



Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary

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March 2021,

Dear Friends,

12 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2, KJV)

In March of 2013 I wrote a newsletter article expressing the idea that Lent has wrongly devolved into a season of introspection and often, morose self-denial. While there remains a justification for proper self-evaluation in light of the sacrament of the altar (1Corinthians 11:28-29) and certainly the confession of sins (James 5:16), there is no mandate in Scripture to continually dwell on one's failings and certainly no indication of there being a season of the Church Year set aside for doing so. Assuredly, one can speak of Lent as a devotional time in preparation for Easter. Yet, that devotion must be directed toward an Easter that has already occurred. As St. Peter writes:

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18, KJV)

The emphasis here is on "once." The Christ has completed His work. He Himself says, "It is finished (John 19:30 KJV)." A morbid fascination with our sinfulness is not pious, it is self-defeating. As Hebrews tells us, during Lent and always, we are to look to Jesus. Look to Jesus for what? Joy. What is that joy? Our salvation. He endured the suffering of the cross and its degradation to save us through His death and resurrection. He counted that awful happening as joy and we should too. Also, as St. Peter writes elsewhere, we need to dwell on Christ and not our sin because God, by His Spirit, it at work within us to bear the fruit He has appointed through Christ. It is not our effort:

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8-11 KJV)

We were purged from our old sins (past tense). Now our hearts and minds are fully set on Jesus. One day, by God's grace, we will see Him in heaven, and He will greet us with joy unspeakable. It is good to renew our devotional life during Lent but let our focus be upon Jesus and His amazing grace! Blessings upon all of you during this Lenten season. May the joy of Lent fill our hearts as we live day +by day in the resurrection of our Lord by His Spirit. Thank you for supporting us as we work in that same joy.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



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While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.