



Sermon Discussion Guide

Oct. 25 & 26, 2025

"Does the Reformation Still Matter?"

[Romans 3:21-28](#)

This five-part series in our year-long theme **52 Questions for 2025** explores what we believe and why. Over the next few weeks, we'll look at what sets Christianity apart, why there are so many denominations, what we believe about the Reformation and the church, and how faith compares to atheism and agnosticism. Join us each week as we take a closer look at what we believe.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Romans 3:23-24](#) – "Christ Took Our Punishment"

- Why do you think Luther's problem wasn't that he thought too little of sin, but that he thought too little of grace?
- Luther discovered that righteousness is something given to us, not earned by us. How does that truth challenge or comfort you?
- What might it look like to walk in grace rather than perform for God's approval? How can grace free us from guilt the way it freed Luther?
- How can you help others see that the Reformation message—grace alone through faith alone—still matters today?

Read [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) – "Made Alive with Christ"

- This passage says, "God saved you by his grace when you believed." What does this reveal about the character of God?
- When have you felt like you had to do more for God to love you? How does this passage invite you to rest in what Jesus has already done?
- What does it look like to stop comparing yourself to others and instead walk in gratitude? How does that bring joy and freedom?
- How can we help keep grace at the center? What practices can help prevent us from slipping back into performance-based faith?

Read [Luke 23:39-43](#) – "The Crucifixion"

- One of the criminals hanging beside Jesus mocked him, while the other recognized who Jesus was. What stands out to you about the second man's words, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom"? Why do you think Jesus responded with grace?
- Why is it hard for us to believe God could forgive so completely? When have you felt unworthy, and how did God meet you in that space?
- This man had no time left to do good works or prove himself, yet Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." What does that say about what truly saves us? How can we extend that same undeserved grace to others?
- Pastor Mike said that grace is "best experienced, not pondered." How might you experience God's grace this week?

Read [Romans 5:20-21](#) – "Adam and Christ Contrasted"

- What does it mean for grace to rule in your life instead of guilt, fear, or performance?
- Pastor Mike said, "We can't get up the steps to heaven, so God brings it to us." How does that help you understand grace?
- When grace rules, we don't just think differently, we live differently. How could grace reshape your approach to everyday life?
- Luther said, "Our sins are not ours, but Christ's, and Christ's righteousness is not Christ's anymore, but ours." How does that "divine exchange" change the way you see yourself and others? What would it look like to live from that identity this week?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Practice receiving grace daily.** Start your day by reading Romans 3:23-24 and praying: "God, help me rest in your grace, not my performance." Take a few minutes of silence to breathe, release anxiety about being "good enough," and thank God for his unearned favor. Let this habit reset your heart before the day begins.
- **Extend shocking grace to someone.** Think of one person who has wronged you recently. Instead of avoiding or judging them, choose an act of grace (forgive a debt, reach out with kindness). As you do, remember how freely Christ forgave you.
- **Open the gift through worship and service.** Grace doesn't end with belief, it moves us to love. Commit one act of service that expresses gratitude for God's grace (volunteer at a food pantry, help a neighbor, bless someone anonymously). As you serve, repeat Luther's reminder: "We do good not to earn grace, but because we've been set free by it."