

GOLDEN TREASURE TRUTHS

Text: “You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” I Peter 1:18-19

One of the deceptions of our human nature is that there is something we can do to pay for the forgiveness of sins. Martin Luther challenged the sale of indulgences and the attempts to buy a relationship with God and the church. There is not enough silver or gold or any other earthly treasure that could purchase our salvation. There is no earthly investment that will pay off in eternity. Nothing perishable purchases the eternal.

Since the days of the Old Testament sacrifices, God had prepared His people to see the purchase value of blood. The priests made atonement for the Israelites as the blood of lambs was sprinkled on man-made altars. God fulfilled every Old Testament sacrifice on Calvary. God provided the Lamb whose blood was shed on the altar of the cross. The blood of Jesus, the precious and perfect Lamb, would pay for the sins of the world.

The treasured truth is that the sacrifice of Jesus assures the forgiveness of sins for each of us. Martin Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article (Small Catechism) states, “Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person . . . not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.”

A credit card company encourages the consumer to not look at the dollar value of the purchases, but to look at the value of the experience and come to the conclusion “priceless.” The cost of our salvation was “pricey”—the very life of the Son of God. The result of His sacrifice, the shedding of His very own blood, is “priceless.” Jesus has purchased eternal treasures for us.

Reflection: Reflect on Lenten hymns that describe the sacrifice of Jesus: LSB#431 “Not All The Blood of Beasts;” #437 “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed.”

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for shedding Your precious blood for me. Your love is priceless. Help me to manage and share my earthly treasures sacrificially in thanksgiving for your sacrifice.

I love your commandments above gold; I consider all your precepts to be right.”
Psalms 119:127-128

Note: Lutheran Church Extension Fund offers a “Treasure Chest” of financial support for congregations, church workers, and members of all ages. For additional information contact: Carole White, vice-president (carole.white@ialcef.org)

Ruth Gerken, promotions director (ruth.gerken@ialcef.org)

Rev. Bob Riggert, director of customer services (bob.riggert@ialcef.org)