

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 16, 2022
“Salvation in Jesus through Scripture Alone”
(2 Timothy 3:15-16)
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today’s text for this 14th Sunday after Pentecost is from 2 Timothy 3:15-16.

**“from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Here ends our text.

I. The Inspired Word of God is His Just Law

Is life fair? Isn’t that one of the lessons that we teach our children from a young age that in this sinful world, there is no such thing as complete fairness. If you have been watching the baseball playoff games, you sometimes hear the boos of the crowd when it is perceived that the game is not being called fairly by the umpires.

Did the batter check his swing or not? An appeal is quickly made to the 1st base or 3rd base umpire. Was he safe sliding into second base or not? Stop the play and use the “eye in the sky” camera to look at the replay. Are signs between pitcher and catcher being stolen? This has been the debate for many years. Back in the 1948 one team admitted to using an optical gun lens to pick up the signs and relay them to the hitter. Nowadays, pitchers and catchers use a Pitch Com in the pitcher’s hat to hear the call from the catcher and avoid the use of signs.

In football, there are other questions of fairness. Was a quarterback thrown to the ground with unnecessary force or not? A question of judgement that can decide a game with an untimely penalty and cause much angst among the fans.

Or, is it fair that student loans are just forgiven? What about those who sacrificed and worked hard to pay off their loans?

Was it fair to Jacob in our Old Testament reading to have his wages changed 10 times by Laban his father-in-law? Our reading begins by telling us that Jacob crossed the ford of Jabbock with his two wives. Two wives? Yes, Laban made Jacob work 7 years for him to marry Rachel whom he loved, but then on the wedding night deceived him and gave him Leah the older daughter. So, Jacob had to work another 7 years for Rachel.

Often our time, very precious in value is unfairly wasted by others. So it was in the parable that Jesus spoke in our Gospel reading. A woman had been unfairly wronged and wanted to have her case heard by a judge. But this judge had no interest in hearing her case and doing his duty because he didn't fear God nor regard man, only cared about himself.

But, the woman persisted and wouldn't give up. She bugged the judge until he came to the conclusion that if I don't do something she's going to weary me. Again, the judge only helped because it benefitted himself.

God's Word clearly shows the unjustness of this world because of sin. And God's law shows that all of us are equally guilty of looking out only for ourselves and not being fair to others. The wages that we all deserve for our sins is death God's word says in Romans 6:23.

Our only recourse is to plead for His mercy. And that brings us to the second main theme of the Bible. Yes, God's Word is law and punishes all unjustness and unrighteousness, but it is also Gospel and graciously forgives and gives life to all who believe in Jesus.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II. The Inspired Word of God is His gracious Gospel

Going back to Jacob...yes there was unfairness about the speckled and streaked sheep that Laban set up in his favor, but God looked out for Jacob and helped him grow a strong herd of sheep.

Yes, Jacob wrestled with God and would not give up until God blessed him. For Jacob trusted the Word of God that God would be with him always, that he would return to the promised land and that through his descendants all the nations would be blessed – blessed by the Messiah that is – Jesus Christ.

Jesus makes the comparison between the unjust judge and God. As evil as the unjust judge was, he still heard the woman's case. But, God is not evil and He loves us so much that He gave us His only Son to die for our sins so that we would receive His righteousness and be judged innocent. It is a gift from God.

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God had made know to Timothy through his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice the Holy Scriptures that give salvation.

That is the purpose of God's Word to give true, life- saving wisdom. How?
Through faith in Jesus Christ!

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

God's Word is His means to tell us how much He loves us and has forgiven us through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. That is the Gospel which was rediscovered by Luther to begin the Reformation.

Man's works avail him nothing before God. We are not saved by our works but by grace through the saving work of Jesus.

Sinful man thinks he is wise. His itching ears thinks that fairness should mean that homosexuals should be allowed to marry, and that there should be a right to kill the unborn. Facebook is filled with man's "wise" sayings that if followed will give happiness. Here are a few examples.

Believe you deserve it and the universe will serve it.

Anytime you doubt yourself, remember, you are a strong soul who shines after any storm. You can literally get through ANYTHING. You have demonstrated that time and time again. Keep going. Keep shining. You got this.

To be happy: You must let go of what is gone. Be grateful for what remains. Look forward to what is coming next.

Start every day with a firm belief that today will be better.

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness walk through your door.

And whenever these sayings are shared there is always many “Amens”. But there is nothing here. There is no substance, only a belief that if man tries hard enough, he can solve all his problems and overcome all the unfairness of this world.

Of course, only true justice is found in God’s Word. For He punished His Son Jesus so that we would not be punished. Jesus died so that we would live.

So we heard last week in chapter 2 of 2 Timothy:

“8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

God does not promise that life on earth will be fair. In fact, Paul suffered as an “evildoer”. But, God promises eternal fairness, eternal happiness, eternal glory through the salvation found only in Jesus Christ. Christ alone! Faith alone! Grace alone! Found only through Scripture alone!

11 This is a faithful saying:

**For if we died with Him,
We shall also live with Him.**

**12 If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.**

So, we preach the Word of God in season and out of season for through it alone man is reprov'd of his sinfulness, brought to repentance and lifted up by the Gospel through forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

God invites you to hear His Word often, lift up your prayers to Him who always hears you and loves you and works all things for your good. He invites you to hear His Word to take the Lord's Supper often for His Word promises you that you receive the very body and blood of Jesus for your forgiveness. And that is where we find fairness and mercy and life! Amen

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)