

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America New Year

February 2020

When Jesus started His ministry on earth His first recorded words are as follows:

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 4: 17. Also “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of Gog, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, And believe the gospel” Mark 1:14-15.

This summarizes the core message in the scriptures. God desires that His word would find each one of us a guilty sinner before Him and thus repent. **“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”.** 2 Peter 3: 9. God is so good that He does not leave us in a place of hopelessness. We are instructed and encouraged that we would by faith believe the gospel. **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But Got commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from the wrath through him. 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. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 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: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 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. 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. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgement was by**

one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 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.) 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. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto to death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 5: 1-21.

I remember a story from an old Christian that was told to me when I was a young boy about the lies of satan. When we are tempted to sin satan tells us that it is not a problem, it is ok, it is not really that bad whatever the temptation is. So satan deceives us and we give in. Then when we are condemned satan tells us that it isn't too big of a problem, you don't need to talk about it, just put the sin in the sin bag with the rest of your sins and take care of it on wash day. The sad, sad story ends, that for many wash day never comes. On the contrary we have the wonderful word of God that speaks to us so differently as we see in the previous text. That because of one man's offence Christ had to die. He wants each one of us to know Him that intimately that for the smallest and largest offenses that we have done that He was willing to suffer and to die for even me! Not only for our offences but to restore us to God from what was lost in the fall of Adam. We do not have to wait for wash day but we can boldly come to the throne of grace and there find help in time of need. There we find forgiveness, redemption, peace, joy, and life.

We thank God for His word that continues to go forth into all the world, the word to work repentance and grant faith in the hearts of men. May God continue to help us to proclaim that same message that Jesus came to preach. May all men personally know and experience this great and mighty work of redemption that Christ has performed for each one of us.

In God's Peace,

Mark Traffie