Salvation is the Blessing

By Martin Luther

It would be a great error to estimate God’s goodness and grace only by your lot here on earth. It is true, of course, that money and possessions, a sound body, and the like are God’s gifts and blessings. But these blessings do not last forever, for in the end we must leave behind money and possessions and everything we have.

The true, supreme, and best blessing, in which one can and should truly sense the goodness of God, is not temporal possessions but the eternal blessing that god has called us to His holy Gospel. In this Gospel, we hear that God would be gracious to us for the sake of His Son, would forgive sin and eternally save us in this life against the tyranny of the devil and the world.

To him who properly appreciates this blessing, everything else is a trifle, even though he lacks temporal blessing, is poor, sick, despised, unfortunate, and burdened with all sorts of adversities. For he sees he always keeps more than he has lost.

I may fare as it pleases God; but my heart has this consolation: Only a short time, and everything will be better, and so much better that no one shall take my joy from me; for through Christ I have a gracious God, who is my Father and will take me to my eternal heritage.