

Concord Ministry

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"If you want Peace, seek Justice for all"

Walk in Righteousness, depending on the Love and Spirit of Christ, as His servant forever"

May 29, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Scriptures, The Church, teaches "by grace you have been saved . . . For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:5-9. Luther commented that in order for us to be in a Faith Alone relationship to God, God had to conceal himself. From the beginning to the end of Scripture, in all His dealings with humankind God hides all the "proof", conceals all the evidence. The Egyptians saw a great wind blow the Red Sea aside. They did not see God. When Jesus fed the 5000 they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" They saw no miracle. Jesus gave them regular bread not miraculous Manna raining down from heaven.

God had to hide His handiwork in Creation too or the scientists would have discovered Him. I think in doing that He created in a way that left the evidence ambiguous. If you have Faith, you see Him. If you do not believe, you will not. The Only True God Creator of the Universe, the invisible and the visible, Creator of far more than we can ever comprehend, made you, sent the eternal Son to redeem you by His blood, destroyed forever the power of evil and death itself for all who hear His call and come to Him.

The greatest mystery is that He would notice us, care for us, love us. It takes a truly great God, worthy of eternal worship, to care for the weakest and lost. What more can we do than rejoice in the opportunity, the privilege of loving Him and serving Him. He will give you, us, no "proof" that we can preserve and force others to agree. He does do miracles even today. Many have known such, they only have the memory of them to believe. He may remember He touched our soul, our heart. He calls each one in the appropriate way for that one, different from another. "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." John 6:37. The Father gives faith. We can not talk into, argue, convince anyone to believe. Our lives and words are the witness God uses to touch the lives of some as He pleases. Love God your Savior. Love in His Spirit all His children.

In the name of one called by God to proclaim His Love for all,

Stephen H. Funck

The Sign of Concord

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Cor. 5:15

Psalms 57

A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.
- 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. God will send out this steadfast love and his faithfulness!
- 4 My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
- 6 They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves.
- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!
- 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!