

Luther's Legacy for Laity
Disc 2: Dr. David Lose
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This study guide will follow the 8 parts of Dr. Lose's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages (if any were referenced) and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

Part 3: The Effects of Grace

Summary:

Since we are freed from the impossible task of saving ourselves (Up Religion) we suddenly realize we have a lot of time on our hands. We are free to love our neighbor and get a lot out of life. A constant temptation for us is to try to participate, if only in a small way, in saving ourselves. Dr. Lose listed several, including the ever-popular "accepting Jesus into my heart." Grace Alone means exactly that. There is nothing that we can contribute to our own salvation. Infant baptism is a clear example that we can bring nothing to the table. It is all God's doing.

We are free to tell other people of the God we have met in Jesus Christ, and free to forgive their sins. Luther calls this the "Priesthood of all believers." Since we don't have to work to save ourselves, we are free to do God's work in the world in all our relationships and walks of life. Our daily work becomes the arena we can fulfill our calling as baptized Christians.

When we become a Christian, God no longer sees us only as the broken, mortal and fragile sinner that we are. God knows that is who we are, yet loves us anyway! We remain tempted to get back on the ladder to God, which is why Luther said we are at the same time, saint and sinner.

Biblical References:

(none)

Confessional References:

(none)

Questions for Discussion:

1. React to Dr. Lose's suggestion of adding "like it or not" to the baptismal liturgy.
2. Is the thought of grace terrifying to you?
3. What did Luther mean when he said that all the baptized are priests?
4. Does God's grace mean that you are no longer a sinner?
5. How frightening is it to you to be out of control of your life?
6. What does Dr. Lose mean when he says "We are more than the sum of our past events, good, bad and ugly."

Glossary:

Grace – God’s undeserved love and kindness shown to us most clearly on the cross. Dr. Lose added another dimension to this concept. The Lutheran emphasis on Grace Alone terrifies us, because we are completely out of control. We are not a player in this at all. Salvation is completely God’s doing, or in other words, pure grace.

Bondage of the Will – Luther believed that there is nothing that we can do on our own that can effect our salvation. We can’t even choose to believe on our own. (Kathryn Kleinhans DVD addresses this concept more fully.)

Priesthood of all Believers – Through baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, all Christians are called to exercise the office of the priest. It is no longer limited to those who are priests by profession. All Christians have access to the love and mercy of God. All Christians can say to another person, your sins are forgiven. This concept, however, is not about daily work/jobs etc.

Vocation – Our calling as baptized Christians to be God’s people in the world in all walks of life. There is no spiritual hierarchy or ladder of holiness.

Simil Justus et Pecator – Luther’s understanding that baptized Christians are simultaneously justified and a sinner. What changes when we become a Christian is not our being (we remain mortal and sinful) but rather how God regards us (beloved, holy and righteous). We remain the same persons, just as sinful as before. However, we certainly can be more joyful!