



## Explore God: What Makes a Lutheran?

November 5, 2023

If someone asked, “What is a Lutheran?” what would you say?

The issues of \_\_\_\_\_ are the same issues of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. SCRIPTURE:

a. Scripture prevails over \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Mark 7:6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “ ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”*

b. Scripture prevails over \_\_\_\_\_.

- *1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.*

c. Scripture is the sole \_\_\_\_\_.

- *2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- *Overall, Luther’s view of the Bible’s authority is refreshing corrective to many of the pitfalls of contemporary Christianity. Notably, Luther believed that the Bible’s authority was centered on Christ and the gospel, but was not reducible to it. Likewise, in contrast to Roman Catholicism, Luther believed that the Bible was the supreme authority within the Church and could call those who taught falsely to account. Lastly, contrary to the belief of many in contemporary American Christianity, Luther held that there could be other secondary authorities within Church (such as creeds and confessions) as long as they were subordinate the supreme authority of the Bible. <https://lutheranreformation.org/theology/the-authority-of-scripture/>*

## 2. FAITH:

a. Not earned by my \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

- *I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,... (Luther's Explanation to 3<sup>rd</sup> Article)*

b. Worked by the power of the \_\_\_\_\_

- *Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

c. Connects me to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ!

- *Habakkuk 2:4 "See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous will live by his faith—*
- *Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

## 3. GRACE:

a. Salvation is God's \_\_\_\_\_ to us!

- *Eph. 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

b. God \_\_\_\_\_ us always predominates!

i. God made us \_\_\_\_\_!

- *Ephesians 2:1,4-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, .... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

ii. God saves us through the waters of \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Titus 3:4-6 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

iii. God forgives us through the \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Matthew 26:26-28 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

c. God's love for us leads us to live \_\_\_\_\_ him!

- *Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- *Sixthly. Here belong the precious indulgences granted (but only for money) both to the living and the dead, by which the miserable [sacrilegious and accursed] Judas, or Pope, has sold the merit of Christ, together with the superfluous merits of all saints and of the entire Church, etc. All these things [and every single one of them] are not to be borne, and are not only without the Word of God, without necessity, not commanded, but are against the chief article. For the merit of Christ is [apprehended and] obtained not by our works or pence, but from grace through faith, without money and merit; and is offered [and presented] not through the power of the Pope, but through the preaching of God's Word.*  
(<https://bookofconcord.org/smalcald-articles/ii/>)

#### **4. How do I answer this question?**

- a. What makes a Lutheran?
  - i. The Bible is God's word and sole authority
  - ii. Faith is ours through the power of the Gospel
  - iii. God's love for us drives our work for him.

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**MY PERSONAL NOTES**

## **SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life**

**The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:**

**The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:**

**The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:**

**My prayers today are:**

**Someone I would like to bless with today's message:**