



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

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April 2022 Where's Your Confidence?

A friend who is particularly clear that he is not a Christian recently asked me a really good question. In the last day, standing before God, how does a Christian deal with the concept of judgment? Specifically, he wanted to know what God does with our faults, our sinful acts, words, and deeds.

That's an excellent question, and the answer sets a Christian view apart from the rest of world religions. While part of the answer is present in the book of Revelation, we find more clarity reading Revelation through the lens of other passages. It hinges on the question of how we are rescued from sin.

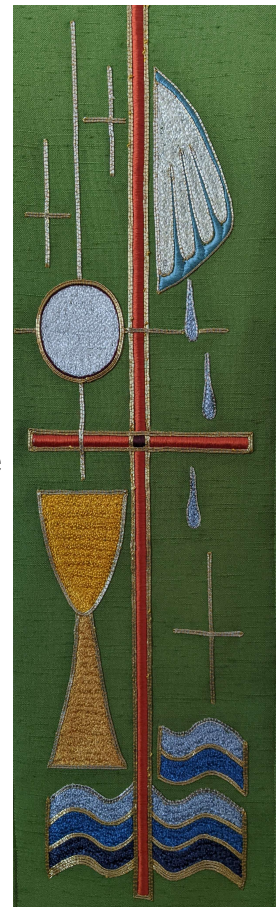
Ephesians 2:8-10 says we are saved by grace, through faith, as a gift of God, and that the purpose of our salvation is related to doing good works, appointed by God.

Romans 8:28-39 says there is no need for fear or doubt, that nothing in this life can separate God's people from his mercy and grace.

1 John 2:1-2 says that when we sin we have an advocate, essentially a defense attorney, who can take away the results of our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 makes it clear that God's will is to reconcile the world, all us people, to himself, and that he did it by allowing Jesus to become sin for us. Though we confess that Jesus in himself is sinless, we also recognize him as the one who took on all our sin and shame, paying the penalty for it.

How does the Christian stand in the final judgment? The Christian stands in his baptismal grace. In baptism we have been brought into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. When God looks at us, who bear the name of Christian, he sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus. Our sin, though it may be grievous, has been taken away. It has been replaced by the perfect holiness of God. This is what we remember when we consider baptism, communion, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.



In Revelation, we won't find Christians standing before God to plead their case. Their names have been written in the book of life. Jesus has already acted as the advocate for them. Those who don't trust in Jesus will have to plead their case before God. And this, we are assured, will not go well. Nobody can stand in God's judgment except by the righteousness of Christ.

Where is your confidence, then? Is it in Jesus or is it in yourself? If it is in Jesus, you have all the confidence in the world, for this life and for eternity. Jesus is able to take away your sin and deliver you safely to your eternal home. This is the confidence we want. It is the steadfast hope we need.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now! (Philippians 1:3-4, NKJV)

Thank you for the great response, not just in the past month, but over the past several years, as we have let everyone know about our ministry finances. We take stewardship

of finances seriously, and you can be assured that all contributions are received with thanksgiving. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please remember Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry in your giving, and encourage others who want to bring this ministry to the collegiate communities in Columbia to give as well. Your monthly support of \$30-\$50 makes an eternal difference in the lives of our friends on campus. We need about 300 regular contributors to support this work with one full-time pastoral staff member.

Though I'm serving a local church on a part time basis, I do have the ability to make a visit to a congregation that is thinking of providing support for this ministry. We can and will work out a visit so your congregation can hear how to be partners with us in providing the face to face pastoral care on campus that is our hallmark.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us."



(Albrecht Dürer, 1508, Praying Hands, Albertina Museum, Vienna)

Special Prayer Updates

We think the church I have been serving as a vacancy pastor is close to extending a call to someone. This coincides with growth both in the congregation and in Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry. I hope to be able to move back into full-time commitment and activity with Wittenberg Door. As the summer months approach, I have begun working on visits to congregations in June, July, and August.

Pray that I will have many opportunities, both in person and remotely, to tell local congregations about the work I do, bringing real-live pastoral care to anybody in need within the campus communities.

Pray that we will be able to build the ministry budget so as to provide well for future ministry needs.

We asked you to pray that the English language coaching program would come back to life. In the past month we have added three people in need of conversation coaching, two of whom will be students here for several years! Please pray that more native English speakers will step forward and receive the training to expand our coaching program.

Pray that we will be faithful to care for each person we are brought in contact with.

We asked for prayer regarding involvement with a local fraternity, as well as the Christian growth of the young men in that organization. There is now an increasing interest among some of the leaders to have a more distinctive Christian character in the local chapter.

Pray that relationships will grow in a Christ-honoring manner and that the young men will grow in their desire to live out a Christian life in all things.

Pray that we will continue to have fruitful contacts with the students in the Greek system.

Pray that the Lord's Word will show itself powerful to draw young men to him.

Pray that we will be able to continue to minister with consistent care and attention.

Our Wednesday evening studies at the Heidelberg are continuing to work through a series I prepared some years ago, called *That You May Know*. It's a study focused on Bible passages which discuss the various articles of the Augsburg Confession, walking through important aspects of the Christian life as identified by the Lutheran Reformers.

When we first did a Heidelberg discussion, it took about a year before it started drawing interest. Pray that we will be steadfast and patient.

I have asked for prayer as I deal with exhaustion and sleep apnea. I am gradually recovering energy.

Pray for continued recovery and rest.

Pray that I will find a workable balance and schedule that will allow productive ministry.

Pray that the Lord will make it clear to me what is critical and what is not.

In all things I give thanks for you and your care which you have shown for me, both now and over the past several years!

Upcoming Activities:

Thursdays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center

Wednesdays - Heidelberg Discussions – *That You May Know* Bible discussion 5:15 pm at The Heidelberg Restaurant on 9th Street. If you can't find us, ask the bartender where the pastor went.

Sundays - Adult Bible Class 9:00 am, Divine Service 10:00 am, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia MO

Wednesday 4/6 - 7:00 pm Lenten Vespers at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia MO

Friday and Saturday 4/8-9 Pastor Spotts at the Beta Sigma Psi Awards events in St. Louis

Thursday 4/14 - 7:00 Maundy Thursday service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Friday 4/15 - 7:00 Good Friday service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Friday 4/22, 6-8 pm Dinner and Conversation Evening at the Intergalactic Headquarters

Friday 5/6, 6-8 pm End of Semester Cookout and Conversation Evening

Watch the calendar at www.wittenbergcomo.com, follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!