

Trust His grace and His law.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church; Oakfield, WI

Weekly Devotion

July 26th, 2009

John 1:17 “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

One of the toughest lessons to learn as a believer is to clearly distinguish between the laws given through Moses and the grace, love and mercy that came through Christ. It is far too easy to become confused and think that obeying the law brings God's grace, love and mercy. Or to become confused and think that because you did not obey God's laws and are suffering the consequences that God does not love you or will not show you mercy.

As believers it is best for us to remember that we are God's children in His family. Fishing with my children is a great time for my family, but it is also frustrating at times. Salmon fishing on the Kenai River is great fun. Like any type of fishing there is a hook at the end of the line, but on a salmon rod there is also a weight about 3 feet up the line to keep the hook and line at the right depth. It works great for catching the red salmon but it changes the cast into a deadly weapon. Imagine 8 people all lined up with these deadly weapons learning how to cast. One of them refuses to listen to me and he hooks another line and then himself. I raise my voice, take the rod away and tell him to sit on shore. No more fishing. My heart ached. I wanted nothing more than for him and the rest to catch a salmon. He realized my desire, believed my intentions and why I was so harsh about him obeying my commands. When I walked over to the child, believing and trusting in my love and intentions, he apologized and promised to do a better job at listening to my words. The Lord cooperated and he caught a 10 pound red salmon.

As believers we are tempted to get caught up with all the commandments except the most important one - the First commandment. We think that it all depends on what we do, eat, drink, smoke, think, or say if we are to get blessings and experience God's love and mercy. The first commandment reminds us to fear, love and trust in God above all things. He always loves us, even when it feels like He is punishing us. None of us can keep the 1st commandment – not even as the forgiven family of believers. We foolishly think that God does not love us; he hates us and withholds blessings from us because he wants to harm us. Thank God He comes to us through His Word and reminds us of His amazing grace to heal our broken hearts. He instills in us trust in His Commands. Out of His grace he protects us with His law as His family of believers. Trust His grace and His law.