

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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The Reformation and Bible-Reading

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.
May we in faith its tidings learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our Righteousness!

What led to the Reformation of the Church? In the last analysis it was Luther's diligent Bible-reading. Luther had for several years zealously read the Bible, when, in 1512, he finally began to understand and to believe rightly that we are saved, not by our good works, but by grace, through faith, in Christ as God's Son and the Savior from sin. The Holy Ghost enlightened his heart, so that the Holy Scriptures were opened unto him.

As Luther continued to read the Bible, he grew in the grace and knowledge of Christ; he grew in courage, boldly opposing error and sin within the Church; he grew in love, confessing the saving truths of the Bible. His faith in Christ and his faithful confession of the truth by the grace of God brought about the Reformation of the Church. Hence we can trace our present spiritual blessings, the fact that we have the true doctrine, back to Luther's private and diligent Bible-study.

Dear reader, when on October 31 you think of Luther and the reformation which he accomplished, ask yourself: Do I, like Luther, diligently read my Bible at home? Do I believe the chief truth of the Bible that "the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin"? 1 John 1:7. Do I believe that I am saved, not by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ?

If the Holy Ghost has through the Gospel kindled this faith in your heart; if you believe that you can be saved through Jesus alone, are you also trying to be a blessing to your fellow-men? The Lord says in the Bible: "I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing." Gen. 12:2. If God has blessed you with true faith in Christ, you should become a blessing to others by leading them to Christ.

First of all, dear reader, you must believe in Christ unto the saving of your soul. Then you must also confess Christ before men and earnestly try to win souls for your Savior. But to become such a blessing within the Church, continue to read your Bible daily and with a prayer to the Lord that He may give you an ever better understanding of it.

T. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE FIRST ARTICLE

"I believe that God — still preserves me."

"He Richly and Daily Provides Me with All"

When we think of the many good things God gives us to preserve, or keep, us, we must furthermore say with Luther: "I believe that He *richly* and *daily* provides me with all that I need to support this body and life." "Richly" we are taught to say. After Jesus had fed the five thousand with five loaves of bread and two small fishes, the disciples took up twelve baskets full. And so in our homes there is something left upon our tables after every meal. And that God does "daily." He gave the Israelites bread from heaven every day, and every day we, too, have food upon our tables, all that we need and more.

“He Defends Me against All Danger, Guards and Protects Me from All Evil”

Then there are so many dangers in this world of ours, and there is so much evil. We never would know how to escape all these dangers and all this evil if God did not find a way for us. He always is as a mighty wall between us and all the dangers and evil, as the pillar of cloud came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of the Israelites, so that the one came not near the other all night. Read Ex. 14:19-31. And He can guard and protect you even in the lions' den and in the fire. Daniel spent a night in the lions' den and suffered no harm. And he praised God for it, saying to the king: “My God hath sent His angel and hath shut the lions' mouths that they have not hurt me.” Dan. 6:22, 23. When King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw the three men into the midst of the burning fiery furnace because they would not worship his golden image, they answered, “Our God is able to deliver us.” And He did, as you may read Dan. 3.

“Against ALL Danger, from ALL Evil”

Our Catechism teaches us to say, “He defends me against *all* danger, guards and protects me from *all* evil.” Is that true? Do not Christians often take sick, become deaf or blind, and are they not in accidents and meet with other mishaps? Yes, and still they can truthfully say these words. Joseph was a servant of God, and his brothers sold him into Egypt, Potiphar cast him into prison, and he had to stay there for two years, although innocent; yet he said to his brothers: “Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.” So we Christians should count everything that befalls us as a blessing from on high and in childlike trust say with Paul: “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God,” Rom. 8:28.

“Cast (Put) All Your Care upon Him”

Indeed, “He still preserves me,” you and I must say. And therefore we need not worry. All our cares and worries we should put upon Him. And joyfully we should do it, for it is He who so loved us that He gave His only-begotten Son to die for us. Therefore Paul says: “He that spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not

with Him also freely give us all things?” Rom. 8:32. Therefore “cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you,” 1 Pet. 5:7.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for October

“Thy Word is truth,” John 17:17

Bible-Lesson: Mark 11:27-33

“And they come again to Jerusalem; and as He was walking in the Temple, there come to Him the chief priests and the scribes and the elders and say unto Him, By what authority doest Thou these things, and who gave Thee this authority to do these things? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I will also ask of you one question, and answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was it from heaven or of men? Answer Me. And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven, He will say, Why, then, did ye not believe him? But if we shall say, Of men, they feared the people; for all men counted John that he was a prophet indeed. And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus, answering, saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

On Tuesday morning of Holy Week Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem. Jesus immediately went to the Temple and “taught the people in the Temple and preached the Gospel.” While He was walking about in the Temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders (the Jewish teachers and rulers) came to Him with the question, “By what authority doest Thou these things, and who gave Thee this authority to do these things?” Their purpose in asking Jesus this question was not to learn the truth but rather to find fault with Him and to discredit Him in the eyes of the people, so that the people would no longer follow Him. If they were successful in turning the people against Jesus, they could then also carry out their plan of putting Him to death. Already they had decided that He must be put to death; they were only seeking an opportunity of putting their plan into effect.

Jesus was perfectly willing to give them an answer to their question and to tell them by what authority He preached and taught and performed miracles, but only under one condition. They should first tell Him whether the baptism of John the Baptist was from heaven or of men. In other words, they should tell Him whether John preached and

baptized by the authority of God or that of men.

The priests, scribes, and elders realized at once that by answering this question they would be caught in their own words. For if they admitted that John was a prophet of God, then they also had to admit that they had sinned by not receiving him as God's prophet. If they answered that John was not a prophet of God, their life would be in danger, for the people believed "that he was a prophet indeed." So they answered Jesus, "We cannot tell." They knew the truth, yet were not willing to answer truthfully. Therefore Jesus also does not answer their question. Nor was this necessary. By His preaching, teaching, and miracle-working He had shown that He was the promised Savior and that all His works were performed by authority of God the Father, who had sent Him.

As in the days of Jesus, so even today many refuse to acknowledge, and bow to, the authority of Jesus and His Word. They will not accept Him as their Savior. They have hardened their hearts against Jesus and His Word.

May God keep us ever faithful to Jesus and His Word! _____ E. EN.

My Bible — Your Bible

A certain pastor was one day called to the house of a man whose wife was dangerously ill and was hastening toward the grave. She was a believing Christian and anxious for the end to come; but her husband was an atheist. He did not hinder the minister's visits, but he himself took no interest in what he read and spoke to his wife.

When the last hour came, the atheist stood at the death-bed of his wife. With her last strength the dying woman drew a small English Bible from under her pillow and, holding the book, which was much worn and had often been bedewed with her tears, up to her husband, said to him, "Do you know what book this is?" "Yes, it is your Bible," answered he. But she said, "Yes, it is my Bible; it was my all; this book converted me, raised me up, strengthened me, saved me. I am now going to Him who gave it to me; there I shall need it no more. Give me your hands —," and with these words she placed it into his hands,

pressed them together and said, "Do you know, dear husband, what I am doing?" "Yes, my dear, you are giving me your Bible." "No, I am giving you *your* Bible; God ordered me to give you this sweet legacy before I die. Keep it, read it! Will you not promise me to do this?" "Yes, my dear."

Three weeks had passed since the death of this Christian woman, when one day her husband entered the minister's study, weeping like a child. "O my friend," cried he, "now I understand what my dying wife meant; yes, it is *my* Bible; every word in it is written for me. Day and night I am reading in this book, and I thank God that it is my Bible. And now I beg you to receive me into your congregation, to which my happy wife belonged." "Gladly," answered the minister. There was joy with the angels of God over this man, who had come, not with objections, not with questions, not with doubts, but with his Bible, which was as precious to him as if God had given it to him directly from heaven.

And what the Bible did for this man, it is doing for all races and peoples. Let us help to bring its glorious message everywhere.

Selected

Where Is Happiness?

Not in unbelief. Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."

Not in pleasure. Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if any one did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

Not in money. Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: "I suppose I am the most miserable devil on earth."

Not in position and fame. Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both; but he wrote: "Youth is a mistake, manhood a struggle, old age a regret."

Not in military glory. Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent because there were no more worlds to conquer.

One and all they confirm Solomon's verdict: "All is vanity and vexation of spirit," Eccl. 2:17.

Where, then, is happiness to be found?

Jesus said, "I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you," John 16:22.

The answer to the above question is simple: True happiness is found *only in Christ*.

Taste for yourself, and you will say:
None other name for me;
There's love and light and lasting joy,
Lord Jesus, found in Thee.

The King's Business

A Deep Lesson

A woman who had been a Christian worker told Dr. Torrey that she could no longer believe in God because, when her husband was ill, she had prayed for his recovery and God had failed her. Dr. Torrey pointed her to 1 John 3:22: "Whatsoever we ask we receive of Him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." He asked if she were obeying the conditions laid down.

"I am afraid I am not," she admitted.

"Then God has not failed you, but you have failed God," said Dr. Torrey.

So completely did the cloud over her life roll away that, when the evangelist said, "Let us pray," she was ready to kneel with him and take the whole matter to the Lord.

The great lesson of life is to be subdued before God. — *Good Tidings*.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—During the month of August ten new members in this territory were gained for the Church through Holy Baptism. The promise of Jesus reads: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," Mark 16:16. May we ever receive this promise with joyful and thankful hearts, and may we live in holiness of life to the glory of our blessed Savior!

Among many others we recently received the following letter with regard to our *Herald for the Blind* from a house of refuge in Canada:

"Miss C. passed peacefully away from this world last Sunday, Aug. 26. Miss C. was totally deaf as well as blind. She felt deeply grateful toward you and your Church for the use of your edifying religious literature. May the Lord Jesus abundantly bless and reward you for the thoughtfulness and kindness which you extended to her!"

The purpose of our magazine is none other than to hold up Christ as the Savior to sinners, and we are always glad to learn that our message is understood and received by the readers of our periodicals. O. C. S

Minneapolis Mission.—Thanks to the good Lord your Minneapolis missionary is able to do a good part of his work again. There were no services July 31, the Sunday after the accident. Services in Mankato, St. Cloud, and Little Falls also had to be canceled. August 7 and 14 Pastor Nachtsheim preached, and Mrs. F. Hirschke interpreted the sermons, August 21 the pastor himself conducted services again, and August 28 Pastor Gade of Milwaukee had charge of the service. Hearty thanks to all! J. L. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. A. Boll, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 7635 Grixdale Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
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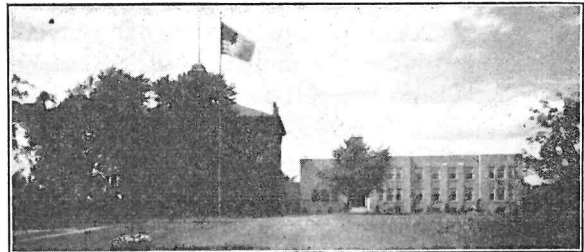
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
Rev. A. Kuntz, 805 Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra, Cal.

These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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