

Introduction to Lutheran Faith and Life

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Some Limitations

- This is a 5-week study
- Livestream / In-person learning environment
- Discussion v. Lecture
- Preparation for weekly lessons
- Proof Texting



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Two Questions

Question #1:

“What must I do (a) to inherit eternal life or (b) to be saved?” (a) Luke 10:25, 18:18; Mark 10:17; Matthew 19:16; (b) Acts 16:30

Question #2:

“Who do people / you say that I am?”
Matthew 16:15; Mark 8:27; Luke 9:18



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Some Possible Answers

Possible Answers to Question #1:

- Do so many good things that God must accept you on the merits of your earthly good works
- Decide that God should be followed and invite Him into your life
- Repent of disobedience and receive grace as a gift



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The Lutheran Way

A Lutheran Approach to Question #1:

- 1.a: Our personal works fail to provide us with the confidence that we can be saved (Ephesians 2:1-10). In fact, without Christ we are spiritually dead.
- 1.b: Christ's work is attributed to us as righteousness (Romans 5:18-19 & 2 Corinthians 5:20-21).
- 1.c: God's love required Him to sacrifice His only Son for the forgiveness of my sins (John 3:16)



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Ephesians 2: 1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



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Romans 5: 18-19 & 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18-19)

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)



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John 3: 16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.



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The Lutheran Way

Deep Dive into Q1a—A Biblical Anthropology

1. The loss of *freewill* – Genesis 3
2. The condition of *original sin* – Psalm 51
3. The loss of our perfect, loving *relationship* to Almighty God – Isaiah 64:1-7
4. The loss of *physical & eternal life* – Romans 6:23, 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:26



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The Lutheran Way

A Biblical Anthropology

5. We are spiritually lost, blind, and sick – Luke 15; Luke 6:39-42; Matthew 9:10-13
6. We are naturally *rebellious and adulterous* toward God—Ezekiel 12:1-6; Hosea 1:2-9; Mark 8:34-38
7. Our hearts are captive to *evil inclination*—Matthew 15:10-20



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A Little Lutheran History

Martin Luther was born 10 Nov. 1483 and died 18 Feb. 1546

“...Luther’s anxieties were inevitably tied up with religion.

Popular religion at the time was strongly tinged with a fear of death and the following judgment. Earthly life was a brief interlude of preparation for the real thing – eternity to come – which would either be spent with the saints in everlasting blessedness, or tormented by devils in an eternity of conscious pain. Which of these was your fate depended on how this life was spent. As so often in Christian history, the fear of hell



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A Little Lutheran History

was more vivid than the desire for heaven. The Christ of much late-medieval art was the fearsome judge, brooding over the world, the sword of judgment coming out of one ear, the lily of mercy out of the other, watching over the division of humanity into ‘saved’ and ‘damned’ with impassive justice. Manuals on preparing for dying, skeletal monuments on tombs in churches and, of course, images of the dying Christ on the cross helped to focus the mind of the medieval Christian on the inevitability of death and the judgement of God.”

Luther and His World by Graham Tomlin



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Theology Encountered Today

1. Original Sin
2. Righteousness (*Two Kinds of Righteousness*)
3. Salvation
4. Law (and Gospel)
<https://bookofconcord.org/formula-of-concord-solid-declaration/article-v/>
5. Scripture Alone
6. Ten Commandments (*Six Chief Parts*)



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Next Session

Theology to be Encountered:

Gospel, Apostles Creed, Justification, Grace Alone, Faith Alone

To Prepare:

<https://bookofconcord.org/large-catechism/part-ii/>



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