

Lect. 28

"What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life"?

"Seek the Lord and live!" Was the cry of the shepherd turned preacher. Repent of your selfish ways or God will sweep through your house like a fire and there will be no way to stop it.

"Why?" Look around and what do you see! Justice is turn into severe bitterness, suffering and pain. Trapped, helpless to the point of hopelessness. When the truth, is plan as day yet there is denial. When we are told that we can no longer pollute the air or water and we despise scientist who are trying to tell us the truth about our planet but we do not want anyone telling us what we can do or not. The government, the church, and sad to say even the Lord.

Even the prophet of old in our first lesson Is. 12
"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation. And you will say in that day; Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations;

I remember when I was working on World Hunger Projects for the church, we learned these truths that to often when we helped to build roads, and dams, the rich got richer and the poor could no longer afford to buy food that they once grew for centuries to feed their family.

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The reason we lose jobs to other countries is that in many countries around the world: services, food, health and education are ignored we saw this in Mexico City where the powers ~~that be~~ ignored the 40,000 people living on the outskirts of Mexico City had no electricity, no sewers, no schools, ~~etc~~. Only the church was there to help care for these people. I learned about being thankful to God from these sisters and brothers in the midst of ththeir poverty, when we thank them for the sharing the little they had, they quickly said ^{No,} Thanks be to God.

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One wonders about the world powers dictating to their people demanding payments on outstanding debts that they would never be able to repay. Often times to build a dam, a road for an international corporation to relocate their factory in a poor part of the world. We lose jobs, the poor become poorer, the rich become richer.

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The scriptures declared long ago, ththe castles we build we shall never live in, the fields that we planted we shall not harvest. The major thing we forget is that God sees and knows all. The plea this morning is to see things from God's perspective, to seek good not evil, so that we may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with us, just as we say ~~Hes!~~ ^{Good}! Hate evil, ^{us} love good, maintain ^s justice for all people and perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on us. The Psalmist reminds us to number our days, don't be fools with the gifts that God has given us, our time, our talents and our resources. To use each day to the glorify God, to turn our hearts to God.

Remember this is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it. I say that almost every morning.

If the prophet Amos is to far removed from the realities of our day, let us turn to the Gospel where the question addressed to Jesus, the Good Teacher, "What must I do to receive eternal life?"

As the Pastor was leaving the church, an elder of the congregation asked this same question? What must I do to inherit eternal life? Just let me know and I will do it! Active in church for over 50 years, a council president, Sunday school teacher, a tither, a loving parent, a good spouse, I have worked hard all my life;

Several years ago Almina and I had a rummage sale and sold over 150 pieces of clothing from our closets. But if you would have looked into our closets the day after our closet were still full. They are still full in 2021 !

Jesus looked around at his disciples and said to them "How hard it will be for those who have much to enter the Kingdom of God; harder then for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. No wonder the disciples were shocked and asked one another, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus again looked at them and said this is impossible for human kind, but not for God, all things are possible for God. That's the Good News! (All things are possible for God) Even our salvation. Jesus came suffered and died that we might be set free, from sin, death and the devil.

We stand as God's ~~house~~, ~~Christ's~~ body, a thin line of hope that the blood of Jesus Christ is enough to save us. That God keeps his promises, when Peter said, "Look we have left everything and followed you. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold in this age- houses, brothers, sisters, mothers and children and fields. Sounds like we need to redefine who's the real owner of all things. As Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

And if we truly believe that God is the Creator of all life, who are our brothers and sisters and heirs of the Kingdom of God, ~~endless fields~~. And in the age to come the greatest promise of all, ^{is} eternal life. A gift from God!

Believing that Good News means in reality a changed life, a transformed relationship with the whole world brings a different point of view and with this different point of view comes persecution for the world does not like the truth; it wants to control, earn, dominate and be #1. Therefore, if there is nothing we can do to earn, salvation, eternal life, for everything belongs to God, it is a gift from God it is now and always will be a gift from God. We are simply stewards, managers, caretakers. "How can we be saved?" In the words of Jesus to the woman at the well, in our Gospel for today: Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for with God all things are possible. May we live each day empowered by the Body and Blood of Christ. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness to live as God's witnesses to share God's grace and mercy with our neighbors. **AMEN !!**