

Our Protector and Savior is Our King Jesus!

Galatians 3:23-29

1/1/2023

Christmas is here! And we are still celebrating!

Yes, Wal-Mart and Target, the high holy gods of when all seasons must be celebrated to maximize profits for the shareholders; have decreed that we have moved on to the new year and Valentine's Day...

...But we are still celebrating Christmas and waiting the arrival of the magi coming to bear gifts to our Lord of the Universe, "All Hail King Jesus!"

So, let's not get in a hurry, and let us revel in the reality of who has come into our midst and why we keep our decorations up for a couple more weeks!

Let us remember what Jesus saved us from as a conquering superhero over the devious manipulations of Satan himself.

Making every attempt to make sure our savior would not live to see another day by entering Herod and commanding him to slaughter the innocents to slaughter our Savior before his time.

Later we will see Satan come to Jesus personally trying to dissuade Him from His mission to save us from our sin.

And finally, he will enter Judas, to betray Jesus.

He knew who Jesus is, and he knew that Jesus would be his ultimate undoing and he knew more than anyone in the world that this was the original universal King!

And through a series of revelations throughout this season of Epiphany we will see who He was, is and always will be for us.

Paul's letter to the Galatians begins our revelation for the circumcision of our Lord!

Brent was a classmate of mine that attended seminary with me. He was quirky. As a friend told me when I first noticed he was different from the rest of us, he replied, "Yah, that's Brent...he has a real dry sense of humor."

Now being as ignorant as I was, I didn't know what a "Dry Sense of Humor" meant. So, I asked, what does that mean? So, Dave explained that he had a sense of humor that was not a laugh out loud slapstick humor, but more of a thinking man's humor.

For example. For Reformation one year, on all hallows eve, he wore a pumpkin on his head to chapel. He walked in with it on his head, then respectfully put it in the pew beside him, then when the service was over he donned it again, leaving the chapel without saying a word or explaining himself to anyone.

Another time he wore a t-shirt that said, "stop plate tectonics now!"

Like Dave said, a thinking man's dry sense of humor.
My personal favorite was the t-shirt that he wore that said, "Gravity. It's Not Just a Good Idea...IT'S THE
LAW!"

That one, I got!

Paul opens with this curious approach to the LAW in our epistle lesson today. And it is far from the normal
approach we Lutherans are used to.

Normally we look at the law as a curb, mirror, and a rule.

A curb because the natural law written on our hearts helps all humankind to understand what is basically right
and what is basically wrong.

Murder is universally wrong, rape is universally wrong, stealing is universally wrong...so on and so forth.

Usually, any derivation from the universal truth of the ten commandments requires significant promotion,
politicking, and propaganda; but even then the vast majority of reasonable people agree what is basically right
and wrong so we can all peacefully coexist in our respective communities.

The perfect example of this is the etiquette of the gym over at Planet Fitness where Marcy and I work out.

The basic rules are wipe your equipment down after use with the provided cleansers, and don't judge people.

But there are other subtle rules that come into play. There's some coveted equipment that people like to use
when available so don't hog the machine. Get your reps in and don't dawdle.

One of the worst forms of dawdling comes when an individual is staring at their phone for minutes on end, and
hardly doing any reps at all. Anything that can be done of the machine, should be, so people that want to get
their reps in don't have to wait staring at you while you stare at your phone.

I have found that I never have to say anything when this is happening, but I do sit close to the apparatus
indicating I am waiting for it when they are done planting their butt there staring at social media. They usually
get the message and move on shortly after noting my passive aggressive presence!

Basic Law of the Universe, be nice, and respect each other!

The Second use of the law is the mirror. When we hold ourselves up to the standard the Law of God demands,
it's obvious that we don't keep the law perfectly.

This shows us that we are sinners that need a Savior! And Jesus is right there, as the ultimate perfect fulfillment
of the Law to do it on our behalf and sacrifice Himself so that we don't have to die like we deserved.

The final use of the Law is the rule and norm of what is meet right and salutary in all things.

In these confusing days, insanity seems to be taking over. So many things that we know are true are being challenged and Satan's minions are brazenly trying to rewrite what is right and what is wrong.

Isaiah 5:20 Prophesied these days when he said, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness...who acquit the guilty for a bribe and deprive the innocent of his right!"

So, God's law is here to keep it strait and help us understand what is truly good and what is truly evil. If it doesn't pass the smell test of God's word, it stinks. If it contradicts the Word of the Lord, it is the devil's chaos. And if anything, contrary to God's Word, is Glorified, in any church that claims to be the house of God; that church is already an Abomination of the Desolation (Daniel 11:31) and must be rededicated before ever being used for the Lord's Purposes again.

So, the Law in this case is there like a protector to God's People.

God has garrisoned us with a protective clause in His Holy Word that helps us see the truth when the world wants to feed us lies about what is truly good.

Ezekiel 33:7 says, "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me!"

Here Ezekiel is commissioned by God Himself to be the watchmen with the law to protect God's people against false teachings that will destroy the people of God forever.

This "Son of Man" is used by Jesus 80 times in the Gospel to self-identify as the ultimate protector of our souls under the true purity of the righteousness of the Law having fulfilled it perfectly on our behalf.

So where the law was our protector, teacher, and pedagogue now Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of that protection as our Lord and Savior!

We know this because we have been baptized in Christ!!!

What a glorious time at faith we are having. Because of the hard work of our teacher and Mr. Yurk and Myself, teaching the truth about baptism to our students, we have had two Baptisms just this past week, with one more to come.

Baptized because we taught them how they would be clothed in Christ's righteousness through the water of Holy Baptism. In direct response to us teaching them God's Word they are responding and clothing themselves in Christ!

Therefore, the church is the universal church for all people because we no longer wear the tribal clothing that divides us, we wear Jesus.

We no longer identify culturally, we identify Christologically!

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