

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Jesus Died for You!"

By Rick Rostek, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton

The Apostle Paul makes a curious statement to the Roman Church: "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die" (Rom. 5:7, ESV). What does Paul mean by this? By itself, it's a difficult passage. One ancient scholar suggests that if someone dares to die for a righteous or good person, it is out of pity or due to the good works of the person for whom one might die. However, no one would consider dying for an ungodly person, one whom we might say deserves whatever befalls him or her. When it comes right down to it, most people would rather not "lay it on the line" for the sake of another human being, and especially one who, according to society's standards, doesn't deserve such action. Enter onto the scene Jesus, and consider the verses immediately before and after 5:7. Paul says, "For while we were still weak, at

the right time Christ died for the ungodly," and "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Now we see 5:7 in a somewhat different light.

Paul says rarely would someone die for a righteous or good person. Left unsaid is that no one would dare die for an ungodly person, except Jesus. What does this mean for us? It's easy to think we

fall into the righteous or good category. In fact, we fall into the ungodly category. From the time we were conceived we've carried in us the sin handed down from Adam and Eve. That sin separates us from God and His love. But Jesus comes to die for the ungodly such that they are connected to God and His love. When Paul says that Christ died for the ungodly, he's saying Christ died for you and me.

This is wonderful news for it means that the sin that covered our bodies is replaced by the righteousness of Christ. Therefore we can cast on Jesus all of our sin and know that it is forgiven and remembered no more. Clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we have the hope of everlasting life with God.

As this season of Lent leads us to the cross of Good Friday, remember that Jesus died for you. In His death is forgiveness and everlasting life!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A building under construction goes through many phases. An architect delights in the planning and design process, a builder finds satisfaction in putting it all together, and when it's all built, an interior designer may add the finishing touches. An expert specializes in each part of the plan. Each of us has a plan; we could use some expert help to carry it out. We can construct our life on faith as solid as the walls of our house of worship; we can design our plan within the guidelines set forth in God's Word. Most importantly, we can pray each day for our Creator's guidance, for truly we are each "under construction."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Chronicles 29:1-17	2 Chronicles 29:18-36	2 Chronicles 30:1-12	2 Chronicles 30:13-27	2 Chronicles 31:1-21	Ezra 3:1-13	Ezra 8:15-36

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"Undefined Eyes"

The church that continues the proclaiming of the gospel of Jesus Christ has Christians who long to have undefiled eyes. The first thought that comes to mind regarding undefiled eyes is a child of God who refrains from watching pornography or movies that are full of violence. However, Holy Spirit illuminated Christians grasp the heart of Christ and long to let Him be head of the church, His blood purchased Body of Christ.

Isaiah's fulfilled prophecy of Jesus Christ is, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth."

"But with righteousness" (Hebrew-sedeq) means that Christ will not be swayed by the flesh, see life as the world sees life nor listen to the lies of the devil. Christ will judge impartially and make all His decisions based from the righteousness of God His Father.

Jesus Christ being fully God and fully man came to walk and live upon this guilty sod and He shows how to live a truly righteous life under the complete will of God the Father. The church that continues the gospel message of Christ to the next generation sets their eyes upon Christ as the head of the Church, she does not set her eyes upon traditionalism, denominationalism, legalism or faddism. The church the Lord uses has Christians who make their life convictions from the whole counsel of God's Word. Their prayer is, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14) They do not spend their time arguing over how many hymns or choruses to sing or how long preaching services are. They are hungry for God's presence as revealed through the written Word of God. They spend their time prayerfully studying the whole counsel of God's Word so they can make righteous decisions. (Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8; Act 20:7-12)

Do You Have Undefiled Eyes?
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