



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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August 2010,

Dear Friends,

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. ² Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. ³ For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. ⁴ Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:1-6

When we hear the phrase “fallen from grace”, we often think of some famous individual who is embroiled in a scandal. Most likely, he or she has succumbed to some moral failure from which they cannot recover. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul uses this phrase to describe an entirely different type of scandal. After hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Galatians have given in to the pressure to go back under the bondage of the law. Paul admonishes them in the strongest of terms: ***“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:6-9***

While it may be tempting to distance ourselves from the Galatians, we cannot do so. Because of the sinful flesh, we all tend to think that we can improve upon God’s plan of salvation. We agree that God loves us, but surely we must do something to continue in His favor, don’t we? The Apostle Paul says “No!” If our human effort is necessary for salvation, then grace is no longer grace. ***“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Galatians 2:21***

Instead, we are justified by faith. And now that we are justified by faith, there is no turning back. Paul exhorts to ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1*** Since God has set us free from sin, death and the devil by the blood of His Son, to go back under the law means that we “fall from grace.” May God grant us faith to believe that the work of redemption is finished, and that we may “stand fast” in the victory and freedom given to us by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

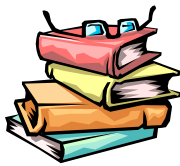
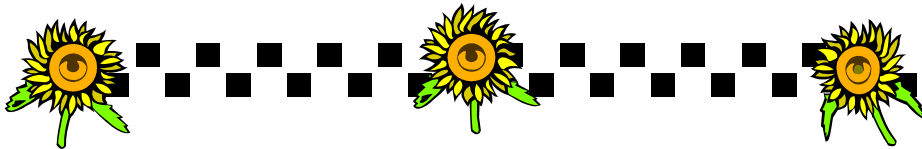
“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36

Yours in Christ.
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Donation received...

In memory of John Somero
from Ruth Somero



FALL SEMESTER BEGINS SOON

As we approach the beginning of a new school year, we are excited at the prospects for the future of the seminary. There is increasing demand for instruction and training in the Word of God from many different circles.

Daily classes in Hancock will begin on Wednesday, September 1st. The Thursday night class in Negaunee will begin on August 26. The Monday night class in Hancock will begin on September 13th. The complete class schedule is posted on our website www.ilseminary.org. Go to the *Academic Information* button then click on *Class Schedule* or contact the office at (906) 482-3337.

As we seek to meet those needs, we thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. We cannot do this work without you. The ministry of the seminary is not limited to a few select individuals, but is the collective effort of many brothers and sisters in Christ who have a vision for the importance of the teaching and preaching of God's Word. The Apostle Paul speaks of something similar when he writes to the church in Philippi:

"³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ..."
Philippians 1:3-6

If you are already a financial supporter of the seminary, we thank you and pray that God will bless you and enable you to continue helping us. If you have not been a financial supporter of the seminary in the past, please consider assisting us in the future. Every contribution not only helps to sustain the current work of the seminary, but also allows us to look at expanding our ministry in the future. Thank you for your kindness and thanks be to God for the riches of His grace through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

