



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

914 Pine Street, PO Box 449, Hancock, MI 49930 • (906) 482-3337 • www.ilseminary.org
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April 2011

Dear Friends,

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. ¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”

Romans 5:12-18

In the fifth chapter of his letter to the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul gives us a clear picture of the nature and the magnitude of God's grace. God shows us kindness and mercy even though we do not deserve it. *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”* v. 6 *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* v. 8 *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”* v. 10

Five times in this chapter, the Apostle Paul uses the phrase “much more” in describing the power of God's grace in comparison to the curse of Adam. No matter how overwhelming the effects of sin may be, the grace of God exceeds it by far. Martin Luther says *“Were hell a thousand times more, and death ten thousand times more, it would all be but a spark, a mere drop compared with Christ's Resurrection, victory and triumph.”*

Instead of being held captive by sin, we are set free by God's forgiveness. Instead of living a life of ungodliness, we are given the righteousness of Christ. Instead of being enemies of God, we have received the adoption of sons. Instead of death there is Resurrection and life. Christ has overcome everything for us. May God grant us grace to look beyond our sufferings and by faith, lay hold of the finished work of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:54-57

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Chuck Bylkas



Memorials received...

In memory of Chester Mattinen

from Reuben & Anita Aho

In memory of Melissa (Dahlmeier) Roeser

from Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier

In memory of Theresa Weidner

from Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier

In memory of Ruth Jukuri

from Tim & Susan Jukuri

In memory of Lawrence & Harriet Rasaka

from Wayne & Anne Waldal

In memory of Jack Tibbs

from Joyce Tibbs

In memory of Emil & Taimi Lahti

from Michael & Margaret Laurin

In memory of Ruth Jukuri

from Dana & Ellen Varney



Seminary Service Schedule – 7PM

April

3rd - Charles Jousma @ Painesdale

10th - Nick Kandoll @ S. Range

17th - Ray Stenersen @ Laurium

