

We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight, in the Peace of Christ's Forgiveness



Background: Pastor Still was very challenged. He was for all practical purposes blind. Yet, with the aid of his wife, he was able to stay active in the word and lead profound bible classes and sermons that helped members grow in their faith and understanding of how God has reached out to provide their salvation. By practicing and sharing his Faith, The congregational membership grew as people flocked to hear the message of God's word as it applied to their lives and their salvation. So while sight is valuable, it is faith coming from the Word of God, that allows us to walk in Peace with God, knowing that while we have violated his commandments, and seemingly deserve eternal damnation,

we are saved by God's "Plan of Salvation", in which He allowed His Son's blood to be shed to make full payment for our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit and being involved in the Word and Sacraments, we trust in Christ as our Redeemer.

The Lessons: Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4, 2 Timothy 1:1–14, & Luke 17:1–10

We are surrounded by "destruction and violence" (Hab. 1:3) because the Law "is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth" (Hab. 1:4). In fact, the Law cannot rescue us from our enemies; it is our fiercest enemy of all. Therefore, not by sight, experience or feeling, nor by works, "the righteous shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4). "Temptations to sin are sure to come" (Luke 17:1), but as often as we sin, the Lord rebukes us, turns us to repentance and forgives us. We pray that He would thus "increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). And indeed, He does! Though we are His "unworthy servants" (Luke 17:10), He prepares His Supper for us, dresses us properly and gives us His body and blood to eat and drink. He appoints pastors for us, "by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:1). For the Gospel brings "life and immortality to light" (2 Tim. 1:10). This we believe. Therefore, "follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard," by which He guards you "in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13).