so Scripture speaks (Genesis 18). The Angel came to Abraham and said, "***Behold, Sarah your wife shall bear a son***"; then she laughed and said: ***Now that I am old, and my lord is old also, shall I yet have pleasure?***

The Holy Spirit revealed that this passage is to be noticed. He presented here in this place. For Sarah would not have called Abraham her lord if she had not been subject to him and had him before her eyes. ***And you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.***

What does this mean? In my experience it is often the nature of women to be troubled and frightened about everything. Many are so frequently occupied with charms and superstitions, while one teaches the other, so that there is no way of knowing what illusions they may actually have that are burdening them.

This is not to be the case with a Christian woman. Rather, a Christian woman goes forward in confidence. She is not superstitious. A Christian woman does not go about here and there, out of fear and worry, pronouncing here a blessing, there a blessing.

Instead, whatever may happen, a Christian woman lets God direct. A Christian woman remembers it cannot go ill with her, for as long as she knows her condition, her state. And what is that state? A Christian woman remembers that her state in and through Jesus Christ is pleasing to God. Though your child die, though you are sick, it is well if it pleases God. Therefore, what will a Christian woman then have to fear?

God has placed a Christian woman into a state which pleases Himself. What better state can you desire? This, then, is what is preached to wives.

Now follows the duty of husbands.

*O blest the house, whate'er befall, where Jesus Christ is all in all;
Yea, if He were not dwelling there,
how poor, and dark, and void it were!*



July 17

Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with an understanding as the weaker vessel yet showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7

* * *

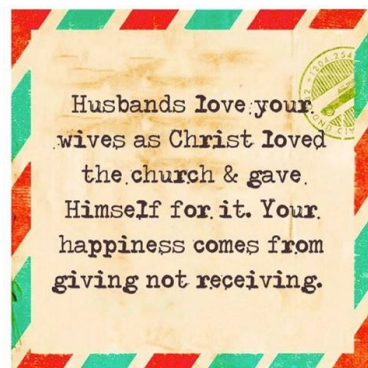
Firstly the Christian husband remembers this truth: the woman is God's instrument or vessel.

God uses her for bearing children. She gives them birth and nourishment. She watches over children and rules the household. Such godly work is for the godly wife to do. Therefore, she is God's instrument and vessel. God has created and instructed her to accomplish these things. For this reason is enough for the husband to respect his wife.

Secondly, therefore God instructs St. Peter to weigh. **"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way.** You are not to rule over them with a headstrong will. They are, indeed, to obey the law of the husband; what the husband bids and commands, clearly that is to be done.

However, the Lord gives His emphasis to husbands not on obedience to the husband's will. Instead, the husband is at the same time to see to it that he, the husband, walks quietly and according to reason with his wife. The husband is to give his wife that godly respect and godly honor which rightly belongs to her as God's chosen vessel, a divine dignity.

Yes, assuredly, the husband is also God's instrument. However, in general, the husband is stronger physically. Often the wife is weaker physically, as well as more timid and more easily dispirited, discouraged and depressed. Therefore you, husband, are so to conduct yourself that you maintain God's



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

high opinion of your wife. Thus she shall be able to bear her burden. Grant her honor as a fellow heir of God's grace of life.

The husband is not to dwell on the matter that the wife is weak and fragile. Instead the husband is to dwell on and draw attention to this: that his wife is also baptized. She, his dear wife, has the same that he has – all blessings in Christ.

So that your prayers may not be hindered. What does this mean? If you do not act in accordance with divine reason, you will find fault, and murmur. And if you do not act in accordance with divine reason and choose to proceed arbitrarily, without rhyme or sense, you will give occasion for error. This then compounds sin so that neither of you can overlook the other's faults.

Instead the Lord bids you to put the best construction on everything. This is in keeping with His eighth commandment. You need to be able to pray, *"Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive."*

*Happy the man who trusts in God, whose feet His holy ways have trod;
His own good hand shall sustain in need and well and happy you shall be.*

July 18

Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving,
be compassionate, be humble.

1 Peter 3:8

* * *

To be *sympathetic* is that one should make himself a sharer with another, and have a heart to feel his neighbor's necessity. When misfortune overtakes him you are not to think: Ah! it is right, it is no more than he should have, he has well deserved it. Instead, where there is Christian love, it identifies itself with its neighbor.

When matters goes ill with him, the heart feels it as though it were its own experience. But to be brotherly, to be affectionate as member of the same family, is this: that one should regard another as his brother. So too we Christians are to act, not by appearance but to truly be from the heart. For we are all brethren by baptism.

*"Let the wife
make the
husband
glad to come home,
and let him
make her
sorry to see
him leave."
Martin Luther*



We conduct ourselves one toward another like those that are truly friends by blood. As with our friends, the whole heart is moved, the life, the pulse, and all the powers. So here, also, the course should be full of pity, the heart should be thoroughly undivided.

Kind-hearted means that we outwardly and inwardly have a gentle, pleasing, lovely behavior – not merely that we should sympathize one with another, as a father and mother for their child. Christians also behave in love and behave in gentleness. We walk in love and gentleness with one with another. There are some men who are rough and knotty, like a tree full of knots. They are so uncivil that no one will readily have anything to do with them.

But there are gentle people, who interpret all for the best. These are lifted up by God.

These kindhearted Christians are not suspicious or mistrustful. *These Christians do not permit themselves to be easily and quickly irritated.* Rather they have been enabled by the Holy Spirit to put the best construction on any activity. This virtue the Lord through His apostle Paul identifies as Christ-like. This is not weakness. This is not foolish. Rather, it is frequently praised by our Savior.

*Ever be near our side, our Shepherd and our Guide,
Our Staff and Song; Jesus, O Christ of God, by Your enduring Word,
Lead us where You have trod, make our faith strong.*

July 19

Don't repay evil for evil. Don't snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God's help for them, for we are to be kind to others, and God will bless us for it.

1 Peter 3:9

* * *

This is a still further illustration of love. How are we to behave towards those who injure and persecute us? If any one does me evil, do him good. If any one rails at and curses me, then I am to bless and wish him well. This is an important part of love. O LORD God, what a rarity such Christians are!

But why should we return good for evil? Because, says the Lord, you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. Permit yourselves to be attracted toward this blessing you will inherit.

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

In the Scriptures we Christians are called a people of blessing, or a blessed people. For thus said God to Abraham (Gen 12): *"In you shall all families of the earth be blessed."* God has so richly poured down this blessing upon us! What a gift is given to us!



God takes away from us all the ruin and the curse which we have gathered to ourselves from our first parents. God also takes away from us all which Moses permitted to go forth upon the disobedient. What does this mean? We are now filled with blessing! We are to conduct ourselves in such a manner that it shall be said of us, *'That is a blessed people'*, a great people blessed by the living God.

Look! This is what the Lord is saying here through His apostle: See! God has shown you His favor! See! God has taken away from you the curse. He has taken away the reviling with which you have dishonored Him. See! God neither imputes nor punishes. Instead, God gifted you with such rich grace and blessings!

God did this while you were only worthy of all misfortune and every evil. Therefore, you do as has been done toward you. What does this mean? Curse not, rail not, do well, speak well, even though you are treated badly.

You are our holy Lord, O all-subduing Word, Healer of strife: You did Yourself abase, That from sin's deep disgrace You might so save our race, and give us life.

July 20

The Scripture says, *"A person must do these things to enjoy life and have many, happy days: he must not say evil things; he must not tell lies.*

1 Peter 3:10

* * *

Whoever would have pleasure and joy in life, and would not die before his time, but see many good days, so that it shall go well with him, let him keep his tongue.

Let his tongue not speak evil.



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

Do not do this only in respect to friends, for that is a small virtue and a thing which even the wickedest of all may do. Even snaky people and viperous poisonous people speak not evil of their friends.

Rather the Lord commands that His people maintain a kind spirit. You are to keep your tongue silent even against your enemies. Even you are even incited, provoked aggravated to speak ill. Even though you have cause to carry on and speak evil, maintain a kind spirit.

In addition, watch your mouth that your lips do not deceive.

There are probably many who give good words, and say "Good morning" to their neighbor, but they think in their heart, 'The devil take you.' These are the people who have not inherited the blessing. Such wicked people are the evil fruit of an evil tree.

Therefore God teaches His apostle to *refer to holy Scripture*. God reveals this passage which refers to works correctly. And this uncovers the wickedness not just in regard to the works, but to the very root, to what springs from within, out of the heart.



O that the Lord would guide my ways, to keep His statutes still!

O that my God would grant me grace to know and do His will!

July 21

"He must turn away from wickedness and do what is right. He must search for peace [with God, with self, with others] and he must pursue it eagerly [actively—not merely desiring it]..."

1 Peter 3:11

* * *

The world considers this as satisfaction and justice: when one man does injustice to another that his head should be cut off. But this satisfaction brings one no nearer to peace. No king ever achieved peace before his enemies in this manner. None. Rather the one who seeks after the true peace, and, more to the point, the one who wants to find true peace, let him restrain his own tongue.

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

Let him *turn away from evil and do good.*

This is a course different from that which the world pursues. So how does **"to turn from evil and to do good"** work out this way in the world? It

unfolds
in this
way:
when
one
hears evil
words,



God enables the Christian to overlook such wickedness and injustice.

Seek in this way after peace, and shall you find it.

Such is the promise of the living God! When your enemy has wasted his breath and done all that he can, when you hear him, do not rail and rant in return. In this way he must satisfy himself with his own violence, hearing and receiving his own poison. For this is exactly what Christ did. On the cross even Jesus overcame His enemies by gracious words. Christ did not overcome by the sword or by violence.

Therefore is it a saying, which should be written with gold, where it says:

***"Striking back again makes hatred,
and whoever strikes back again is unjust."***

From there it must follow that *not* to strike back again makes peace.

But how can this be? It most certainly is not commonly done. Certainly it does not accord or align with our sinful human nature.

But the Lord is most clear: if you suffer unjustly in this manner and do not strike back again, but let the matter go, it shall come to pass as hereafter follows in the next verse. [as follows tomorrow].

*Order my footsteps by Your Word, and make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, LORD, but keep my conscience clear.*

July 22

...because "the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are open to their request. But the face of the LORD is against those who do what is evil."

1 Peter 3:12

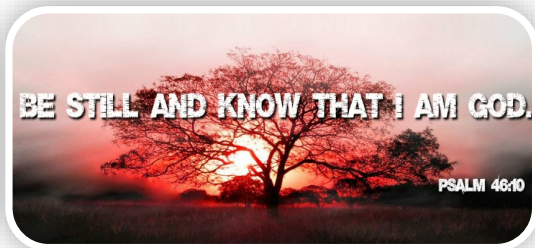
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Do not revenge yourself. Do not repay evil with evil. Think: there is the LORD in heaven above who cannot tolerate wrongs! For this reason, he that does not strike back must and shall have God's justice. These are the ones God beholds! These are the ones whose prayers reach His ear. God Himself is our Protector. Christ will not forget us. Therefore, we cannot, shall not, be distracted from His eyes.

We should comfort ourselves with this thought. And so this should induce a Christian to endure all injustice with patience. We shall not return evil. If I properly reflect, I see that the soul which does me wrong must burn forever in hell-fire.

Therefore a Christian heart should speak in this manner: *"Dear Father, this man falls so sadly under Your wrath. He so miserably throws himself into hell-fire! Therefore I pray that You would forgive him. Do to him even as You have done toward me. You have rescued me from my own well-deserved condemnation."*

But how can we do this? We are enabled to live in this manner by the Scriptures. While God graciously looks on the righteous, God also looks angrily at the wicked.



Against the wicked God wrinkles His brow. God turns in indignation and fury on the wicked. Since we know then that God looks on His family graciously and against the wicked with disfavor, we ought to suffer ourselves to pity and mourn for them. We kindly pray for them.

*O Father, God of love, hear now my supplication!
Lord Jesus, Son of God,
O grant me Thy salvation!*

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

*And Thou, O Holy Ghost, always abide with me,
That I may serve You here, and there eternally!*

July 23

Who then will harm you if you are *devoted* to what is good?

1 Peter 3:13

* * *

If we follow after that which is good, that is, do not reward evil with evil, but are sincerely kind and courteous, etc., then there is none that can injure us. For even though our honor, life, and property should be taken away, we are still uninjured. Are you listening? We are still uninjured.

From this time on we have a blessing that is incomparable. This unsurpassed blessing is one that no one can take from us. Those who persecute us may have nothing but prosperity on earth.

But after this life on earth, the wicked have endless, eternal condemnation. But now behold the ones who are blessed by the Savior. We have an eternal, incorruptible good, although we lose a small temporal blessing.

Whom should I give my heart's affection, But Thee, who givest Thine to faith?

Thy fervent love is my protection:

Lord, Thou hast loved me unto death.

My heart with Thine shall ever be one heart throughout eternity.

July 24

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, though it is not certain that you will, you are still blessed, favored by God. Do not be afraid of their intimidating threats, nor be troubled or disturbed by their opposition...

1 Peter 3:14

* * *



Blessed are you if you suffer for righteousness' sake. Not only can no one injure you if you suffer for God's sake, but you are also blessed. God calls for you to rejoice that you are to suffer. This is as Christ also says in the fifth chapter of Matthew: *"Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad."*

Whoever then understands and believes what the Lord God speaks so tenderly, speaks comfort to his own heart. That believer stands well. But to the one to whom this does not bring strength, but makes him sad and complaining such a soul shall well remain un-strengthened.

"Don't be afraid of the things they fear. Do not dread those things." Here God reviews a passage from His own Isaiah chapter 8. Here God says: *"Don't think there is a plan against you just because the people say there is. Don't be afraid of what they fear. Don't let them frighten you! But the LORD of hosts, He is the One you shall honor as holy. Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your Dread."*

There we have it.

The Scriptures record for us a great support and confidence on which we may trust and live. We are assured that no one can injure us. Let the world terrify, defy, and threaten as long as it will.

The world must and shall come to an end. But our confidence and joy is a different story: it shall have no end! Thus we shall have no fear on account of the world, but we shall be courageous before the world. While before God we shall humble ourselves and be deeply respectful.

O God, forsake me not!
Thy gracious Presence lend me;
Lead Thou Thy helpless child;
Thy Holy Spirit send me.
When here my course is run; Be Thou my Light, my Lot,
My Staff, my Rock, my Shield,—
O God, forsake me not!

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

July 25

...but honor the Christ as LORD in your hearts.

Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for
the hope that is in you.

1 Peter 3:15

* * *

We must here acknowledge the Lord addressed these words to all Christians, clergy and laity, male and female, young and old, of whatever state or condition they may be. From these words it will follow that every Christian is to know the ground and reason of his faith. Every Christian is to be able to maintain and defend the faith where it is necessary.



Yet such defense is to be done with gentleness and reverence. That is, if you are examined and questioned about your faith, you are not to answer with haughty words. You are not to proceed to respond with contempt and hostility, as if you would tear up a tree by the roots. Rather you are to reply with such gentleness and reverence. Speak your reply as if you stood before God's tribunal, and were there required to give an answer to Him.

Yes, you must stand in faith but you are not to rely on your own strength. Rely on the Word and promise of Christ (Matthew 10:19-20): *"But when they hand you over, don't worry about how or what you are to speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, because it isn't you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you."*

It is right, when you are to answer, that you should prepare yourself well with passages out of Scripture. But beware that you do not insist on such preparation with a proud spirit. God may take even the most forcible reply out of your mouth and memory because of your arrogance, though you were previously prepared with all your replies. Therefore, reverence is proper.

*O let me never speak
what bounds of truth exceeds:*

*Grant that no idle word
From out my mouth proceeds;*

*And then when in my place I must and ought to speak,
My words grant power and grace,
Lest I offend the weak.*

July 26

But answer them in a gentle way with respect. Keep your conscience clear. Then people will see the good way you live as followers of Christ, and those who say bad things about you will be ashamed of what they said.

1 Peter 3:16

* * *

Of this matter through His apostle Paul the LORD has already spoken. We cannot forget about it nor disregard it. If we will follow the Gospel, then must we be despised and condemned by the world. Wicked men shall hold us as contemptible rabble.

But to this the Christian says, let the devil and all the world rave and rage. Let them abuse us as they will. Still they shall at last be made to understand, with shame, that they have injured and defamed God's people.

That great Day shall arrive - as the Lord clearly revealed through Peter before. On that day we shall be secure.

The Lord will enable us to stand up with a good conscience. These are, in every respect, suitable and forcible replies, which can comfort us and make us courageous in this wicked world. And yet we will go on circumspectly, watchfully, carefully, with humility.



*And grant me, Lord, to do, with ready heart and willing,
Whate'er Thou shalt command:*

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

*My calling here fulfilling; To do it when I ought,
With all my strength; and bless
The work I thus have wrought, for Thou must give success.*

July 27

It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong.
Yes, it is better, if that is what God wants.

1 Peter 3:17

* * *

It will not, then, be the case that those who shall reach heaven shall necessarily have had prosperity on earth. Nor does it follow that those who do not arrive at heaven did not have prosperity. For that which God said to Adam is imposed on all men: ***"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread"***; and to the woman: ***"In pain you shall bring forth children."***

Since, now, hardship is imposed in common upon us all, how much more must we bear the cross if we would attain to eternal life! Therefore the Lord reveals that since He will have it so, it is better when you suffer for doing what is right.

Those who suffer for evil-doing have an evil conscience. They have double punishment. But Christians have only the half of it.

Outwardly, they have suffering; but inwardly, comfort. It is not the will of God that we seek out, and even invite, calamity. Just live your life in faith and love. If the cross comes, take it up; if it does not come, do not look for it.

Therefore these modern spirits commit sin, in that they lash and beat themselves, or they subject themselves to torture, and so would storm heaven based on the suffering they have brought on themselves.



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

The Holy Spirit through His apostle Paul has also forbidden this sort of thing, in Colossians 3, where he speaks concerning such saints as walk in a self-chosen spirituality and humility, and spare not their body.

Yes, we are to restrain the body that it does not become too gratuitous. But we are not to restraint the body so as to destroy it. Yes, we should permit ourselves to suffer if another sends suffering upon us.

But we are not to fall into it by our own choice. That is the full meaning of "if it is God's will", "if God has appointed it"—obviously then it is better. Then you truly are more blessed and fortunate that you suffer for doing what is right.

*O God, forsake me not! LORD, hear my supplication!
In every evil hour Help me o'ercome temptation;
And when the Prince of hell
My conscience seeks to blot,
Be Thou not far from me – O God, forsake me not!*

July 28

Christ Himself died for you. And that one death paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but He died for those who are guilty. He did this to bring you all to God. His body was killed, but He was made alive by the Spirit...

1 Peter 3:18

★ ★ ★

In this passage God presents to us, once and for all, the example of our LORD. He points us all the more to Christ's sufferings that we all of us alike should follow His example. He does not need to present a particular example for the estate of each and every individual.

But more particularly Christ has suffered once for us! Christ has borne many sins upon Himself, but He has not done it in such a way as to die for each and every individual sin; but all at once, for all of them



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

together, without omission.

God has completely done enough. He removed the sins of all who come to Him and believe on Him – such souls are now freed from death, even as Christ is freed from sin and death. Jesus Christ, is the Just One. He lived and died for the unjust ones. His purpose? That Christ Himself bring us to God. This is all said to teach the peculiar purpose of Christ's sufferings; namely, that Christ Jesus died – not for His own sake – but that He presents us to God as guiltless ones.

Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh. Christ Jesus was made alive by the Spirit. The word 'flesh' is common in Scripture, as is also the word 'spirit'. The Lord's Apostles were taught to usually present the two in contrast.

The sense is plain. Christ, through His sufferings, is taken out of this life. Life consists in flesh and blood, as one on earth who lives by flesh and blood – walks and stands, eats, drinks, sleeps, wakes, sees, hears, grasps, and feels – and in brief, whatever the body does while it is aware.

To all this Christ Jesus has died. This limited earthly life has now ceased for Him. He is now removed to another life. He is made alive, limitless life, by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ has passed into a spiritual and supernatural life. Jesus Christ has no more an ordinary fleshly body. He has an extraordinary, spiritual body. It is not merely a natural body, but a supernatural body.



*Jesus, the Lord, the mighty God,
An all-sufficient ransom paid:
O matchless price! His precious blood
For vile, rebellious traitors shed.*

July 29

...by Whom also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

1 Peter 3:19-20

* * *

Thus the LORD through Peter brings us into the Scriptures, that we may study them. The Holy Spirit gives us an illustration out of the Scriptures, from the ark of Noah, and then the Holy Spirit interprets this illustration He has revealed.

For it is good to have one bring forward illustrations from such figures. This is what the Lord also does through the apostle when God revealed in Galatians 4, the truth about the two sons of Abraham, and the two women. The LORD Christ Himself does the same, in John 5, concerning the serpent which Moses had erected in the wilderness.

Such comparisons, when well drawn, are excellent! Therefore the Lord teaches Peter to introduce this comparison here that we may be able to comprehend faith under a pleasing image. But he would also tell us a serious matter. That as it happened when Noah was preparing the ark, so it takes place now.

Noah took refuge in the ark which swam upon the waters. Therefore recognize that you must also be saved, take refuge, in baptism. Just as that Great Flood water swallowed up all that was living then, of man and beast, so



EVERY DAY

God thinks of you.

Psalms 68:19

EVERY HOUR

God looks after you.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

EVERY MINUTE

God cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

-because-

EVERY SECOND

He loves you.

Jeremiah 31:3



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

baptism also swallows up all that is of the flesh and corrupt nature, and bestows spiritual men and women.

We rest safely in the ark, which refers to the Lord Christ, or the Christian Church, or the Gospel that Christ preached, or the body of Christ, on which we rest. We rest by faith. And thus are saved by faith as was Noah saved in the ark.

You can also see how the image summarizes in brief what belongs to faith and to the cross, to life and death. Only those who follow Christ belong to His invisible Holy Christian Church, known by God who sees the heart. In contrast, all that springs from Adam, and all whatever is evil, is removed.

*This flood, to cleanse sin's leprosy,
Mere earthly water cannot be;
But water and God's gracious Word
Conjoined, this saving bath afford.*

July 30

And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you -- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience -- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1 Peter 3:21-22

* * *

But you, Christian, are saved and kept not by merely washing away the dirt on the flesh, that the body be clean. That was the practice of the Jews. Such purification rites have no further value.

But the answer is of a good conscience toward God. Your conscience is rightfully at peace within you. Stand in harmony with God and His Word. It



says: **"All that God has promised me, that *He* will fulfill, for *He* cannot lie."** Faith alone is the binding by which we shall be held.

Faith rests on the fact that Jesus Christ died, descended into hell, and has risen again from the dead. Had Christ Jesus continued to be subject to death, it would not have benefited us.

But since Christ has risen, He sits at the right hand of God. He permits this Gospel to be proclaimed to us. It is proclaimed so that we may believe on Him while we live. Through faith in Him we have a union with God and His sure promise by which we shall be saved, just as Noah was saved in the ark.

*Thus Jesus His disciples sent –
Go, teach ye every nation,
That, lost in sin, they must repent,
and flee from condemnation;
He that believes and is baptized
Shall thereby have salvation,
a newborn man he is in Christ,
From death free and damnation, he shall inherit heaven.*

July 31

Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

1 Peter 4:1

★ ★ ★

We have been admonished to suffer, if it be the will of God. Christ before us is an example. Now with these words, the Holy Spirit confirms it more broadly. God repeats: Since Christ, who is our Captain and Head, suffered in the flesh, presenting Himself as an example – in addition to having ransomed

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

us from our sins – we are to *imitate Him*.

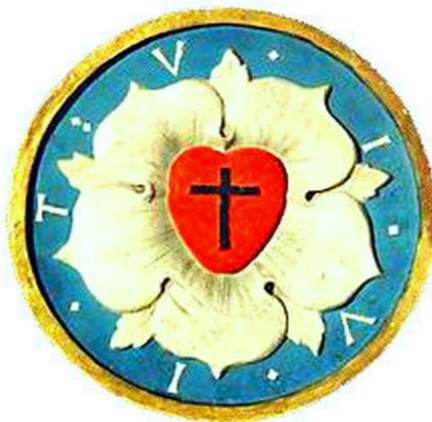
We are to prepare ourselves in the Word.

We are to put on the same armor revealed in the Word.

Strengthen yourselves with the purpose observed in Christ. For whoever suffers in the flesh, ceases from sin. So the holy cross is profitable, since it requires you to crush lust, envy and hate, and all such other wickedness.

*I am trusting Thee for power,
Thine can never fail;
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
must prevail.*

*I am trusting Thee for pardon,
at Thy feet I bow;
For Thy grace and tender mercy,
trusting now.*



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.