Searching For Righteousness

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In Romans 1:17, Martin Luther read: “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

Being righteous is something all Christians seek. But how to get there is what gave Luther trouble. Left to our own devices and strength, we can never get there – as Luther well knew. That was Luther’s problem. He couldn’t figure out how to get there.

But he kept reading and when he got to chapter 3, he found this: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

We all search for the God who loves us and we can love back. But because of our sins, we cannot find Him! On our own, we search in vain. Because on our own we are lost in our sins.

This leads us to suffering and despair, again, as Luther well knew. But when Luther read about “grace as a gift” he realized that he had been searching in all the wrong places.

God’s love and salvation are found only in God!

What we are looking for is found exactly where Martin Luther found it. We find God’s love and salvation in God’s Word. God makes it real and tangible – grab-able – in the Means of Grace. God’s Word, with water, bread and wine, gives us His precious promises of love and forgiveness.

Gathering together around the Means of Grace, we help each other in our search for God’s Love and Salvation.

Once we have found it, we need to keep learning about it. We also need to keep living it, inside and outside the church building!

And we need to share it – with others and the next generation. For each generation grows up searching for the salvation that eludes them. All people are conceived and born sinful, lost and condemned creatures until God makes us His own in Holy Baptism!

We have this promise of God that He has “surely seen the affliction of my people.” We who have found our loving God in the Gospel need to bring the same Gospel to an afflicting and crying people!