



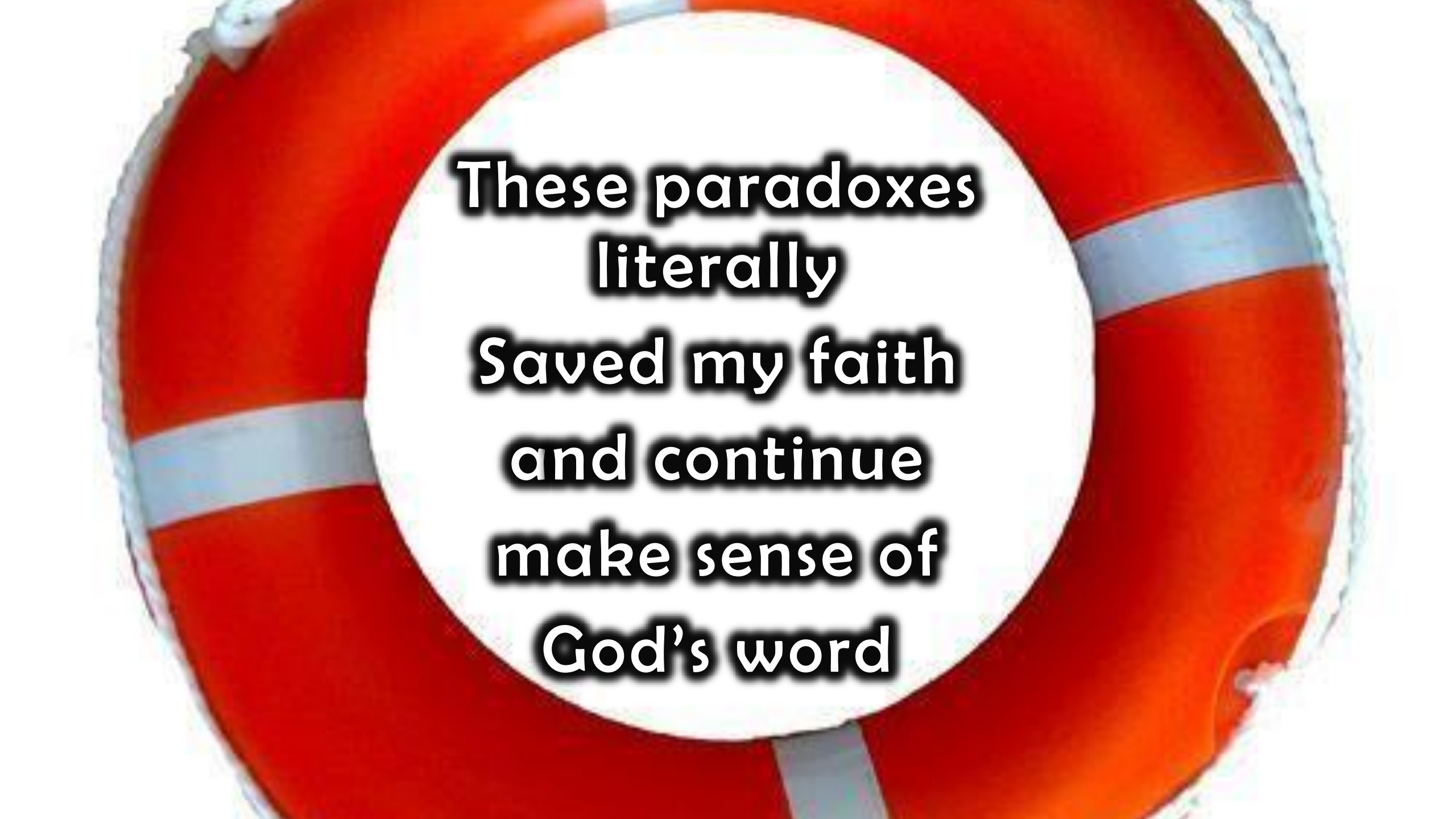
Lutheran Paradoxes

Living in & with the
Tension

par·a·dox

/'perə,däks/ noun

a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.



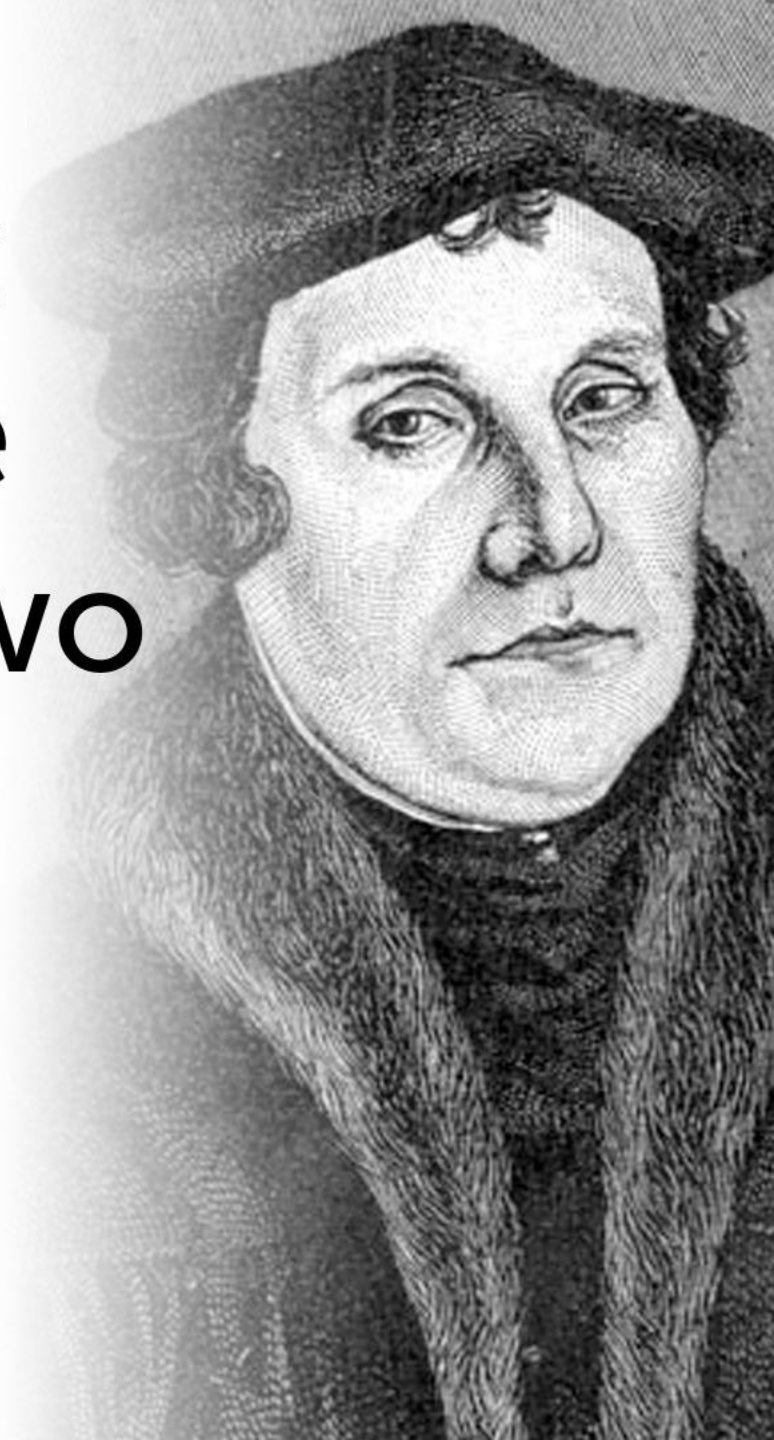
**These paradoxes
literally
Saved my faith
and continue
make sense of
God's word**

PARADOXES

- Law / Gospel
- Our Righteousness / Alien Righteousness
- Sinner / Saint
- Slave / Free
- Finite / Infinite
- Left Hand / Right Hand Kingdoms
- Institution / Mission

Here we must point out
that the entire Scripture
of God is divided into two
parts: commandments
and promises.

MARTIN LUTHER





**The Problem
word: Simul**

**Simul iustus et Peccator
Simultaneous Saint & Sinner**

SANCTIFICATION



**A brief look
at hagios**

**Now lets
talk
about
Being
Free & a
Servant**





TODAY

SLAVE

&

FREE

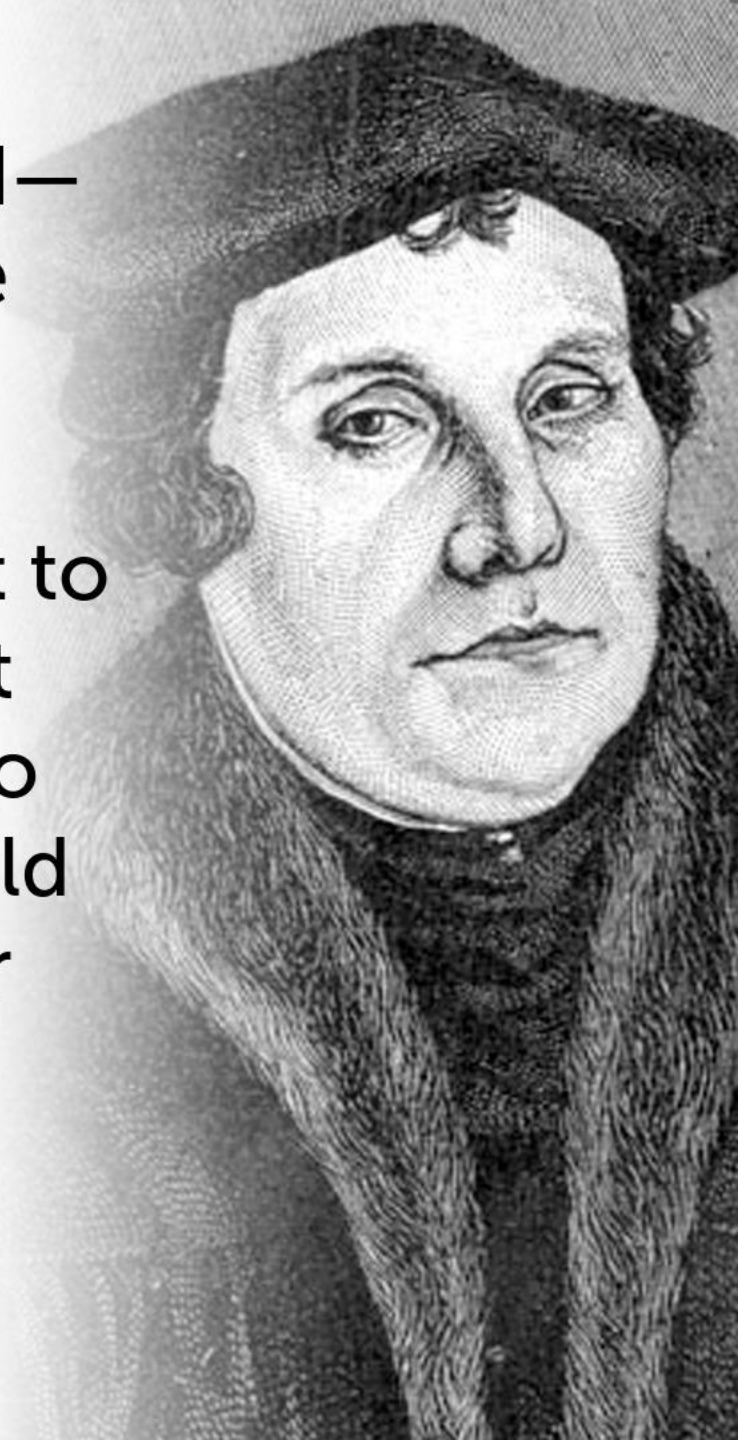
For though I am
free from all, I have
made myself a
servant to all.

1 Corinthians 9:19

ESV

To make the way smoother for the unlearned—for only them do I serve—I shall set down the following two propositions concerning the freedom and the bondage of the spirit: A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all. These two theses seem to contradict each other. If, however, they should be found to fit together they would serve our purpose beautifully. LW 31:344

MARTIN LUTHER



Freedom & Yet... Slaves

- II Corinthians 3:17
- John 8:31 - 38
- Galatians 5:1 - 15
- 1 Peter 2:16 - 17
- Philippians 2:5 - 7

Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

John 8:31-38



For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:13-15



For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Galatians 5:1-15



You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

Galatians 5:7-15



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17



Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

Philippians 2:5-7

NRSV

THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN

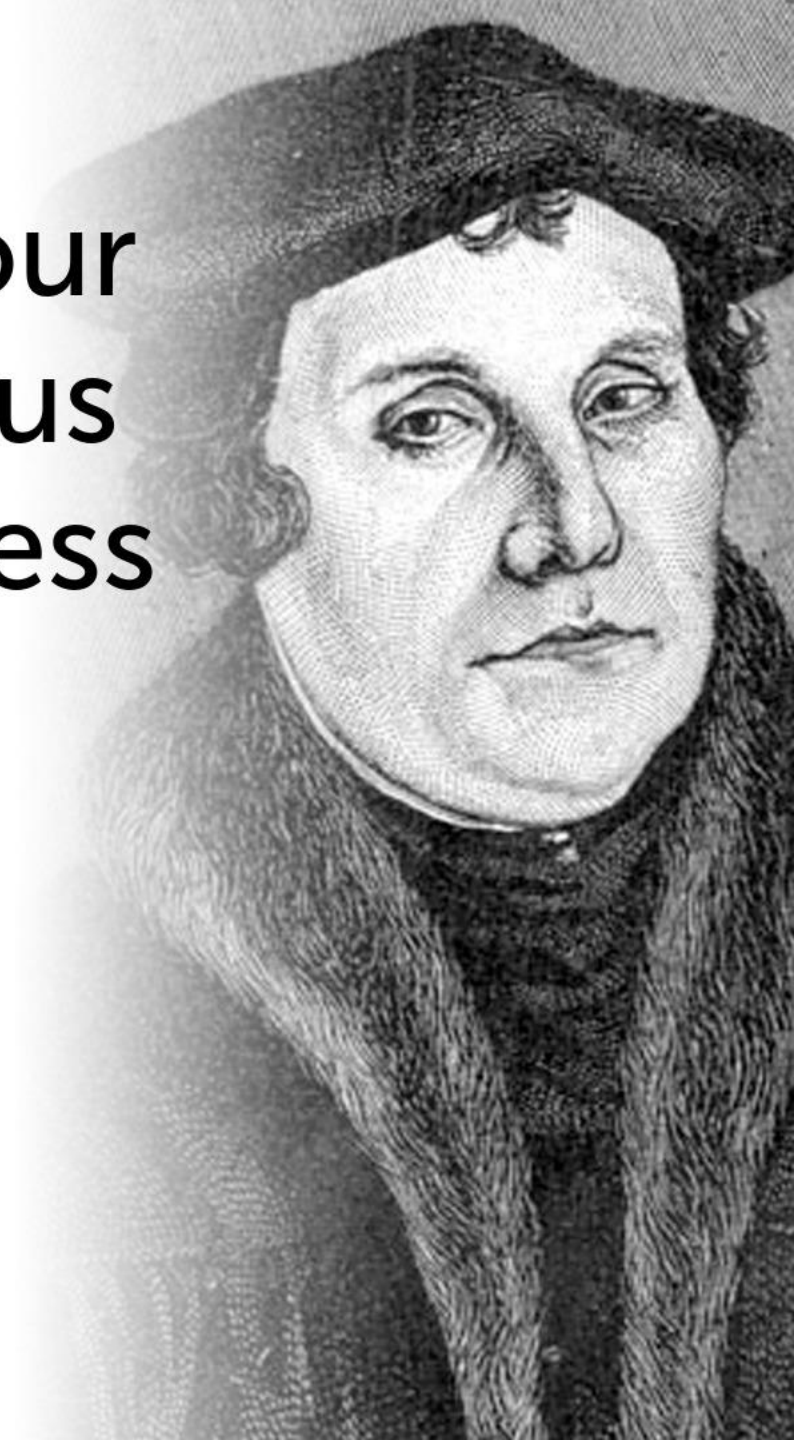
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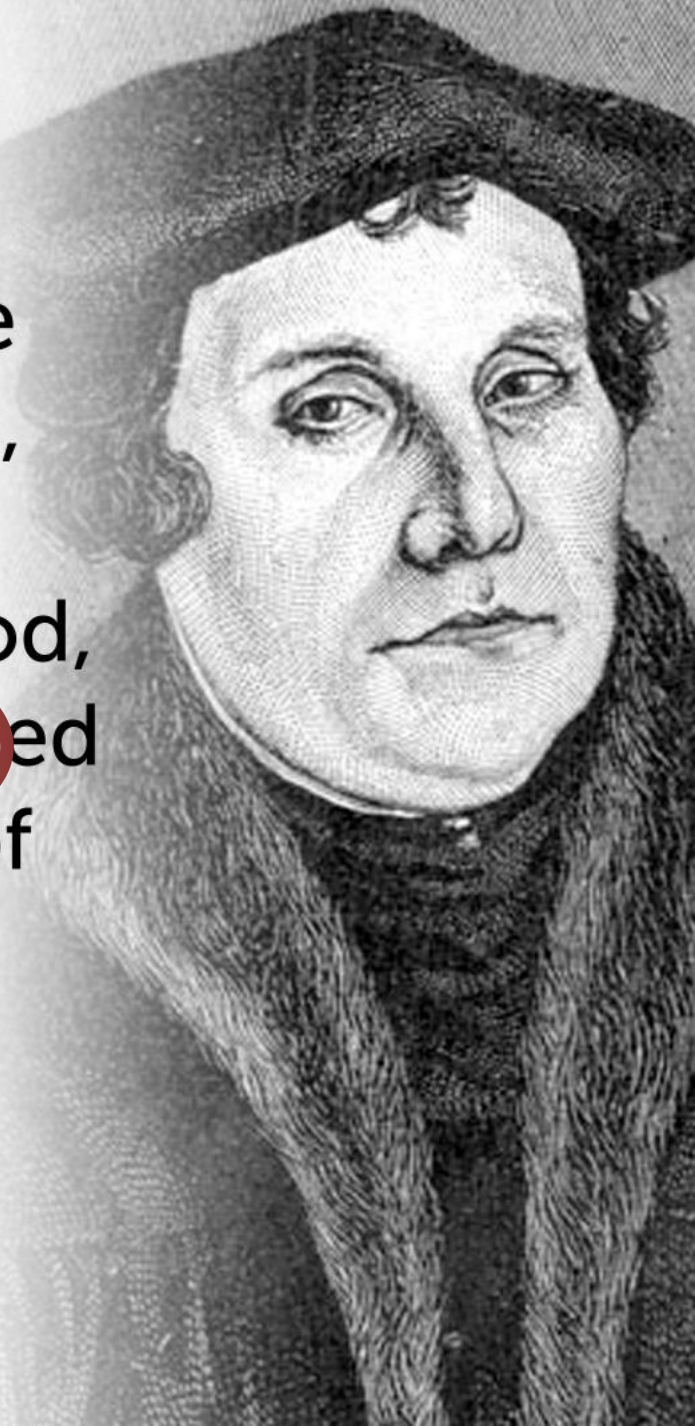
This is that Christian liberty, our faith, which does not induce us to live in idleness or wickedness but makes the law and works unnecessary for any person's righteousness and salvation.

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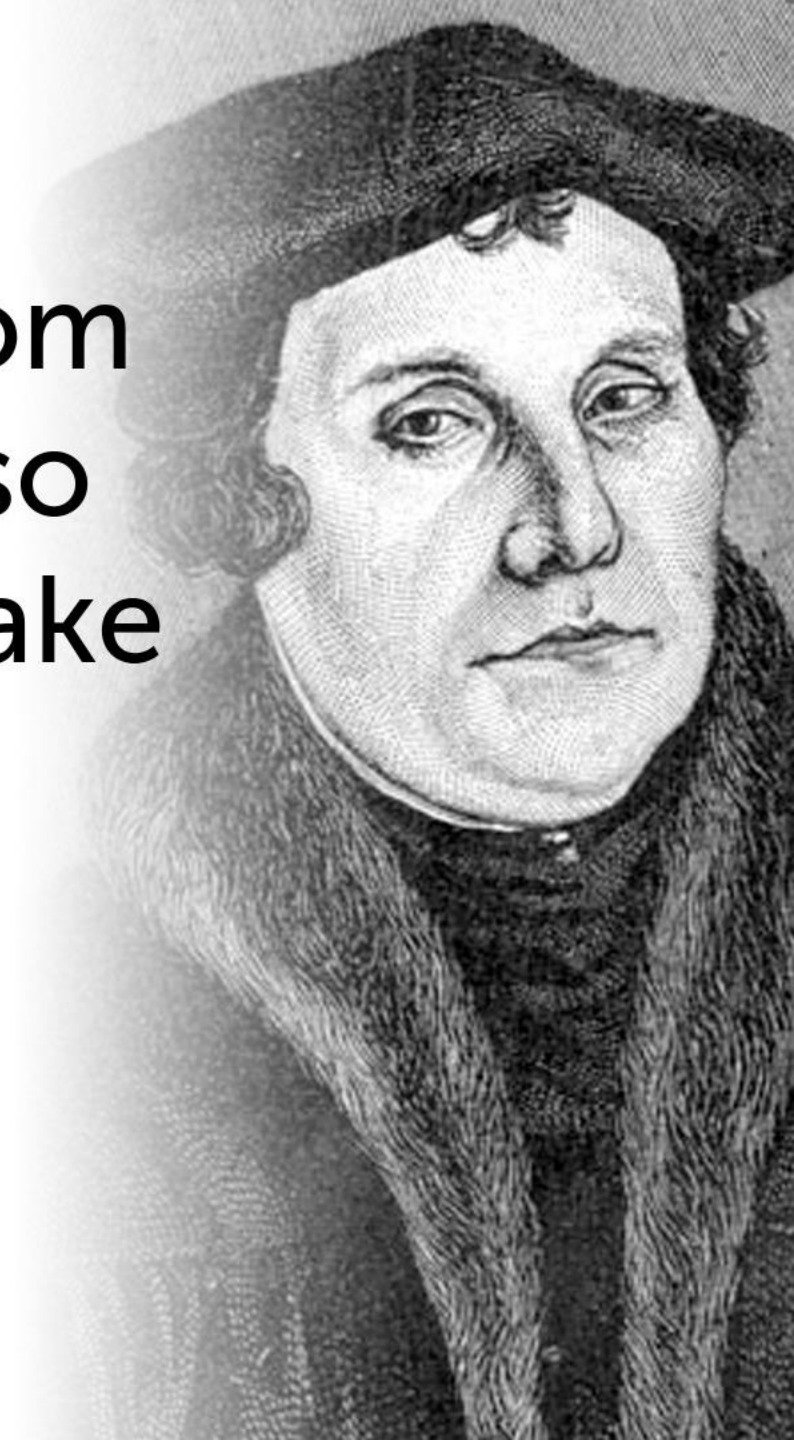
If a touch of Christ healed, how much more will this most tender spiritual touch, this absorbing of the Word, communicate to the soul all things that belong to the Word. This, then, is how through faith alone without works the soul is justified by the Word of God, sanctified, made true, peaceful, and free, filled with every blessing and truly made a child of God, as John 1[:12] says: "But to all who ... believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God."

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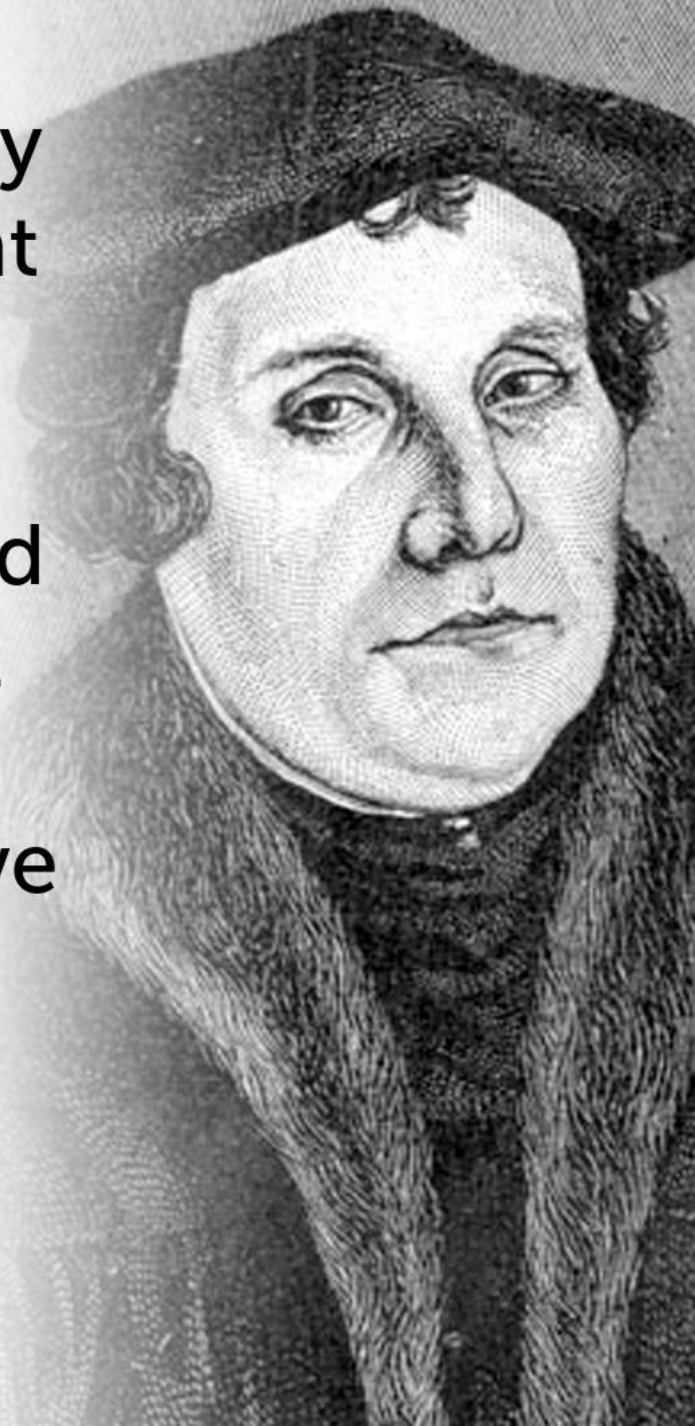
From this anyone can clearly see how a Christian is free from all things and over all things so that he needs no works to make him righteous and save him, since faith alone abundantly confers all these things.

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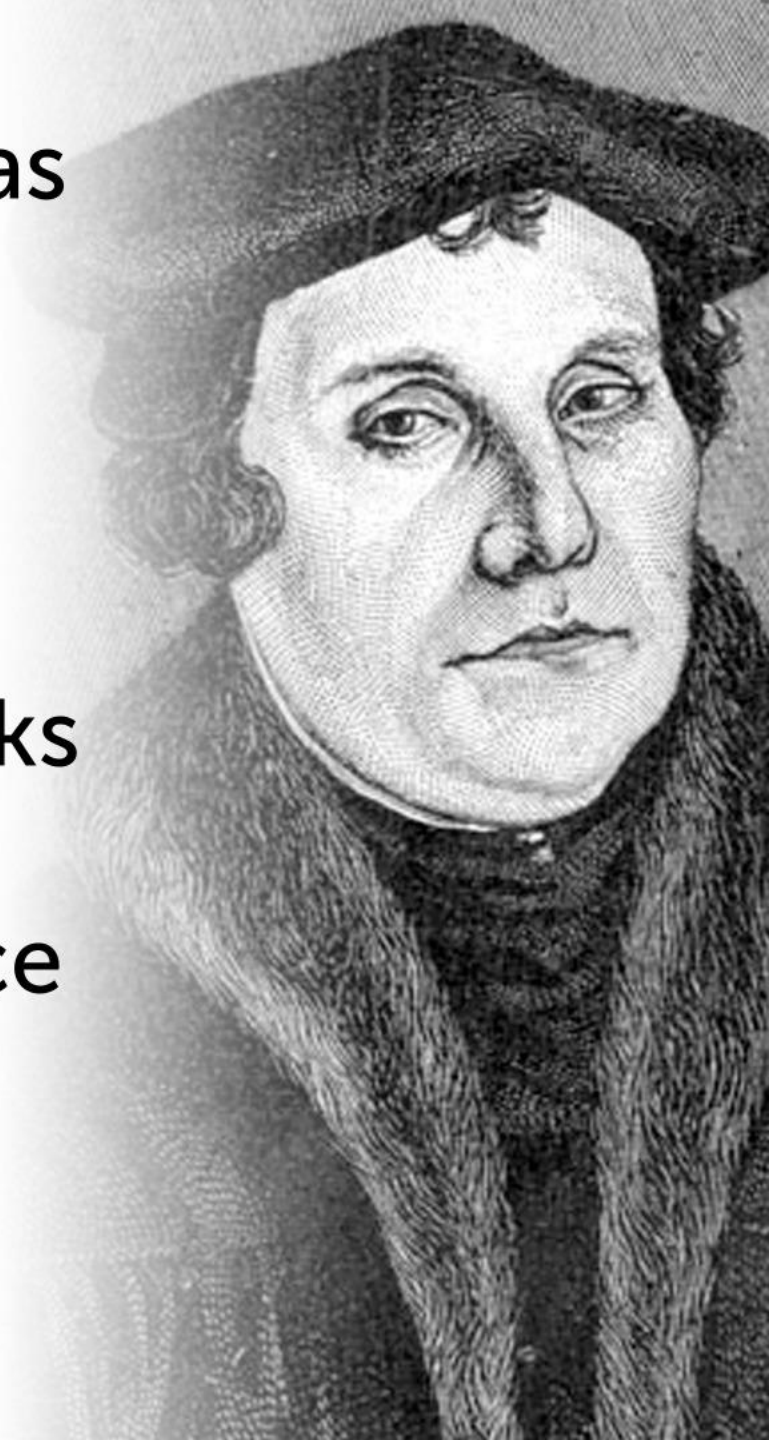
Such faith is produced and preserved in us by preaching why Christ came, what he brought and bestowed, what benefit it is to us to accept him. This is done when that Christian liberty which he bestows is rightly taught and we are told in what way we Christians are all kings and priests and therefore lords of all and may firmly believe that whatever we have done is pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God, as I have already said.

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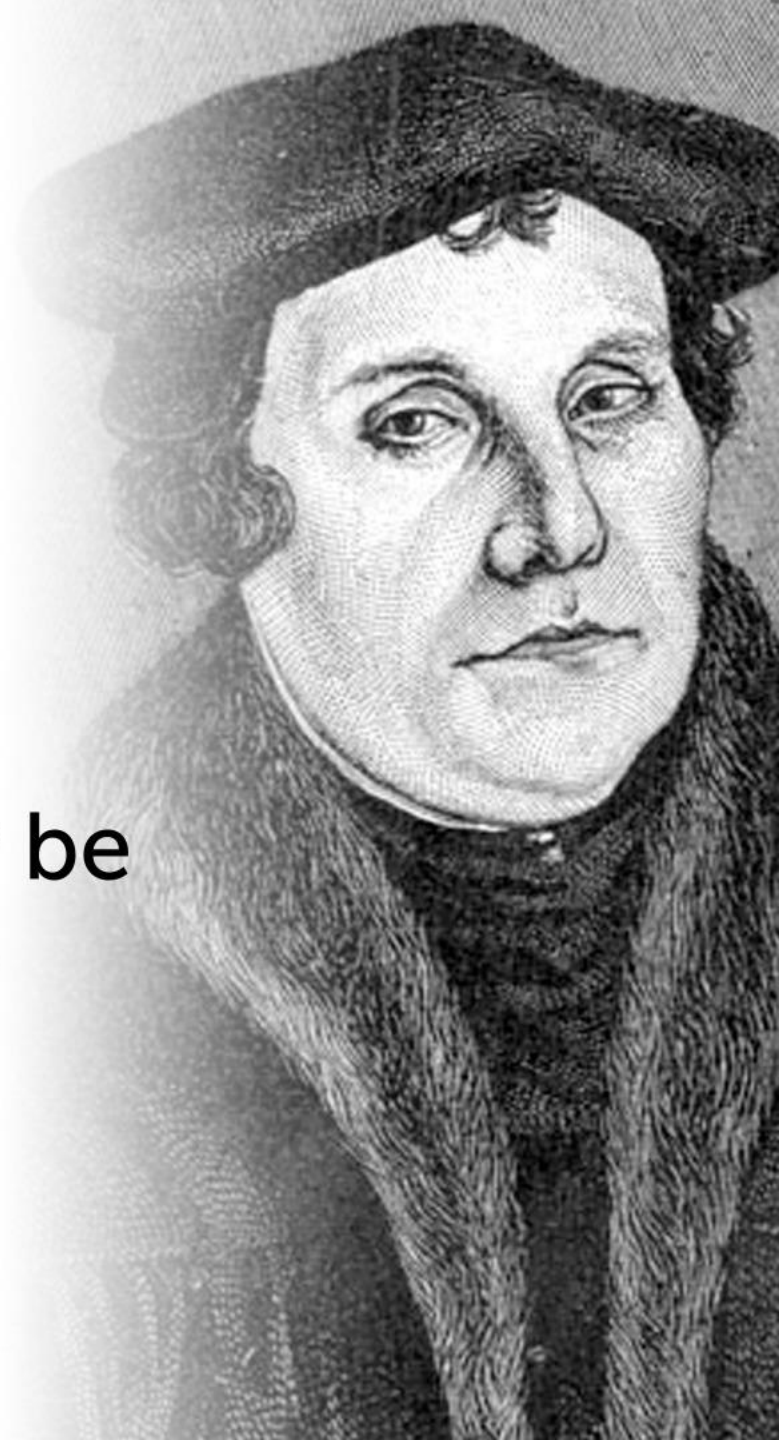
Here we see clearly that the Apostle has prescribed this rule for the life of Christians, namely, that we should devote all our works to the welfare of others, since each has such abundant riches in his faith that all his other works and his whole life are a surplus with which he can by voluntary benevolence serve and do good to his neighbor.

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Hence, as our heavenly Father has in Christ freely come to our aid, we also ought freely to help our neighbor through our body and its works, and each one should become as it were a Christ to the other that we may be Christs to one another and Christ may be the same in all, that is, that we may be truly Christians.

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Free & Servant

A portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair and a black garment, set against a textured green background. The man has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The background is a mottled green color.

- From what are Christians set free?
- To who or what are Christians enslaved?
- Examples?

Just as Christ put on the sinner for you, so you will “put on” your neighbor. In faith you do not live in your old self, as we have seen, but in Christ, and then in the works that God produces through you for your neighbor you once again do not live in yourself but come to live in others by helping them with their needs. You may begin to feel like you are being spread a little thin, but then again, when the object of life is not to become righteous by the law, giving yourself away doesn’t seem like a loss but a gain. On this point, Luther was fond of quoting Jesus: “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it” (Luke 9:24).

STEVEN D. PAULSON

