

The Basics of Lutheran Teaching

In what ways does the Triune God make Himself known?

1. Through the existence of the world (natural knowledge of God)

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Romans 1:19-20 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Psalm 14:1a The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

2. Through conscience (natural knowledge of God)

Romans 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress **the truth** in unrighteousness,

3. Especially through the Holy Scriptures (revealed knowledge of God)

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through **the foolishness of the message preached** to save those who believe.

John 20:30-31, And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and that 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,

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Where is God’s truth about our Savior Jesus Christ made known?

The Old and New Testaments of the Holy Scriptures.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

What is Christianity?
Christianity is the

(1) _____ and _____

(2) God has _____

(3) in and through _____

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

By What Authority? In the history of human religions there exists a number of different attempts to provide "grounding" for religious beliefs.

- A. Experience/Emotion - that which the individual "feels" to be true is true. Truth is defined in subjective categories.
- B. Reason/intellect - That which can be rationally demonstrated is true. Human reason is the final judge.
- C. Personal - A "charismatic leader" engenders obedience from his followers.
- D. Institutional - A particular organization with its traditions and leadership structures.

God exercises His Own Authority Through His Word

What happens when God speaks? God's Word accomplishes His own purposes.

Psalm 33:6, "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."

Isaiah 55: 10-11, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Why do we call the Bible the “Holy Scripture”?

Though Holy Scripture is written in human language, nevertheless it is God's Word inspired and without error. Thus we read individual passages in light of their immediate context as well as the context of the whole of Scripture.

The Holy Scripture is Inspired and Inerrant.

Inspired and Inerrant –

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:21, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

John 10:35b, ...and the Scripture cannot be broken

Acts 24:14, “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

How do we read Scripture properly? There are so many Christian denominations and cults that claim to have the correct interpretation.

- A. Experience/Emotion - The Scriptures mean different things to different people.
- B. Reason/Intellect - Human reason interprets Scripture.
- C. Personal- A "charismatic leader" gives the official interpretation.
- D. Institutional- A particular organization gives the official interpretation.

The Scriptures are clear words which present what man must know to be saved. The

Scriptures are not dark, hard to understand, and obscure writings which men must make clear.

Psalm 25 :4-5, "Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

2 Peter 1:19, "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place "

What is the key to the correct interpretation of the Bible?

Jesus is the heart, center and purpose.

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Acts 10:43 “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

How is human reason to be used in understanding the Holy Scripture?

Holy Scripture is the _____.

Human reason is the _____.

_____ interprets Scripture.

Holy Scripture is the Master; Human reason is the servant. Scripture interprets Scripture

Romans 3:4, Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.”

2 Corinthians 10:5, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Psalms 119:73, Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The Holy Christian Church and the Office of the Holy Ministry

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 18:17 “And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

What basic distinction must we keep in mind in order to understand the Bible?

The proper distinction between the Law and the Gospel.

The Law was given through _____
(Ex. 20, Dt. 5)

The Gospel was given through _____

The Law _____

The Gospel gives _____

What does God teach and do in the Law?

In the law God commands good works of thought, word, and deed and condemns and punishes sin.

What does God teach and do in the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel God gives forgiveness, faith, life and the power to please Him with good works.

The Ten Commandments

_____ must do.

_____ has done and does.

_____ commands.

_____ gives.

The Ten Commandments say, again and again,

“You _____.”

The Gospel declares, “it is the _____ of God” (Eph 2:8-9).

Accuses = S _____

Empowers = S _____

O _____

O _____

S _____

S _____

Romans 7:7-10 What shall we say then? *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”* ⁸But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead. ⁹I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰And the commandment, which *was to bring* life, I found to *bring* death.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Judges Heart, Soul, Mind

Gives Forgiveness, Faith, Life, Strength

BAD NEWS

GOOD NEWS

How does the Small Catechism sum up Christian doctrine?

1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

What is a catechism?

Instruction Book

Who wrote our Small Catechism?

Dr. Martin Luther. Our church has been using it since 1529.

Why are all six chief parts of the Small Catechism taken from the Bible alone?

Doctrine is to be based only on God's Word

Daily Devotion for Family or Individual Use (*Lutheran Worship*, page 293)

1. HYMN #337 (*Lutheran Worship*)

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let your kingdom flourish; Enlarge your Church, we pray.
Oh, keep our faith from failing; Keep hope's bright star aglow
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below. Amen (stanza 1)

Say: "In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN."

2. Pray Psalm 25:1-11 (*Lutheran Worship*, page 321-322 or a Bible)

3. Scripture Readings:

Hear the Word of God as recorded in _____.

Readings from Divine Service

Day 1 --2 Timothy 3: 14-17

Day 2 -John 1

Day 3 -John 2

Day 4 -John 3

Day 5 -John 4

Day 6 -John 5

After reading say: Thanks be to God.

4. Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer (*Luther's Small Catechism*, page 30-31)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doing and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

Luther's Evening Prayer (*Luther's Small Catechism*, page 31)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sin where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Say: "May the almighty and most merciful God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. AMEN."

Large Catechism, II.

63 Here in the Creed you have the entire essence of God, his will, and his work exquisitely depicted in very short but rich words. In them consists all our wisdom, which surpasses all the wisdom, understanding, and reason of men. Although the whole world has sought painstakingly to learn what God is and what he thinks and does, yet it has never succeeded in the least. But here you have everything in richest measure. 64 In these three articles God himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of his fatherly heart, his sheer, unutterable love. He created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us. Moreover, having bestowed upon us everything in heaven and on earth, he has given us his Son and his Holy Spirit, through whom he brings us to himself. 65 **As we explained before, we could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart.** Apart from him we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But neither could we know anything of Christ, had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit.

66 These articles of the Creed, therefore, divide and distinguish us Christians from all other people on earth. All who are outside the Christian church, whether heathen, Turks, Jews, or false Christians and hypocrites, even though they believe in and worship only the one, true God, nevertheless do not know what his attitude is toward them. They cannot be confident of his love and blessing. Therefore they remain in eternal wrath and damnation, for they do not have the Lord Christ, and, besides, they are not illuminated and blessed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.