

The Son Sets You Free

October 30, 2016 – John 8:31-36 - Reformation Sunday

“To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. They answered Him, We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free? Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’”

Pater Noster, Qui es in caelis, sanctificatur nomen tuum: adveniat regnum tuum: fiat voluntas tua sicut in caelo et in terra. Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie: et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris: et ne nos inducas in temptationem: sed libera nos a malo.

This is the Lord’s Prayer in Latin.

Imagine being a German, who spoke and read only German but when you went to worship the Lord at a Public Worship service, you only heard Latin spoken and read and sung.

In Germany at the time of Martin Luther the worship services and the reading of Scripture were done in Latin. This posed a problem. The problem was that not many people knew what the Bible said.

It was thus very difficult if not impossible for the people of Germany to know and believe in Jesus as their One and Only Savior from sin, death and hell.

Since most people in Germany could not read the Latin Bible, it was easy for the clergy to mislead the people of what God said in the Holy Bible.

Martin Luther wanted to change this. He wanted the people of Germany to know Jesus as their Savior. And so in 1521 and 1522 Martin Luther Translated the New Testament of the Bible from the Greek into German. Then in 1534 he finished translating the Old Testament from the Hebrew (some portions are in Aramaic) into German. Martin Luther did this because he wanted more people to know Jesus as their One and Only Savior from sin, death, the devil and hell. Martin Luther wanted more people to know Jesus so they would be in heaven!

It is now 2016 A.D. We thank the Lord God that He has graciously provided theologians who knew and still know Hebrew and Greek and have translated the Bible into English.

Here at St. John’s we no longer conduct Worship Services in German or sing the German Hymns. Even singing of *Silent Night* in German for the Christmas Eve Service here at St. John’s – Northfield Twp. was unfamiliar to more and more members of the congregation.

Now because the Word of God is in a Language that we can understand we can freely read and hear - with meaning - the words of our Lord Jesus in Scripture and learn of the Work that He has done. We know of God’s Creating power, His sustaining power and providence in our life and in our world. We know of the forgiveness of sins and Life Everlasting. We know, because we have heard the Word of our Lord Jesus!

In this portion of Scripture from John chapter 8 the Lord Jesus says:

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

We are free from the fear of sin, death, guilt and hell and we can look forward to Heaven because of Jesus.

Every time that you read the Bible in a language that you understand, remember to give thanks to God that He has given us theologians who are willing and able to translate the Word of our Lord as revealed in the Holy Bible, so that we can read it, hear it, study it, meditate upon it, and inwardly digest it.