

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Martin Luther: How the Gospel Saved a Desperate Monk

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Scripture: **Romans 1:16-17**

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## OVERVIEW

Martin Luther wrestled with two questions, “how do I stand before a holy God?” and “what does God think of me?” Eventually, he read Psalm 31:1 in which David cries out to God, “in your righteousness, deliver me,” along with Romans 1 in the original Greek. At the end of verse 17, Paul, quoting Habakkuk, declares, “The righteous shall live by faith.” At last he had the answers to the two questions and it was not the answers that the church had given him. God used this German monk to recover the gospel and ignite a revival that is still spreading throughout the world.

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## CORROBORATING TEXTS

Matthew 22:34-40, Psalm 31:1, Romans 1:16,17, Habakkuk 2:4

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The first of Luther’s 95 theses was, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” Before he grasped the truth in the Gospel, he saw repentance as a duty that could never be adequately performed. How did the gospel give him the understanding that a life of repentance is not discouraging or empty but instead is life giving and deepens our love for God?
2. What is the link between repentance and belief?
3. What was meant by the phrase “alien righteousness?” What should we do when we find ourselves acting or thinking that our good deeds make God look more favorably on us?
4. Luther wrote that “Faith transforms God from enemy to friend.” What about faith enables us to see God as holy and righteous as well as our friend?
5. Is faith something we do or is it a gift from God?
6. What are the two truths about Jesus Christ that Luther was comforted by when he meditated on the crucifixion? [*He loves us and he can sympathize with us in our weakness.*]