

**October 27, 2019 – Romans 3:19-28** (NIV)

**Theme: The Gates Of Heaven Are Open!**

*“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness FROM God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness FROM God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”*

*“I felt that I had been born anew and that the gates of heaven had been opened. The whole of Scripture gained a new meaning. And from that point on the phrase, 'the justice of God' no longer filled me with hatred, but rather became unspeakable sweet by virtue of a great love.”* Luther’s quote after reading Romans 1:16-17

**Romans 1:16-17** reads: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the Gospel a Righteousness FROM God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.”*

The Holy Spirit led Martin Luther to realize that salvation is FROM God, not from ourselves. And this salvation that God gives is through faith in Christ Jesus alone.

Sola Fides – Faith alone – Faith is the receiving organ of that which God has won for us in Christ Jesus.

As the Apostle Paul writes in this section of Romans chapter three – ALL Sin – and by the atoning Work of Christ Jesus, ALL are Justified, and this work of Christ becomes ours through Faith.

The blessing and miracle of faith is also God’s Work for us and in us by the Means of Grace, that is the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

The Gates of heaven are truly open and Jesus says: ***“I AM the Gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*** (John 10:9)