

# Sermon Study Guide – October 15th, 2017:

## *Today's Focus – Identity: Sola Gratia*

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ *Sola Gratia* = “By Grace Alone”
- ◆ As we focus on identity in this series, what are the dangers of identity theft? What kind of *spiritual* identity theft do you face?
- ◆ What is grace? How can grace help us secure our spiritual identity before God and before others?

2) Today's Message: Ephesians 2:8-10

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

3) What does God want you to know today?

*Throughout the sermon, consider...*

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

How does today's sermon show you how God wants you to live your life? (i.e. What good works does this motivate us to do?)

*Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...*

1. How secure did the people of Luther's day feel in regards to their identity before God? How secure did Luther feel?

2. In what scriptural teaching did Luther finally find security? How did this differ from the identity of the church of his day?
3. How does this struggle of the medieval church continue today?
4. Summarize Luther's thoughts: why is God's version of grace so essential to a secure, spiritual identity?
5. What makes the identity we receive in Christ so safe?
6. In a surprising twist: what is important for Christians to do if they want to secure their identity? Why?
7. What does Luther (and, more importantly, God!) have to say about what he's called us to do, even when our work seem trivial.

#### 4) Taking it Home:

*Consider the following Luther quotes as you go about your week:*

- ◆ *“This evil is planted in all human hearts by nature: If God were willing to sell His grace, we would accept it more quickly and gladly than when He offers it for nothing.”* (Martin Luther)
- ◆ *“Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved.”* (Martin Luther)
- ◆ *“The man who imagines that he will come to grace by doing whatever he is able to do is adding sin to sin. Therefore, he becomes doubly guilty.”* (Martin Luther)
- ◆ *“Dare not imagine that it was done for nothing or cost little... grace and life were given you; but it meant bitter work for Him. It cost him much.”* (Martin Luther)

*Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:*

**Monday:** review Jer. 31:31-34, Lk. 23:32-43

**Tuesday:** Romans 5

**Wednesday:** Romans 6

**Thursday:** Psalm 145

**Friday:** Matthew 20:1-16

**Saturday:** review Eph. 2:1-10