

**7/20/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

We were supposed to go on vacation on June 26<sup>th</sup>. My wife and I were going to visit family in MN, WI, MI, and NY. But the Lord had a different plan. My wife had to have her gallbladder out. She was a sick girl. Her vacation was spent convalescing. My vacation was spent taking care of her. Spouses do that for each other. Instead of driving 4,000 miles and spending 3 weeks to see family, we ended up spending 4 days at Clearwater Beach. We had a wonderful time. Family members were frustrated as much as we were, but God restored Carolyn to good health and that was most important.

Do you have frustrations in your life? Life is filled with all kinds of frustrations like that. People let you down. You let yourself down. But you never have to be concerned about God letting you down. At some point in your life, God began a beautiful work in you. That beautiful work is your salvation.

From beginning to end, the certainty of salvation depends upon God alone. Before he created the world, God had sketched out a beautiful plan to save us. Then, over thousands of years, God wove together the perfect canvas upon which he would paint his masterplan. With one stroke of his brush, God became man and made his dwelling among us. Stroke after meticulous stroke revealed Jesus as our picture-perfect Savior. With his unblemished life and crimson blood, he flawlessly accomplished our salvation. But God is not done. He continues to work patiently, miraculously painting with the water of life. Look as he brings one face after another to life on his tapestry of salvation. There I am. And there you are! To the natural eye, we are cracked and blemished. But

on this canvas, God has intricately and inseparably connected us to the risen Jesus. Through the filter of Christ, you can see yourself perfected and included among the host arrayed in white. See them? The countless faces of those now crowned with golden glory and cradled in Christ's eternal embrace.

There are two, even three things you can expect in life. People will disappoint you. You will disappoint yourself. But you can count on Christ. He who began his saving work in you will see it through to completion. *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6*

**Prayer:***(Psalm 69:13): I pray to you, LORD, in the time of your favor; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.*

*(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)*

**To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. Proverbs 16:1**

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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