

The Christian Life



Deacon Leonard



The Basics of Faith

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

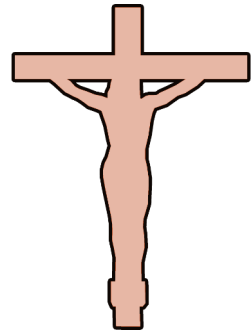
What more powerful message is there to offer than that our God offered His only Son to suffer death as the perfect sacrifice for our sin? As a Christian we are privileged to walk daily with the reassurance that regardless of how we sin, our Savior gave his life for us! No matter what we may or may not do, he is there at our side and we will get to be with him in his eternal kingdom.

Though we sin daily, and as King David said our sin is ever before us, we know we have a God standing by to hear our confession and grant us forgiveness! Our God loves us so much that He gave His only Son to suffer and die to wash away our sins!

No matter how bad our transgressions are, our God is there to forgive our sins and to reassure us of his love through the Sacraments and Holy Scripture! As Christians redeemed through the Gospel, we may desire to do the right things, but regardless of how many times we fail the Gospel Message is there waiting for us!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



THE LAW IS A CURB

The first purpose of the law as given to us through the Ten Commandments is to stop us from sinning. It serves to keep the world an orderly place and control violent outbursts of sin.

1 Tim. 1:9 Rom. 2:14-15 Romans 1:28-32

THE LAW IS A MIRROR

Just like a mirror, the Law accuses us and shows us our sin. We would not know our sin without the Law showing us what sin is! Just as when we get ready in the morning, a mirror helps us to get ready for the day

Rom 3:20 Rom. 7:7

THE LAW IS A GUIDE

God also gave us the Law to show us how to live a God Pleasing life and the power to live this law comes from the Gospel!

Psalm 119:9 Psalm 119:105

1 John 4:9, 11



Sin is overcome with repentance and forgiveness only through the Gospel. Just as the Law convicts us of our sin, with equally the same might, our sins are washed away because Christ kept the Law and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins!

In light of the forgiveness given to us by Christ's death on the cross, we are called to share this love by forgiving those who sin against us!

Romans 1:16

Romans 10:4

Galatians 3:13

Colossians 1:13-1

FORGIVENESS

Matt. 28:19-20

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.



Baptism is a visible means of God's Grace which imparts the Holy Spirit and brings about the remission of sins! It is not an act which requires a certain belief on the part of any person involved, rather, it is an act of combining water with the Word of God.

Baptism does not depend on a certain exact amount of water or method, rather the application of water and the Word is all that is required.

BAPTISM

Jesus brings his real corporeal presence to Christians in the Lord's Supper in with and under the elements of bread and wine. As the second dominical sacrament, The Lord's Supper is where we get to feed on him by faith with thanksgiving!

The power of the His Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper is also confirmed by the admonition of St Paul, "For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Cor 11:29), which is why Christians should examine themselves prior to partaking.

Though we are to recognize his real corporeal presence in the Lord's Supper, we are called to come feed on him by faith with thanksgiving, regardless of our sins. Through repentance and absolution, we all come to the table in the same state - sinners in need of his grace which is delivered by his body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine!

THE LORD'S SUPPER



Many people hope to judge the Christian by the evidence of his or her good works, or lack thereof. The most noble good work a Christian can do, is to believe in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Our good works do not cause us to be any more or less saved, but as a way of sharing the Love Christ has shown to us!

A good work is only a good work when there is nothing to be gained from having done such good work otherwise its service to one's self!

ON GOOD WORKS





PROTECTING LIFE

It should go without saying that one of the most important things Christians can do to bear fruit is to protect life. At the very moment of fertilization a new life is formed, and the words of scripture tells us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Genesis 1:27 Matthew 25:40 Psalm 139:13

Psalm 22:10 Job 31:15 Psalm 8:5-7

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

EXPRESSED THROUGH THE CREEDS



THE APOSTLES CREED

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to Judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.



ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

The Christian has his or her own kind of war to fight that is totally different from wars fought by secular governments. Instead of Bombs, canons, tanks, and artillery, the Christian has Prayer, The Sacraments, Loving thy neighbor as thyself, The Gospel, and Christian charity as weapons!

We are called to use our "weapons" more judiciously than the fiercest military forces the world has seen!

Ephesians 6:12

GRACE ALONE

Our salvation is not depending on anything that comes from us. Following the Law is an important part of the Christian Life, but we are not saved because we follow the Law. As Christians forgiven through the death and resurrection of our Savior, we know we are unable to follow the law!

Grace Alone is what saves us! It is there when we are strong or when we are weak. When we feel the world is entirely against us, or our sins are ever before us, we can live with the confidence in His saving Grace!

To borrow from mathematics, the formula for salvation is Grace plus Nothing!

Ephesians 2:8-9 Romans 6:23

Amazing Grace

John Newton Wm. Walker

"...through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved." -Acts 15:11

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
3. Thru man - y dangers toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. It features a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the staves.



FAITH ALONE

Though good works are a central tenant of the Christian Life its easy to forget that Good Works have absolutely no effect on ones salvation! Our salvation is through faith alone, and not due to obedience of particular rituals or points gained from doing good deeds!

Our faith was implanted by a call from the Holy Spirit through the Gospel! Faith and Salvation is not a popularity contest or an accounting ledger!

Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross for our sins and in a paradoxical way, if we do good works to gain His favor, we make the Death of Jesus in Vein!

Our good works need to be too numerous to mention, but we also can feel assured in our salvation when these good works fail and we just don't have it in us to do the things we expect of others! Galatians 2:16 Romans 3:28



SCRIPTURE ALONE

The Christian life relies upon the Scripture alone as its rule for living. Though we may also use Tradition and Reason to guide Christians in their beliefs, both of these tools are always subservient to Word of Scripture.

The entirety of salvation is found within the 66 books of the Bible, and though Holy Tradition adds a richness to our understanding of those books, we cannot replace the context given to us by the Holy Spirit through the writers of the books.

It is our job as Christians to hold onto the faith once delivered to the Apostles by not adding anything or taking anything away! Yes, we as sinful man may err in our understanding at times, but Scripture is our absolute norm of faith.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



Life is short! It's incumbent upon Christians to be good stewards of God's precious resources. It is incumbent upon us to leave a world for our future generations better than the one we arrived in! We do this by continuing teaching our children the faith once delivered to the apostles, sharing the Good News of the Gospel Message with our friends and family, loving our neighbors as ourselves, helping the "least of these", and managing our finances so that we do not become burdens on others. We help where we can, and graciously accept help when we are in need!

Genesis 2:15, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Matthew 6:1-4 Luke 18:22

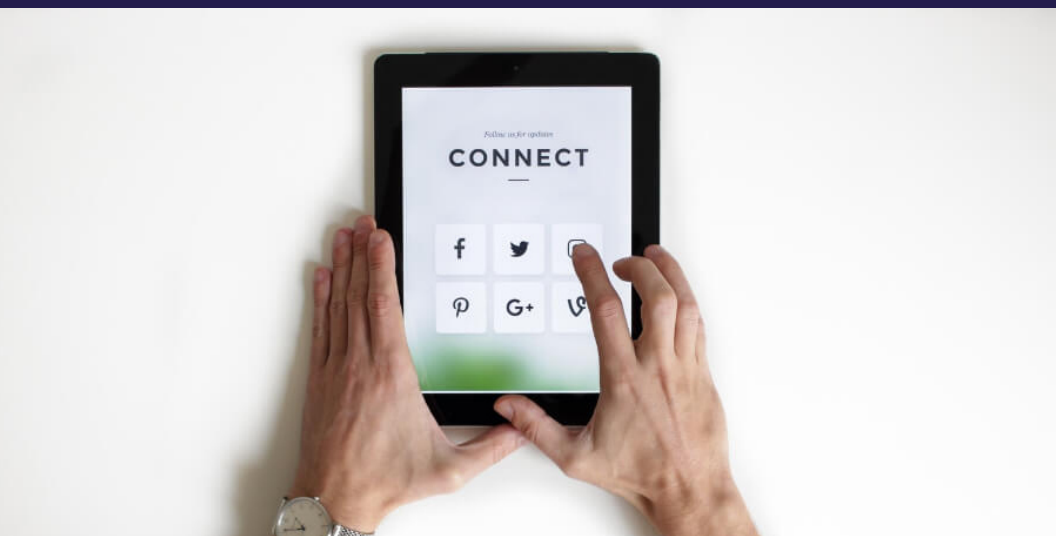
GOOD STEWARDSHIP

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<http://www.deacon.site>



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Baptism
The Lords Supper
Good Works
Protecting Life
Christian Unity
Christian Soldiers
Grace Alone
Faith Alone
The Bible Alone
Good Stewardship

Favorite Hymns!

Chief of Sinners Though I Be
The Church's One Foundation
My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less
Alleluia Sing To Jesus
We Give Thee But Thine Own
Onward Christian Soldiers
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

A short 15 minute read about the Christian Life