



# His Word Is Truth!

*This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.*

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The title for today's article is: **"Comfort and Encouragement When You Feel God Has Abandoned You Because of Your Repeated Sins."** Before I share with you the good news that God's Word offers us when we continuously struggle with various sins, I first want to help you understand how Satan attempts to deceive us and keep us from trusting God's Word.

*One way Satan deceives us is by getting us to deny our sins or justify them somehow.* For example, Scripture clearly teaches that we rebel against God's will for our lives in

various ways. We sin against God by our desires, thoughts, words and deeds. However, Satan will tempt us to deny what Scripture says about our sins or get us to excuse our sinful behavior by thinking "Other people do it, so God can cut me some slack!" or "I do many good things, so God will overlook this area of rebellion in my life!" However, when we deny our sin or excuse our sin we show that we don't take God's Word seriously. This is unbelief! Such unbelief keeps us from receiving God's mercy for our sins. In 1st John 1:8 & 10 we read: **"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us ... If we claim we have not sinned, we make God out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives."**

*However, one other way Satan deceives us is by accusing us of our sins and getting us to think that we are too sinful to be forgiven.* You see, Satan pretends to be your friend when he tempts you to sin in various ways. But once you recognize that you have sinned against God and the

guilt begins to overwhelm you, then Satan shows his true evil nature. Satan will then accuse you of being so sinful that God would never be willing to forgive you. In fact, the name "Satan" comes from the Hebrew language and means "accuser." But the good news is that no sinner is beyond the grace of God! In 1st John 1:9 and 2:1-2 we read: **"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness ... My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."**

We must understand that Satan accuses us in order to get us to doubt God's grace. *However, when God accuses us of our sin He does this so that we will see our need for His mercy and then receive the forgiveness made possible by His Son, Jesus, who died*

*on the cross in our place of punishment.* The Apostle John wrote: **"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins."** John said that he wrote about this so that we would not sin. In other words, God's forgiveness through Jesus gives us new hearts that long to turn from sin and submit to God's loving will for our lives. In Titus chapter 2 the Apostle Paul writes: **"...the grace of God that brings salvation to all men has appeared. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..."**

However, the same Apostle Paul who said that God's grace moves us to say "No" to sin - this same Apostle Paul also wrote the following about himself: **"I am the worst of sinners!" (1st Timothy 1:15)** Paul also wrote this about himself: **"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out ... So I find this law at work: When I want to do**

**good, evil is right there with me." (Romans 7:18 & 21)** Wow! I can sure relate to that! As a Christian who has been given the undeserved gift of God's mercy in Christ I have the desire to thank and praise the Lord by living according to His will – saying "No" to sin and "Yes" to His loving plan for my life. On the other hand, just like the Apostle Paul, I continue to struggle with the desires of my sinful nature – and the result is that I sin against God every day by thought, word and deed. With the Apostle Paul I cry out: **"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7: 24)** Then, with the Apostle Paul, I rejoice in the answer God has provided: **"Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:25a)**

You see, being a Christian does not mean that you never sin. Instead, being a Christian means that you grieve over the sin in your life and then you trust that God forgives you for Christ's sake and that He

will help you to live a new life. In Psalm 51 King David writes: **"...a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."** In Psalm 32 King David writes: **"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord' – and you forgave the guilt of my sin."**

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**Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, June 15th!**

Next month Pastor Eckstein will continue his series:

*"Comfort and Encouragement from Holy Scripture." The topic of next month's article will be: "Comfort and Encouragement When You Don't Feel Like Praying or Attending Church Services."*

**For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's web page: [www.concordiajt.org](http://www.concordiajt.org)**

*Paid for by Concordia Lutheran Church*