

***“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”***

***Romans 12:2 (NLT)***

Greetings and peace to you my friends!

If you live in the Lehigh Valley, you like me, woke up to a blanket of beautiful snow! Yes, I said “beautiful snow!”

Now I know, many of us are not big fans of snow. In many ways snow inhibits our daily life patterns, can create a great deal of extra work for us and create many other obstacles for our living. Yet, as I went to sleep last night and as the sun dawned on the world in which I live today, the world was carpeted with a beautiful blanket of snow!

Martin Luther in speaking about the significance of our baptism writes: “that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” In other words, our sin has been forgiven, buried with Christ in the grave, and we are called forth to live a “new life!”

Snow, at least at the beginning of the season and before all the nasty things that come along with snow, reminds me of my baptism. Momentarily the world, like myself when I reflect on my baptism, is made pure and covered by God’s grace.

And so, like my friend St. Paul shares, perhaps the best way for us to come to terms with the snowy world around us, would be to allow the snow to transform us. Perhaps it would be better for us to become a new person by changing the way we think about snow. What if this winter season with each passing snow fall, we took some time to reflect on how God covers our sin with a white blanket, making us temporarily pure, and allowing us an opportunity to live in the glory of the gift of grace upon grace within our baptism?

Then, perhaps, we might “see” snow differently. “Seeing” the beauty of a world that looks renewed and refreshed. “See” the gift of God’s presence dwelling within our midst. “See” God’s love covering us completely and renewing us to live new lives!

Until next time,

Keep trusting God (and seeing God), keep washing those hands, and reflect on the gift of your baptism!

PJ