

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Vision 2:28 - Week of November 2

This weekend kicks off our Vision 2:28 spiritual campaign here at Christ Church. It is also Reformation Day weekend when we remember Martin Luther, a brother in the faith who was compelled by God's Spirit to courageously call out corrupt practices of the church in his day. On 31 October 1517, he nailed 95 theses (propositions) on the doors of All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany. His hope was to bring to light such tenets of faith as:

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said *Poenitentiam agite*, willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance. (thesis #1)

This changing of the canonical penalty to the penalty of purgatory is quite evidently one of the tares that were sown while the bishops slept. (thesis #11)

In former times the canonical penalties were imposed not after, but before absolution, as tests of true contrition. (thesis #12)

The dying are freed by death from all penalties; they are already dead to canonical rules, and have a right to be released from them. (thesis #13)

The pope does well when he grants remission to souls [in purgatory], not by the power of the keys (which he does not possess), but by way of intercession. (thesis #26)

They preach man who say that so soon as the penny jingles into the money-box, the soul flies out [of purgatory]. (thesis #27)

It is certain that when the penny jingles into the money-box, gain and avarice can be increased, but the result of the intercession of the Church is in the power of God alone. (thesis #28)

Martin Luther was like a watchman who heard from God. Though he knew there would be great cost in his decisive action that October morning, he moved forth in truth and resolved to stand strong in the face of death and lies. He became passionately committed to getting the Bible into the hands of common people in a dialect they could understand. And history shows us how the Lord strengthened him for the task at hand.

Similarly, the opening story from this weekend's message spoke of Ernest Gordan and the turnaround he experienced in a Japanese concentration camp when two new prisoners arrived and resolved to stand strong in the face of darkness. Though ill themselves, the two men lived sacrificially toward their fellow POW's and as a result, their legacy became one of compassion and hope for fellow POW's who were also enduring horrific circumstances.

## Discussion:

- When as a young college student, Pastor Charles heard Dr. Ernest Gordan share his experience as a POW, Dr. Gordan spoke of being surrounded by a 'culture of death' in the camp. The Japanese soldiers tortured, terrorized, and killed many of the POW's. Others died of starvation. The truth of the matter is, we live in a culture of death.
- This time of year, we as a culture flirt with death by putting witches, monsters, and skeletons in our lawn and at our front door. How can we as 'saints' – Christ-followers saved by grace – more intentionally point people to the resurrected Christ who defeated death, hell, and forces of darkness?
- Just as Jesus came to defeat sin and death, God gives us a light to shine in dark places. Discuss at least one or two ways you can shine brightly in the world.

## Background

When God called Ezekiel to serve as a watchman for the people in exile, the LORD said:

"Son of man, let all my words sink deep into your own heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself. Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not" (Ezekiel 3:10-11).

## Read Ezekiel 3:16-21

## Discussion:

- As a watchman stands guard, how can we be faithful as watchmen over the flock?
- God said to Ezekiel: "Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately" (v17). What is your motivation in 'warning' people? How will prophets (pastors, priests, teachers, others who shepherd God's flock) be held responsible for being faithful to God's Word, according to Ezekiel 3:18 and Lamentations 3:14?
- How should we pray for our spiritual leaders *specifically* in order to encourage them to lead well, and not fall away as watchmen over the flock of God?

The Plain Truth states: “Moving from selfishness to sacrifice is life giving, while remaining selfish is anti-life.”

### In Closing

- Do you believe God’s Word to be true? If so, how are you *living* God’s Word presently?
- Many of us get off-path at times and allow our priorities to become compromised. Is a turnaround possible? If so, how?
- Who are you to the people around you? What will your legacy be?

Joel 2:28 (which inspired Vision 2:28) is a passage Peter preached at Pentecost:

*“In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy” (Acts 2:17-18).*

Like a good watchman who hears from the Lord, Peter goes on to warn the people gathered:

*“... Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).*

### Pray

## One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

November 2: Ezekiel 3:16-6:14, Hebrews 4:1-16, Psalm 104:24-35, Proverbs 26:27

November 3: Ezekiel 7:1-9:11, Hebrews 5:1-14, Psalm 105:1-15, Proverbs 26:28

November 4: Ezekiel 10:1-11:25, Hebrews 6:1-20, Psalm 105:16-36, Proverbs 27:1-2

November 5: Ezekiel 12:1-14:11, Hebrews 7:1-17, Psalm 105:37-45, Proverbs 27:3

November 6: Ezekiel 14:12-16:41, Hebrews 7:18-28, Psalm 106:1-12, Proverbs 27:4-6

November 7: Ezekiel 16:42-17:24, Hebrews 8:1-13, Psalm 106:13-31, Proverbs 27:7-9

November 8: Ezekiel 18:1-19:14, Hebrews 9:1-10, Psalm 106:32-48, Proverbs 27:10



Text: Ezekiel 3:10-21

## Plain Truth

Moving from selfishness to \_\_\_\_\_ is life  
\_\_\_\_\_, while remaining selfish is  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**November 2, 2025**