

"I BELIEVE IN the Holy Spirit, the holy all-inclusive Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the flesh, and the life everlasting. Amen."

Though we did not reach God's objective, God, the Spirit, has mercy on us:

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; by which He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all in Christ everlasting life.

This is most certainly true." (Martin Luther)

PART 3. THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Daily Affirmations and Prayer.

A Compilation of Greek N.T. Texts of Matthew 6: 9-13; Luke 11: 2-4

Only number 6 is a petition.

"FIAT! – So be it!"

OUR FATHER, in the heavens!

God is our gracious Father to all, not a bullying Almighty to be feared.

1. "Let your name be sanctified!"

Children of The Father live and do everything to please Him.

2. "Let your kingdom come!"

In the Kingdom of God, Christ the King graciously governs.

3. "Let your will be done, as in heaven even so on earth!"

God wills that none perish. – All may have eternal life, and live on earth, as angels do in heaven.

4. "Give us our daily bread for tomorrow!"

God orders life. Carefree as birds, we live today – tomorrow.

5. "Forgive our sins and our debts! As we have forgiven everyone indebted to us." All sin is against God. He forgives sin: We forgive debts.

4

6. "May you take us not through a testing trial."

This is the only request; it may not be granted. Even Jesus had to die.

7. "But rescue us from the evil!"

Though tested by fire, the Father rescues us, his children, from evil.

Alleluia! Hallelujah! Voluntarily, we sing praise to our loving Father.

Our Father differs from the Islamic god of power, who demands obedience.

PART 4. HOLY BAPTISM: A Sacred Event – A Personal Actualization.

Effectively, Baptism is a Means of Grace. As water is at the essence of physical life, Baptism applies in virtually every aspect of spiritual life.

Luther writes correctly:

1. "Baptism is not simple water only. [It is a sacred event, a Sacrament, in which a physical object,] water is connected with God's command, to which a specific promise of forgiveness is attached."
2. "Christ, our Lord, ordained/established Baptism in the last chapter of Matthew 28, 'As you go into all the world, teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (v. 19)
3. "Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark 16: 'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.'" (v. 16)
4. "It is not the water indeed that does this, but the word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts such word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is simple water and no baptism. But with the word of God, it is a baptism, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit."

5

Jesus Christ describes and explains what/how He meant it to be. Take heed, as it is written, believe, say and do, as you eat and drink:

"The night, when the Lord Jesus was betrayed,

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'This, my body, is in behalf of you.

Do this, in memory of me!'

After eating, he also took the cup, saying:

'This, the cup, the New Covenant, is by means of my blood.

Do this, whenever you may drink, in memory of me!'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,

You proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

(1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)

(Many theologians do not conform to the above; some base doctrines on Jerome's Latin Vulgate, "Hoc est corpus = This is the body," others are anti-sacramentarian.) Contrary to such, based on indisputable grammar and Greek N. T. text, we have by divine order a physical ordinance that Jesus Christ ordained to create, to enact and to sustain God's Covenant with us.

- 'Bread, Cup and Word' convey the benefit of Christ's body/blood.
- Christ's body is NOT given TO you: *"My body is IN BEHALF of you."*
- The Cup contains NOT blood: *"The cup is by means of my blood."*
- This *Covenant* relationship was/is established by *Jesus*, who says:
 - ***"Do this, whenever you may drink, in memory of me!"***
 - ***"Whenever:"*** Wherever – with whatever – by whosoever.
 - NOT only when administered by a priest or pastor at an altar.
 - Bread, Cup, and Word are a Means of Grace, a physical reality, by which the Gospel is proclaimed, and personally effective.

Alleluia! Amen.

World: "The day will come, when you will die."
Jesus: "The day will come, when you will be holy."

Matthew 5: 48

ETERNAL STATUTES

DIVINE AND APOSTOLIC PRINCIPLES FOR ALL AGES, TIMES AND PEOPLE Stepping Stones For Meditation and Life.

Outline by Luther's Catechism

As Per Biblical Hebrew and Greek Grammar

500th Anniversary of 95 Theses

October 31, 1517 - 2017

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- PART 1. **DIVINE STATUTES:** The Decalogue
PART 2. **GOD'S GRACE:** Forever And For Everyone
PART 3. **THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Daily Affirmations
PART 4. **HOLY BAPTISM:** Personal Actualization
PART 5. **CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, RENEWAL**
PART 6. **THE NEW/HOLY COVENANT:** 24/7

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5. "As St. Paul says, 'He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is trustworthy.' (Titus 3: 5-8) It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, again, a new person daily come forth and arise; who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever."
6. "St. Paul says 'We are buried with Christ by Baptism into death that like as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.'" (Romans 6: 3)

PART 5. CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, RENEWAL: Office of the Keys. The Office of Keys restores right relationships with God and people. Three essential steps produce Christian fruit, growth, and maturity:

1. When our conscience accuses us, we confess any relapse into past sins that separate us from God and alienate us with others.
2. We receive absolution, that is, unconditional forgiveness from God, who, by the death of Jesus Christ, reconciled the world to Himself, which restores our new/holy relationship with God. (By virtue of faith, absolution takes effect, even as we read this text.)
3. Being baptized into Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are forgiven children of God, who are renewed after every fall to aspire anew to be holy, as God Himself is holy.
 - a. Though we are still temporarily bound by sinful limitations, our new life in Christ progressively aspires to be a reality.
 - b. God's objectives become our objectives.

6

PART 1. DIVINE STATUTES: The Decalogue, God's Objectives For Us.

(Except for temporary dispositions of #3 & 4, Hebrew and Greek verbs are future indicatives; yet Jerome, Luther, and translators present them as Commandments.)

The Decalogue (Ex. 20: 2-17) has not imperatives but Gospel promises: Holiness comes from God not man. We have not a demand: "You must be ...!" but God's promise "**You will be holy.**" (cf., Leviticus 19: 2)

1. "**I am the Lord, your God: You will have no other gods.**" (v. 2-3)
God alone is God: I will relate to Him as such. In time everyone will.
2. "**You will not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.**" (7)
My life, word and conduct, will be a perfect reflection of God.
3. "**Remember the Day of Rest (Sabbath), to keep it holy.**" (v. 8)
A special time to focus on God's promised eternal objectives for me.
4. "**Honor your father and your mother.**" (v. 12)
Civil authorities, my father and mother, deserve honor and my respect.
5. "**You will not murder.**" (v. 13)
I will not harm or hurt, but help, support, befriend, and love.
6. "**You will not commit adultery.**" (v. 14)
I will not exploit sex, but be totally committed, steadfast in love.
7. "**You will not steal.**" (v. 15)
I will respect and protect property and property rights of others.
8. "**You will not bear false witness against your neighbor.**" (v. 16)
I will not malign anyone, but speak the truth in love.
9. "**You will not covet your neighbor's house.**" (v. 17a)
My life will be perfect in word, in deed, AND in thought.
10. "**You will not covet your neighbor's wife/husband, his servants, or anything that is your neighbor's.**" (v. 17b, Back to No.1.)
I will not desire vanities, for only God can satisfy my real needs.

What does the Word of God, Jesus, say about all this?

"All promises of God find their YES in Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians. 1: 20)
"You will be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5: 48)

2

PART 2. GOD'S GRACE IS FOREVER AND FOR EVERYONE. (Psalm 136)

The Faith of the Apostles:

"**I BELIEVE IN GOD, almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth.**"

Though we did not reach God's objective, God, the Father, has mercy on us:

"I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; also, clothing and shoes, food and drink, house home, and family, wife/husband and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, guards me, preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, divine, fatherly, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for which I will thank Him, praise Him, and serve as He provided. This is most certainly true." (Martin Luther)

"**I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended to hell; the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven, sits on the right hand of God, almighty Father, and He will come to judge the quick and the dead.**"

Though we did not reach God's objective, God, the Son, has mercy on us:

"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 delivered 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, in order that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns eternally. This is most certainly true." (M.L.)

3

Three Possible Scenarios: CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, RENEWAL:

- i. **I confess that I have not been, as God intends me to be.** I sinned in thought, word and deed. I served God and his people unfaithfully. I offended and provoked God and people. I was negligent, immodest, greedy, dishonest, ornery, slothful, selfish, and lazy, I even caused cursing. Therefore, I pray for grace and mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for me, and I resolve to live as the child of God, as I am intended to be.
- ii. **The confessor, any Christian, is urged to reassure the penitent:** By the command and directive of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I declare to you: "On the cross, Jesus Christ atoned for all of your sins: You are forgiven, for in Christ Jesus, God reconciled the whole world to Himself. You are a redeemed child of God; for you were/are baptized into the Name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are His own – the apple of His eye – beloved – not condemned. Go in peace!" (Praise and thank God – Sin no more!)
- iii. **A Recommended Prayer:** Lord, God, Father, continue to uphold me by your Spirit, love and mercy, that I may be kept from sin and evil, and in Christ, as your child, I too may bear the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace – patience, kindness, goodness – faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Amen!

PART 6. THE NEW COVENANT: A daily, sacred, personal, covenant.

An incorporation of our relationship with Christ, our Lord.

The New Covenant is a holy event. It is a Sacrament, because physical food and drink are connected with God's holy Word and command; all of which conveys a promise of grace. Thus effectively like Baptism, *The New Covenant* is a Means of Grace, in which the physical and the spiritual are molded into one, for our use and benefit. Wherever this Sacrament is Christ is, and His people thrive.

7