

The Circle of Faith

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

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Ezek 33:7-20; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Lk 13:1-9

Introduction

Apollo 13 & The Martian

Life is about learning and growing. It's about dealing with suffering and finding _____, for [CCT]: The Holy Spirit's work is to lead us to repentance and a _____ of faith in Christ.

I. The Scientific Method and the Problem of Suffering

A. The Scientific Method.

1. Ask a Question
2. Do Background Research
3. Construct a Hypothesis
4. Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment
5. Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion
6. Communicate Your Results.

B. The Problem of Suffering

Luke 13:1-5

What's the assumption of the people?

What is Jesus response?

Isaiah 53:6a (ESV)

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray...

Psalm 51:5 (NIV)

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

What should be our response to suffering, whether of ourselves or others?

When we see suffering, whether ours or someone else's, it should be cause for _____:

1. Acknowledgement of _____;
2. _____ in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Who's the "him"?

The Gospel: The punishment we know that we deserve? _____ took it upon himself.

Ezekiel 33:11

II. The Fruit (Life) of Repentance

When Jesus says, "Unless you repent, you too will perish" by context what he means is "perish eternally," "eternal _____."

Luke 13:6–9

Belief in Jesus is not just a matter of words. To *confess* the faith is to _____ it; that is, to _____ forgiveness, to be loved by God and to love others.

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God is patient, yet, St. Paul teaches us

1 Corinthians 10:9 (ESV)

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test. . .

Our Lutheran Confessions are clear about this:

¹ Our churches teach that there is forgiveness of sins for those who have fallen after Baptism whenever they are converted. ² The Church ought to impart Absolution to those who return to repentance [Jeremiah 3:12]. ³ Now, strictly speaking, repentance consists of two parts. ⁴ One part is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin. ⁵ The other part is faith, which is born of the Gospel [Romans 10:17] or the Absolution and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven. It comforts the conscience and delivers it from terror. ⁶ Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruit of repentance [Galatians 5:22–23]. (Augsburg Confession 12.1-6)

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

To say, "I love Jesus" but not attempt to put that into practice is to ...

III. Hope for Sinners

This is the circle of faith:

1. To _____ the love of God in Christ;
2. To _____ thanks to God with a life of love;
1. and to receive the love of God in Christ...

We are all broken. We all--daily--need _____.

Luke 5:32 (ESV)

³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Conclusion

CCT: The Holy Spirit's work is to lead us to repentance and a *life* of faith in Christ.

That Christian life is lived *in* _____ and _____ *others*.