

Spiritual Meaning of the Reformation For Us

I. Preeminence of the Gospel

Questions which the Gospel address:

- Is salvation needed?
- What is salvation needed from?
- Who can be saved?
- How to get saved?

Galatians 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 3:10-13 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

*"Trust wholly in Christ; rely altogether on his sufferings; beware of seeking to be justified in any other way than by his righteousness."*¹

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 3:21-25 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Therefore the moment you begin to have faith you learn that all things in you are altogether blameworthy, sinful, and damnable, as the Apostle says in Rom. 3[:23], "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and, "None is righteous, no, not one; ... all have turned aside, together they have gone wrong" (Rom. 3:10–12). When you have learned this you will know that you need Christ, who suffered and rose again for you so that, if you believe in him, you may through this faith become a new man in so far as your sins are forgiven and you are justified by the merits of another, namely, of Christ alone².

¹ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/moversandshakers/john-wycliffe.html>

² Luther, M. (1999, c1957). Vol. 31: Luther's works, vol. 31 : Career of the Reformer I (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (31). Philadelphia: Fortress Press. THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN 1520 Translated by W. A. Lambert Revised by Harold J. Grimm

Questions which the Gospel answers

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Wherefore it ought to be the first concern of every Christian to lay aside all confidence in works and increasingly to strengthen faith alone and through faith to grow in the knowledge, not of works, but of Christ Jesus, who suffered and rose for him³,

II. Preeminence of Scripture

2 Peter 1:19 And **we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the **sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

«I am ready to defend my convictions even unto death.... I have followed the Sacred Scriptures ...» (John Wycliffe).

"By this translation, the Scriptures have become vulgar, and they are more available to lay, and even to women who can read, than they were to learned scholars, who have a high intelligence. So the pearl of the gospel is scattered and trodden underfoot by swine⁴.

"desiring to hold, believe, and assert whatever is contained in them as long as I have breath in me."⁵

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason...I cannot and will not recant anything...May God help me.

-Martin Luther

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

Isaiah 66:2 But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

III. The Preeminence of God

Romans 11:34-36 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

³ Luther, M. (1999, c1957). Vol. 31: Luther's works, vol. 31 : Career of the Reformer I (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (31). Philadelphia: Fortress Press. THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN 1520 Translated by W. A. Lambert Revised by Harold J. Grimm

⁴ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/moversandshakers/john-wycliffe.html>

⁵ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/martyrs/john-huss.html>

Isaiah 43:25 “I, I am he who blots out your transgressions **for my own sake**, and I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 48:9 “**For my name's sake** I defer my anger; **for the sake of my praise** I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off.

Ezekiel 20:9-10 But **I acted for the sake of my name**, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

Revelation 22:12-13 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Matthew 16:24-25 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life^[9] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.