

God's Generosity

I. God loves us:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Day after day we are blessed with evidence of God's great love for us.

What evidence do you see?

What has been God's best gift to you today?

Luther writes “I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.” (Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles Creed in the Small Catechism.)

II. God Saves us:

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:17)

Day after day God saves us from sin, death, and the power of evil.

What does this mean for you today?

“O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day; preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome in adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (LBW prayer 249, page 136)

III. God Claims us as God's own:

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” (1 John 3:1)

Day after day “...we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life.” We constantly live in the grace and mercy of God our creator, savior and guide.

Do we live as if we believe this is really true today?

...and ours!

IV. Responding to God's Amazing Grace?

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.” (II Corinthians 8:1-7)

Day after day we are given opportunities to respond to God's grace with generous living. Generosity of forgiveness, generosity of love, generosity of hope, generosity of giving are all tangible evidence of our gratitude for God's generosity toward us. We can move from giving thanks to thankful giving and thankful living!

How have I been generous today?

How can I help others to live in God's grace with generosity and joy?