



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

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Jesus Changes Everything

(This appeared on my blog February 28, 2019. I think it still applies today.)

On Sunday of the Transfiguration we often think about how Jesus has changed our world, how He uses us as agents of change, how we are personally changed into His image, and other similar ideas. These are well and good, make no mistake. However, I question whether they are the main point of the event, recorded for us in Luke 9:28-36. To dig into that, I'd like to ask what Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah about. Actually, as I let you peek behind the curtain of my writing just a little bit, let's revise that careless statement. I'd like to ask what Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus about. That's where the focus is.

Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus about "his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (v. 31b, ESV). This is a very literal translation of the Greek. However, the word "accomplish" might have more of a sense of "fulfill." In fact, that's the word which is used, but it doesn't make very good English. Jesus is about to go to Jerusalem and from there he will complete his journey and fulfill his purpose. In a certain sense, his earthly work will have been accomplished. This doesn't mean, of course, that there's nothing else to be done. After all, he continues to use his people and to work in them, changing them into his image. Yet the essence of what he came to do - living a perfectly sinless life, dying in the place of sinners, and rising again from the dead - all that is accomplished. There's nothing more to be done. That's what Jesus was talking about when, on the cross, he said "it is finished."



I encourage you, in this season when we remember Jesus, transfigured, shining bright, to give thanks to him for knowing his mission and completing it. Truly, he accomplished his departure. We have no need to worry about anything being forgotten, because he has fulfilled every last step needed for us and for our salvation, to purchase our forgiveness, and the forgiveness of the whole world.

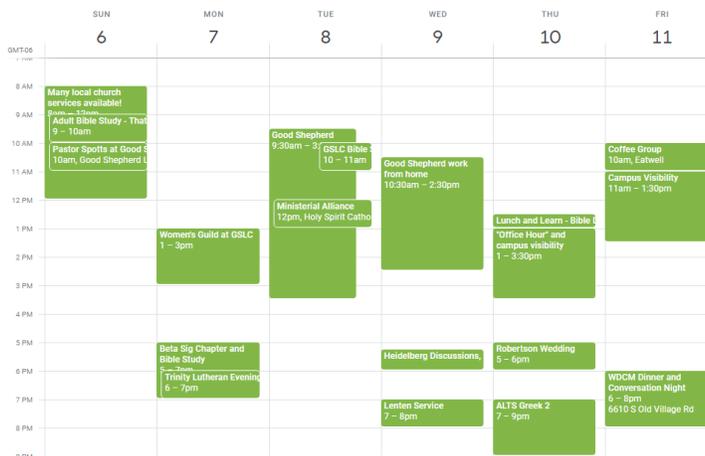
May the Lord give us grace to walk in the light of his finished work, for us, for our neighbor, for the entire world.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

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 try to 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 keep remembering 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 can make an eternal difference in the lives of our friends on campus.

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."

Special Prayer Updates

Last month, thanks to the AALC Women of Life, we put in some additional prayer updates. Great idea! Here are updates on the updates!

We're continuing to have new contacts. Thanks be to God that one of our new people is interested in some English language coaching. We're continuing to meet and build that relationship!

*Pray that we will be faithful to care for each person we are brought in contact with.
Pray that people's hearts will be open and that they will reach out when in trying times, like one young lady who has made email contact asking for prayer, though she has not been in contact with us before.*

Shortly after the last newsletter went out, the national Beta Sigma Psi awards committee contacted me, asking me to serve on their committee. This is the parent organization of the local fraternity I have been visiting and getting involved with.

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 working 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 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.

Wednesdays - 7:00 pm Lenten Vespers at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia MO

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

Friday, March 11 and 25, 6-8 pm Dinner and Conversation Evening at the Intergalactic Headquarters

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!