

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois**

Adult Bible Class: "Fear or Faith; Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living"

Hymn: 718 "Jesus, Lead Thou On" **In stanza 1, how are we to follow Jesus?** \_\_\_\_\_

**In stanza 2 what adjective describes "fears"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**In stanza 3 what do we ask for in the face of temptations?** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where does the hymn leave us at the end of stanza 4? "in our \_\_\_\_\_"**

Hymn writer (Count) Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf lived in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He studied law in Wittenberg. He grew up influenced by the subjective and emotional teachings of Pietism which diminished objective justification, denied the effectiveness of the sacraments, and taught people to rely on the strength of their individual faith. He was the founder of the Moravian, or Brethren Church, settling a group of these people on his own estate, calling the colony "Herrnhut" (the Lord's watch). He traveled extensively in Europe and America, even living for five years in London. He spent his whole fortune on behalf of his church and died a financially poor man. As we have this hymn, it is a combination of stanzas from two hymns that he wrote as a young man in 1721. "He wrote over 2000 hymns, some of them good ("Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" in 1739), most of little merit, and some excessive in their emotionalism, bordering on irreverence." (Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1942, page 603)

*1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:9-10, 20* (David said) "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve Him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. <sup>10</sup> Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."...<sup>20</sup>Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of (the house of) the Lord is finished."

**Verse 9: David says that if Solomon seeks the Lord, what will happen?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 10: What does David say is Solomon's calling?** \_\_\_\_\_

**"Just do it" is an advertising slogan for what company?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 20: What does it mean to be "dismayed" (ESV) or "discouraged" (NIV)?**

**How are these words different from "afraid"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the promise or encouragement of this passage?**

**"the Lord God is \_\_\_\_\_...He will not \_\_\_\_\_ you or \_\_\_\_\_ you"**

**When does this promise to Solomon expire?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How can we apply this promise to our own lives?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18* "Be strong and courageous...Only be strong and very courageous. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous." "Only be strong and courageous."

*Isaiah 41:10, 14* "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand...Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the One who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel." **Why not fear?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Why not be dismayed?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What promises does God give? "I will \_\_\_\_\_ you"**

**How will God fulfill these three promises? "with My \_\_\_\_\_"**

**What do you think about God's description of Jacob?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Genesis 3:19* "for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" *Ps 22:6* "but I am a worm and not a man"

What claim does the Lord make? "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ you."  
What titles does God give Himself? "\_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ One of \_\_\_\_\_"

*Isaiah 43:1-7* page 1126 (black) or page 717 (burgundy)

**Verse 1: What are God's credentials?** \_\_\_\_\_

Why "fear not"? \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 2: What is the image of the first half of this verse?** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Can you think of two times this happened to God's people earlier in the Old Testament?

What is the image of the second half of this verse? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

When was this promise literally fulfilled later in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 3: What are God's titles here?** \_\_\_\_\_

What is God willing to give up in exchange for His people? \_\_\_\_\_ (= Cush & Seba)

**Verse 4: Why would God do this?** "you are \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_"

**Verse 5: Why "Fear not"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verses 5b & 6: Are there any directional limitations to God's presence and power?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 7: Whom is God gathering to Himself?** \_\_\_\_\_ (how? \_\_\_\_\_)

How else does God describe us? \_\_\_\_\_

"So believers today are called 'Christians.' His name breaks their bonds and joins them as one."

(*Lutheran Study Bible*, page 1158)

*Romans 8:31-39* page 1758 (black) or page 1123 (burgundy)

**Verses 31-32: What is the answer to Paul's question?** \_\_\_\_\_; **What evidence is there?** \_\_\_\_\_

"Everything belonging to God's Son now also belongs, by grace, to all believers, truly coheirs"

(*Lutheran Study Bible*, page 1925)

**Verses 33-34: What are the answers to Paul's questions?** \_\_\_\_\_; **Why?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verses 35-36: What is the answer to Paul's question?** \_\_\_\_\_ (These seven threats of what could

come between Christ and His people, with their mounting intensity, were all experienced by Paul.)

**Verse 37: How does Paul describe us because of Jesus' love?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verses 38-39: How many things does Paul list?** \_\_\_\_\_ (that threaten to break grip of Christ's love)

These include unseen cosmic forces that, though created by God, now stand in opposition to God's

eternal purpose because of the fall into sin. Though they threatened to separate us from God's love for us,

Christ has triumphed over them.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:6-7* For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**What does Paul remind Timothy that he has?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How was Timothy given that gift?** \_\_\_\_\_ *1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift you*

*have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.*

**How does Paul describe Timothy's weakness or self-afflicted limitation?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instead, what three gifts does God give us and what do they mean?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (*dunamis*) = \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ (*agape*) = \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ (*sophronismos*) = \_\_\_\_\_

*Closing Prayer:* Lord, Jesus, though You are exalted at our heavenly Father's right hand, You have not left us and You still hold us close to Yourself in love. In Your name do we pray. Amen.