

Luther-quotations from foreword Paul to Romans

Luther explains terms 1522



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Foreword

The world seems to have the opinion that faith is there only as a whole, and one should confess it. And that kindness is only a gift.

Luther, on the contrary, writes in 1522 in his foreword to the letter Paul to the Romans: „Mercy does not divide and separate itself, like the gifts do.“

In the year 2022, I found the word that God gave to Martin Luther. I read the books of the New Testament that he recommends, along with his forewords to them.

The explanation Martin Luther gives for certain terms that Paul uses helped me better understand the contexts in the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Because I have the opinion that the world can understand the Gospel better through this, I decided to select quotations from that and place them in this work.

Further follows quotations from the foreword of Martin Luther to the letter Paul to the Romans from September 1522 from a translation-attempt of mine into nowadays german writing style and by me translated into English, in the following is used as an abbreviation as „Luther-quotation(s) 1522“, in which the sentence structure is left in the original form:

„This epistel is the right main piece of the New Testament, and the most and all pure Gospel.“

„That is why I also want to do my duty to it, and provide through this foreword an entrance to that, as much as God gave me.“

„though yet on it a bright light is, almost enough to enlighten the whole scripture.“

„For the first we need to get informed about the language, and know, what Sanct Paul means through these words law, sin, mercy, faith, justice, flesh, spirit and of that kind, otherwise there is no use at reading it.“

Law

Remark: Doing laws work would increase the unlust and rouse up the flesh. Because you do it with unsatisfaction, since it is not freely but rather by force. It is own works when you think you have to do it yourself. But that increases the unbelief in the heart and drives the sin forward and into the flesh. At the same time, law would be reduced by the flesh because law is spiritual, and the flesh starts to argue against the spirit. The spirit, though, only wants to kill the sin in the flesh. Also, the spirit would let one fulfill the law so that the argue comes to a standstill and the flesh gets satisfied, since the law then no longer demands.

Doing laws work

Luther-quotations 1522:

„the law is spiritual“.

„If the law would be bodily, then to it would be done enough through works“.

„the laws work, is all, that man does and can do on the law, out of his free will and own strength.“

„under and beside such works remains in the heart unlust and the need to the law“.

„How can one provide himself to the good with works, that does no good work, without unlust and unwillingness in the heart?“

Fulfill law

Luther-quotations 1522:

„to fulfill law is, with lust and love doing its work and freely without the laws need.“

„But such lust of free love, gives the Holy Spirit into the heart“.

„The spirit though makes a joyful and liberal heart, like the law demands“.

„so that the good works then come from the faith itself“.

Gods merit

Luther-quotations 1522:

„The spirit though is not given but only, in, with, and through the faith to Jesus Christ“.

„So does the faith not come, without only through Gods word or Gospel, that preaches Christ like he is Gods son and man, died and arose for our sake.“

„That is why, that only the faith makes ready for the law and fulfills the law, since it brings the spirit out of Christs merit“.

Sin

Remark: Flesh shall not only be what the unchastity belongs to, as all at man goes for the flesh. Through one's own works, unbelief arises in the heart. It would be the faith in the heart that bewares man from driving into sin. But sin may not be a law but rather the result of the own works. Only who turns once to the work of God and gives that his attention instead for the works of the flesh, that one then lets himself be inspired by God and his works then come out of God.

Doing sin

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Sin is in the scripture not only called the outerly work at the body, but all that is working, that stirs and moves to the outer work, namely the hearts reason with all strength.“

„Doing should be called, when man falls and drives fully into sin.“

„it woun't appear any outerly work of sin, man drives though fully into it with body and soul.“

Cause for sin

Luther-quotations 1522:

„and sinly does the scripture see into the heart and onto the root and main source, of all sin, which is, the unbelief, in the reason of the heart.“

„So that, like the faith alone justifice, brings the spirit and lust to good outerly works. As so only the unbelief does sin, and rouse the flesh up and brings lust to evil outerly works, like happened to Adam and Eve in Paradise Genesis 3.“

„That is why Christ only calls the unbelief as sin, since he says John 16 the spirit will punish the world for the sin, that they do not believe onto me“.

„so before good or evil works happen, as the good or evil fruits, must be there previously in the heart, faith or unbelief.“

Mercy and gifts

Remark: Mercy might be there only as a whole, either it comes over all, or else over none. In the sense of John chapter 19, they divided his clothes, but for his skirt, they rolled the dice. The gifts, though, everybody gets to what they can carry, like their faith. As long as the spirit in us and its gifts are not complete then there stays sin left that argues against the spirit until all sin got killed.

Mercy is not dividable

Luther-quotations 1522:

„his mercy does not divide and separate, like the gifts do“.

„so does the mercy in deed so much, that we get counted as fully righteous for God.“

„because we believe onto Christ, and have his spirits beginning, God is us so favourable and merciful.“

Out of mercy God pours the spirit and its gifts into us

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Mercy and gifts are that different, that mercy actually means, Gods favour, that he carries to us out of his own, of which he starts to be tended, to pour Christ, the spirit with its gifts into us.“

Out of mercy God lets us stay sinners

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Although though the gifts and the spirit increases in us daily and are still not complete, that therefore stay evil lusts and sin left in us, which argue against the spirit.“

„like Genesis 3 is promised the dispute between the womans seed and the snakes seed“.

„Because of the unkilld fleshs sake we are still sinners“.

„So you understand then the seventh chapter, as Sanct Paul calls himself still a sinner, and also in the eighth says, there is nothing damnable on them, who are in Christ, because of the unfinished gifts and spirit.“

Out of mercy God gives assistance to us

Luther-quotations 1522:

„But because we believe onto Christ, and have his spirits beginning, God is us so favourable and merciful, that he does not want to pay attention to such sin, nor judge it, but rather drives with us according to our faith in Christ, until the sin will get killed.“

Faith

Remark: Faith is that which arises when you watch the work of God then you start to believe. Unbelief on the other side arises if one does his own work and through that hopes for attention. If then the disappointment comes, as the attention stays away, then you fall into unbelief. Man can not take away the unbelief, neither can he give himself faith. To take away the unbelief is the gift of justice and to work faith is the gift of redemption.

Faith is Gods work

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Faith is a lively considering confidence for Gods mercy“.

„Faith is a godly work in us, that transforms us and new borns us out of God, John 1 and kills the old Adam“.

„makes us totally different people from the heart, courage, sense and all strength and brings the Holy Spirit with it.“

„so, that it is impossible to divorce work from faith, as so impossible, as burning and shining may be divided from the fire.“

„Ask God to work faith in you, else you might stay eternally without“.

Faith is not the work of man

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Faith is not, the insanity and dream of man, a lot of consider as faith.“

„when they hear the Gospel, they fall apart, and make to it with own strength a thought in the heart, that speaks, I believe.“

„like it is a human poetry and thought, that never reaches the hearts reason, as so it does nothing, and no betterings follow.“

„when they see, that no betterings of life nor good works follow, and though hear and could talk a lot from faith, they fall into the error, and say, the faith is not enough, one must do works, shall one get devout and blissful.“

„watch out, for your own false thinking, and unuseful talkers, that want to be smart from faith and good works to justify, and are the biggest fools.“

Justice

Remark: Man can only forgive one that laws, he put up on his own. The faith, though, lets one fulfill laws. So one

lives then no longer in injustice but rather in the justice.
Faith and justice are gifts that come from God.

Justice is a gift of God

Luther-quotations 1522:

„through faith, man gets without sin, and wins lust to Gods commandments“.

„through that he gives God his honour and pays him, what he owes him. But man he serves willingly, with what he can, and therefore also pays everyone.“

„Such justice, can nature, free will, and our strength, not bring to path.“

„Now, justice is such faith, and is called Gods justice, or that counts before God, for so, that it is Gods gift“.

Justice comes not out of the own works

Luther-quotations 1522:

„like no one can give himself the faith, so can he nor take away the unbelief.“

„how does he want to, whatsoever, take away one single smallest sin?“

„therefore it is all false and hypocrisy and sin, that except in faith happen in unbelief“.

„Romans 14 it may rail as it wants.“

Flesh and spirit

Remark: The flesh has its will, and when it is allowed to once have it then it becomes satisfied. Flesh that always is held unsatisfied starts to rebel. Does then come moral force into it, then man become devils. The spirit, though, only wants to kill the sin in the flesh and at the same time let it has its will, so that it becomes satisfied. Only when the flesh wants by itself, then it gets transformed towards the spirit and that way, be sanctified.

Flesh is the whole man, not only the unchastity

Luther-quotations 1522:

„Flesh is called by Paul, like also by Christ John 3 all which is born out of flesh, the whole man, with body and soul, with rationality and all senses.“

„Because of so, that all on him goes after the flesh“.

„Flesh and spirit must you not understand here as so, that flesh might be only, what the unchastity belongs to.“

„Flesh shall be a man, that inwardly and outwardly lives and works, that serves for the fleshs benefit and timely living.“

Fleshs work comes out of the unbelief

Luther-quotations 1522:

„also that one know to be called as flesh, that without mercy, of highly spiritual things much rhymes, lives and talks“.

„like you can learn well from the works of the flesh Galatians 5“.

„which is not from unchastity, but rather of all sins, but the most from the unbelief be said, that the most spiritual vice is.“

„and Romans 8 says, that through the flesh the law gets weakend“.

Spirits work works from the inside to the outside

Luther-quotations 1522:

„also that one know to be called spiritual, that with the most and all outerly works deals, like Christ, as he washed the disciples feet, and Peter since he led the ship and fished.“

„Spirit shall be, who inwardly and outwardly lives and works, that to the spirit and future live serves.“

„beware yourself of all teachings, that other than these words are using.“

„Flesh and spirit you must not understand here as so, that Flesh might be only, what the unchastity belongs to, and spirit only, what the inner part of the heart belongs to.“