

The Day of Pentecost 2017

John 7:37–39: On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Dearly beloved:

Christ laid down His Life for the Life of the world. No man took His Life from Him. ‘It is finished,’ hear Him cry! That is when Jesus was glorified! And there is now, and never again, in God’s eyes, any appropriate reason for anyone to die! Not anyone; ignore any MAN who says different!

Christ picked up His Life again! And He guaranteed peace to His people, and made His Father our Father, and His God our God. And there is now, and forever, New Life for ALL! MEANING: **Christ** is for all, AND **His Father**, AND **The Spirit of Christ**, ‘Streams of Living Water!’ Into Whose Name, by Whose authority, you and I have been baptized.

Christ will come again! ‘Come, Lord Jesus! Come again!’ (One of these times, my dear ones, THAT is going to

work!) 'Come again!' MEANING: Since The Father gave you for the Life of the world, and since Your Spirit has made The Guarantee of 'Streams of Living Water' to just WHOEVER— "**Whoever** comes to Me!"—since you've taken away the sins of the world, and thus our sins, then **whose sins** are there that you cannot take away?!!!

Oh, you know, my dear ones, the blessing, the peace that passes understanding, when the Spirit of Jesus teaches us to pray THAT WAY! As the Lord pours out His Spirit—POURS OUT HIMSELF!—and all His pledges and commitments to the world, to us!—that, looking in the eye the one who play-acts as so utterly against us, we have nothing to give that one other than Heaven and His Peace; sins taken away!

The contradiction to That Prayer, That Spirit, That Christ—the clogging of the Stream—we know too well. And it's the worst sinnin' that you done this week, my friend; me too! It goes like this: (fists clenched, sour look, and a hearty 'grrrrr!')

Oh, we know how to refine the fist-clenched GRRRR...but it is no less DEATH.

'I really don't want to repeat it, but here goes...'

'Bless her heart! But she...

'Yeah, same old same old! They...'

'ALL I was trying to DO was...but then HE...'

The look down, the eye-roll up, the motion with head, or foot, or mouth...

We are dangerous, my dearies; in many and various ways. No wonder the Lord and Giver of Life teaches in John 3: God did NOT send His Son into the world to do what He has every RIGHT to do—to CONDEMN the world, like all y'all! INSTEAD—GREAT Gospel word that, 'instead!'—Instead, He sent His Son into the WORLD that the WORLD through Him might be sa-ved! Just, 'whoever!' Hear the roar of the Waters Alive, the Stream of the Spirit!

For there are ONLY two religions, you know: Moses, on the one hand; Jesus Christ on the other.

Moses gave a great religion, flawless, perfect! And He demands the same from the world! A life given by the Creator and Father of Love, lived as HE wills, not us in rebellion. That life summed up in devotion to the next man, what we give him, rather than taking, taking, taking.

So Christ came, because the world was doomed, grrr-ing itself under the REAL, condemnation, God's Law; instead of all the little substitutes with which we replace that Law: our changing tastes.

The doctor in Greece says your poor pastor tore his meniscus. I only see one benefit in such a pain: many of the airport workers let me and my son jump all the lines; and get seated; and poured on the politeness! (Kinda tempted to keep the cane after the surgery for future trips! But Allan suggested there's a commandment agin' that!)

But I was also tempted to use the can, or worse, on the trip. Wonderful times in Greece, and wonderful sights in Germany. Until we went into one memorial of the terror unleashed in the 30's, until the Reich fell. After that horrible visit, I actually suggested to my boy on the way out the door that we grab a few more canes, or sturdier sticks, and go find us a neo-Nazi rally they sometimes hold in that land. (Again, that's the problem catechizing your own children. 'Does the Law allow that? Is that the Gospel, Dad?' Grrrr!)

Not a theory, this DEATH in which we HAVE been sunk, and into which we fall daily and much, my dear ones!

A blessing of the trip was the ability to shut off the news for a month! But trying to catch up last week, what is the first thing I see on the crystal ball? A comedienne—evidently one of our funniest; I'm not current on such things—holding the bloody severed head of the President of the United States, and a knife.

I was pleased to read that there are still blessed historians alive. One noted what a comparatively PEACEFUL protest that was, over against the history of our nation's politics! It was fashionable since the start of the Republic to burn in effigy presidents and such, as protest.

And I have no business or use wasting our time with politics. My calling is to point out to all of us that whether it is such a disgusting display, or one of our own refined protests against God-installed rulers, or God-installed parents, or God-installed teachers, or bosses, or employees, or children—oh, just read the Commandments; you'll see!—It's ALL the same old GRRRRR that we know so well.

Which takes me to a happy, good argument! There are time-wasting and godless arguments; but there are good ones.

'As the Scriptures says, Streams of Living Water will flow from within him/Him!'

Who is the HIM in that Scriptural promise? The way our Bible translates it this morning, it's the WHOEVER comes to Jesus. But there are godly AND learned people who insist it should refer to Christ Himself. For almost all the time, when John writes 'As the Scripture said,' it refers to Christ.

'Whoever comes to Me—and the Scripture promises that Streams of Living Water will flow from Me—I GIVE My Spirit, My Matchless Gift to poor sinners dead and getting

deader!'

Or, Whoever comes to Me will have such Spirit, such Stream pour out from HIM, the WHOEVER!

Of course, the one who guides your blind pastor is blessed Doctor Martin Luther. Who declared often:

'You are wasting your time to speak about God if you are not ONLY and SOLELY speaking of Christ!'

'The POOR Holy Spirit! He only know ONE THING: Christ! The POOR Holy Spirit doesn't know anything else!'

And so on...

One of the happiest and most Spirit-filled things I ever heard was brother Charlie's daughter, Christi. (Tell her when you talk to her today, Charlie, how much I love her!) There was a time when she was dating the mad-dog Lutheran pastor who filled in for me last week, my first ever confirmand, George.

Old George had been through different phases of Christianity; but then Lutheran. But before he landed in the assurance of His Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Supper of our Lord, He was caught up with those who spoke of a very JESUS-LESS Spirit. Instead, those who had the Spirit liked to

talk about THEMSELVES a lot! Lord, have mercy.

It was at a Bible study one night, when the leader was going on about strange things in the Bible, and scary things to come, that God's little lamb, Christi, got up and left. Indignant, then-boyfriend caught her and was upset. And when challenged about what SHE believed about what was being taught there that night, out poured the Spirit of her Baptism, out poured Streams of Living Water, when she said, 'You know, George, I don't KNOW what I believe about those passages they were talking about! But I KNOW it's not THAT!'

The Spirit of Christ lives in you, my dear Christians. He came to make His mansion with you in this world and the next! Guarantee and Give at your Baptism into Christ, the Spirit of Jesus is just like Jesus, because HE ONLY KNOWS JESUS! And AS Jesus, The HOLY Spirit—Spirit Unique!—can GIVE HIMSELF UTTERLY and COMPLETELY—and then Give Himself all over AGAIN, utterly and completely!

That is the Glory of Christ, and His Father's Name, and the Spirit Who proceeds from BOTH!

So that it is ONLY FITTING that when you hear of all that Christ has done and still does for your Life, YOU SMILE, and YOU BE GLAD, and YOU REJOICE when the logjam is washed away in you, and the next poor man gets from you nothing but the Spirit and Peace and Pardon and Prayers and Love—of the Spirit, of your King Christ!

And any GRRR that tries to stop that up—in you, on the internet, the TV, the radio, even radiating from the next poor sinner, GRRR-ing at you, or stirring up in YOU the GRRRR...

It is good, right, and healthy for body and soul and spirit and mind, to drop, to ignore, to smile at in peace, and to turn the grumbling into prayer.

So says the Spirit!

Christ has died; Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Dying, He destroyed our death, by dying. And rising, He brings new life again!

The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come!' Come with pardon and life for all! Come for ALL!

Come, Lord Jesus! Come again! Amen!