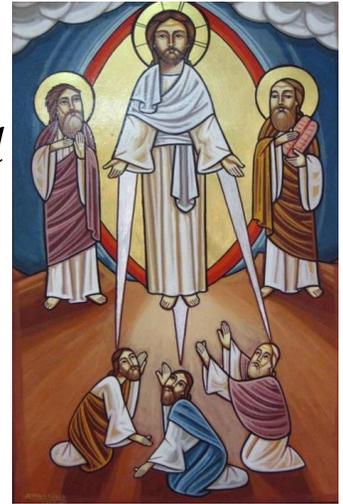




Living Each Day With Christ

Weekly Law & Gospel Bible Study



The law & Gospel method of Bible study is the Church's traditional way to study the Bible, which was popularized by Martin Luther. Law & Gospel Bible study makes a distinction between God's two main Biblical themes: law & Gospel. God's law theme identifies our sin, by revealing what God wants us to do that we don't do. God's Gospel theme identifies our need for Jesus the Savior, and reveals how God's love offers us salvation through Christ.

STEP ONE PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL GOD'S VOICE THROUGH THE TEXT:

"Father, let your law and Gospel voice renew our love, faith, and hope."

STEP TWO READ THE TEXT REPEATEDLY UNTIL YOU CAN TELL IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

Mark 9:2-9 (See the reverse side of the worksheet for the printed Gospel text)

STEP THREE REVIEW A STUDY BIBLE TO DETERMINE THE TEXT'S THEOLOGICAL MEANING:

Mark packs a lot into the details of this Gospel. First, he notes that Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him -- the disciples who accompanied him when Jesus was especially concerned about secrecy. Together, like Moses and Joshua (Exod. 24:13) and Moses alone (Exod. 34), the four of them went "up a high mountain apart by themselves" (v.2). Jesus' "garments became glistening, intensely white," Mark says, and Elijah and Moses "appeared to them" and spoke with Jesus (vv. 3-4). Mark notes and emphasizes the whiteness of Jesus' garments, "as no fuller on earth could bleach them," to show the connection between the transfiguration and Jesus' resurrection. White was considered the color of the angels (Mark 16:5; Rev. 1:13-14), and the color of the clothing to be worn by the resurrected (Rev. 3:4). The appearance of Elijah and Moses points to the coming of the end of time. The people of Jesus' time expected Elijah to appear just before the end. Similarly, some people also expected Moses to appear at the beginning of the end. The transfiguration, then, was a glimpse of Jesus' glory. It confirmed Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ (Mark 8:29), pointed to his resurrection from the dead (v. 9), and showed Jesus as the one who would bring in the end of time. It was this glimpse of Jesus' glory that staggered Peter. He saw more glory than he had ever dreamed of seeing. When he saw it he had only one thing in mind: to try to grab it and hold it, if only for a short while. "Master," he said, "it is well that we are here; let us make three booths or shelters of some kind." Before Peter could start his building program, though, God himself spoke. Addressing Peter and the disciples, God confirmed that Jesus was the Christ " "This is my beloved son," he said. But then he added three short words: "Listen to him" (v.7). These words, "Listen to him," were a reprimand to Peter. Seeing all the glory, Peter wanted to see more, but God wouldn't give him any more than a glimpse. He directed Peter to his ears, steering him from his visions to Christ's word. The true mission of Jesus was to be the suffering Son of man who came for the cross to surrender all his glory to the emptiness and terror of death, for us. So, instead of parading his miracles, he hid them, emptying himself to make us his own. This points, too, to the kind of life we live under the promise. We may pray for visions, as the prayer of the day for this Sunday encourages us to do. But God answers or requests in the same way he answered Peter: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." We will not see God, nor will we "glimpse the King in all his beauty" now. But we will hear him, and do hear him now. For he is with us, speaking to us, in our congregations, just as he promised. He is coming to us in his Word, coming with water, bread, and wine, to make us new, to bind up our wounds, exorcise our demons, and make us whole. God is stingy with sights and visions, but while he closes our eyes, he opens our ears. And someday, the sooner the better, he will open our eyes as well. For, "as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,' God has revealed to us through the Spirit" (1Cor. 2:9-10).



Mark 9:2-9 ²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

STEP FOUR COMPLETE A LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY TO *Restore Hope in the Savior*

Law Question: How does this text reveal our sin (self-centeredness) and how we do not live as God desires?

Answer.....

Gospel Question: How does this text reveal God's gift of Jesus as the Savior who freely offers us salvation?

Answer.....

Please send your "answers" to Pastor Bob: Schmalzle@yahoo.com which he likes to incorporate into the sermon.

STEP FIVE PRAYERFULLY MEDITATE UPON GOD'S GOSPEL VOICE: *Restoring Our Hope*

A. Quietening Our Inner Sanctuary: We quiet our hearts (souls) by focusing on our breathing. Breathe in slowly to the count of five (J-E-S-U-S)...hold your breath to a count of six (C-H-R-I-S-T)...exhale to a count of seven (T-H-E-L-O-R-D). Repeat this pattern of breathing until you are relaxed.

B. Dwelling within Our Inner Sanctuary: We meet the Lord Jesus in the sanctuary of our hearts (souls), which is a place created within our mind's eye for us to be with the Lord. Using our favorite sights, sounds, smells and feelings, we visualize our inner sanctuary as a place of peace where the Lord Jesus meets us.

C. Listening to God's Voice in Scripture Speak to Us through Jesus: As Jesus meets us in our inner sanctuary, he lovingly shares God's Gospel message of hope from the Scripture text we have just studied. Listening to God's Gospel voice restores our trust and hope that Jesus' death and resurrection freely offers us eternal Salvation. When Jesus speaks to us, our souls are nourished and refreshed.

STEP SIX SHARE THIS LAW & GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY WITH A FRIEND:

Forward this via email, give a printed copy, or post on social media