

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

October is a month of change. The leaves begin to change colors. The air temperature becomes cooler. And at the end of the month, the Church celebrates the Festival of the Reformation. Why does the Church continually, year after year celebrate the Festival of the Reformation? It is because the Reformation still matters!

The Reformation is all about change, and it is all about Jesus. The first thesis of the 95 Theses, which began the Reformation, states: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

God calls us to change, to repent! We are by nature sinful creatures. We deserve nothing but God's wrath and eternal death because of our sinfulness. But God, who is rich in mercy, has saved us by a free gift of His grace in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, God's only Son, who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might know God's love and receive His forgiveness. God calls us to repent, to turn from our self-centeredness and sinfulness, to trust in Christ for eternal life. We are saved by a free gift of God's love in Christ, and this gift is received by faith in Jesus.

God's will is that all be saved and come to faith in Jesus. This is what we preach, teach, and proclaim. The Reformation still matters because a person's salvation is at stake! The Reformation principles still hold true, that we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in the Holy Scripture.

So this October celebrate change! Celebrate the change of seasons, but also celebrate the Reformation! God has saved you by a free gift of His grace in Jesus Christ. Celebrate His love by giving thanks to Him in worship, and share His love with those you meet.

May God continue to surprise you with His goodness in Christ!

Pastor Davidson