

JESUS DID IT ALL

July 9, 2017

1John 1:7

One of the most important beliefs to come from the Lutheran Reformation is the return to complete faith in salvation by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ. FAITH ALONE. SCRIPTURE ALONE. GRACE ALONE.

The Roman Catholic Church in Luther's day had gotten away from Jesus to the false notion that one had to do certain things, such as praying to Mary and the saints, worship relics such as a piece of the cross Jesus died on, say the rosary in an effort to save yourself. When I was in the Illinois National Guard, I was sent to Camp Ederly in Italy. Another Chaplain and I went to a Catholic Church and were given a tour. The priest brought out a small cross which had a clear plastic bubble where the two arms met. He pointed out that that small piece of wood in the bubble was a piece of the cross on which Jesus died.

The Catholic Church taught and still teaches that sin remains after Baptism. All sins are not forgiven in the waters of baptism and so the need for ongoing trips to the confessional to get rid of the sins of thought, word and deed. Under this teaching, one can never be sure of salvation. Have I remembered all my sins and am I really repentant?

In reality, the Roman Catholic who accepts all they are taught is living under the Law. Do this and you will live in heaven forever, after you have served time in purgatory.

And this is where the sale of indulgences became so popular. An indulgence shortened your stay in purgatory and then the

prayers of your priest, for which he is paid, would deliver your soul out of purgatory into heavenly bliss.

You might ask, where do the Scriptures talk about purgatory? Ours do not. This teaching comes from one of the 14 extra books that the Catholic Bible contains.

The following is from a Catholic Catechism book. Purgatory is a state of purification after death. The souls in purgatory possess the divine life and know that they are saved; but they long to see God. They cannot help themselves, but can be helped by the prayers and sacrifices of the faithful on earth and the souls in heaven. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Nothing about----after you get out of purgatory.

A good Catholic can only hope that he has done enough to save himself.

The official teaching of the Catholic Church was put in writing at the Council of Trent meeting from 1546-1564. Canon XII under Concerning Faith says this: "If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than trust in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this trust alone by which we are justified, let him be cursed."

The Lutheran Reformation, on the other hand, thru Luther's meaning to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed makes it clear how man is saved from sin, death and hell.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from ALL sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy,

precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Jesus Christ, as the Scriptures so clearly teach, has paid the price for the sins of the world. There is no need for any kind of payment or work on our part. All means all. If anyone believes that there is something I have to do to make my salvation complete, they are saying that Jesus did not do it all and are therefore not believing the Word of God.

So many want to believe that---I have to contribute something in order to please God and hope He will welcome me into everlasting life.

NO---NO---NO----It's almost too good to be true and God has made it so simple. Look to Jesus. The thief on the cross had no time to do anything and he looked to Jesus and Jesus assured him--Today you will be with Me in paradise.

A good Lutheran once asked me---have I done enough to get to heaven? My answer---no!!! None of us can do enough. Jesus did it all for you. Simply believe that Jesus is your only Savior from sin and your only ticket to eternal life.

Repent of sin but then thank Jesus for dying in your place to pay for your sins.

Then some will say---How can you be so sure? My answer---Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. Ephesians 2:8-9 puts it this way: "By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of good works, so that no one may boast."

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming and said to those around him: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Need more proof? Jesus Himself said: “He who believes in Me, even though he dies, yet shall he live.” In the words of institution for the Lord’s Supper, Jesus says: “Take and eat, this is My body given for you. Take and drink, this is My blood shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.”

So you see, Jesus did do it all. He has said in various places in Scripture that He has done it all. It is for us to simply say; thank you Jesus.