

SCRIPTURE READING: EXODUS 20:1-17 & 2 COR. 5-6:2

SINGING: 128:1-3 – 309:1-2 – 394:1-3 – 42:1-4 – 255:1-4

REMEMBER HIS MARVELOUS WORKS THAT HE HATH DONE,
HIS WONDERS AND THE JUDGMENTS OF HIS MOUTH!

PS. 105:5

- Reformation was one of God's most glorious deliverances
- Are you treasuring God's grace in this rich inheritance of His truth?

GOD'S SOLEMN ENTREATY TO TREASURE HIS GRACE

I. WHO MAKES THIS ENTREATY? II. WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF THIS ENTREATY?

III. WHY IS THIS ENTREATY MADE?

I. WHO MAKES THIS ENTREATY?

A. The first one who made this is Paul the apostle

1. He sensed a great urgency (5:10, 11, 14, 20)

B. Yet he spoke about others: *we then, as workers together*

1. Behind the human laborers looms the Divine laborer (1 Cor. 3:9; 5:20)

- a. work of saving sinners is exclusively God's

- b. yet God employs human instruments to accomplish it

2. Do you recognize this and are a hearer like the Thessalonians

II. WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF THIS ENTREATY?

A. Not to *receive God's grace in vain*

1. What does 'grace' refer to?

- a. not personal saving grace which is never bestowed in vain

- b. but the gracious Gospel preached which often is heard in vain

B. Consider God's grace in connection with the Reformation

1. in the Bible you hold in your hand (compare Deut 4:7-8; 30:11-20)

2. in the pure Word of God as the *only rule of life and faith*: Sola Scriptura!

3. in the restoration of the whole counsel of God's Gospel message

a. You are a totally lost sinner, enemy of God!

b. One-sided grace: God's Riches At Christ's Expense (2 Cor. 5:17)

4. in setting forth Christ as being able to save all who come to God by Him

5. in restoring the truth that *whosoever believeth on Him shall be saved*

III. WHY IS THIS ENTREATY MADE?

A. Because Paul observed many who received this Gospel in vain

B. Because Paul feels time is running out: vs. 2

CLOSE: Is Luther's question yours, "What must I do to be saved?"

A. Don't follow Luther's first answers!

1. First he turned to the saints

2. Then he tried in many ways to become a saint

3. Gradually "God led him on" to the Gospel light

B. Follow Paul's answer: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. He alone is the *covering righteousness* acceptable to God

2. He counsels you to *buy of Him gold, raiment and eye-salve*