



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

October 31 is Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. This occasion gives us an opportunity to remember some of the great truths of Scripture that had been lost and were recaptured by the many great reformers God raised up. Through our devotionals this week and next I will focus on the five solas or five onlys that summarize the Reformation.

Scripture alone (sola Scriptura) · *Christ alone* (solus Christus) · *Grace alone* (sola gratia) · *Faith alone* (sola fide) · *God's glory alone* (soli Deo gloria).

Scripture

Reflections on "Scripture alone" in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 8:3 Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 32:47 It is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land.

Psalms 19: 7-11 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 110:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Matthew 22:29 But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

II Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

II Peter 1:19-21 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Song

***Psalm 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart.
O, let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home.

Refrain: Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O, let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice.
O, heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart,
O, let the ancient words impart; Refrain

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How Firm a Foundation You Saints of the Lord

How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

("How Firm a Foundation" words by J. Rippon's Selection of Hymns and music by J. Funk's A Compilation of Genuine Church Music 1832; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985, Harmonization © 1987 CRC Publication, CCLI #358926, Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Prayer: Holy Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you caused your Word to be faithfully spoken, written and preserved over sixteen hundred years for our blessing and benefit.

We are a broken and needy people, we are struggling with the challenges of daily living. We need help. You know what we need more than anyone else and you have given us what we most need.

Our essential problem is a bread problem, a famine in our souls because we don't eat the bread of heaven, the manna come down from God. Your Word is the bread of life, it is eternal life. We don't live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you.

You are a good Father who speaks clearly to His children, you make your will known, you warn us and teach us your way. You are not a father who is silent and distant and keeps his children in the dark.

God, you are an overflowing fountain of all good, seeing our need, and out of your deep love for us, condescended to our level to our language to speak to us in a way we could understand.

In this you show your great love for your children. Out of your Fatherly love and special care for us and for our salvation you have revealed secret things, "... which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Father, through the prophet Isaiah's words, we are reminded that your Word does not return void but accomplishes that which you desire. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. Your Word is divinely inspired and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that we are thoroughly equipped for every good work. We're grateful for the guidance we receive daily through faithfully reading and applying Scripture to our lives.

Father, thank you for your Word which is life and health to my soul. I trust that you are working behind the scenes for my good. I will hide your Word in my heart, knowing that it will be well with me because you are good and faithful, in Jesus' name. Amen.