

“Amen!”

08-18-13

So which is it? Amen or Ahmen? Think of how many times you say it. At the end of each prayer; At the end of saying grace before and after each meal. I grew up learning that Amen meant, “Yea, Yea, it shall be so!”, but I think it might mean even more! Amen is a word of conclusion for anything and everything that comes before it. It’s also a one-word statement that we believe what we just said! Sadly, many times we use it just because we’re done, and we don’t have anything else to say!

When we say “Amen”, we’re saying, “This is How it is”, or in typical Lutheran fashion, “This is most certainly true!” When we say it, we’re looking back at everything we’ve just said and agreeing with it, and looking to the future feeling that the things we’ve just said have laid our heart open to our God.

Amen is our Word to Him, and it even comes from Him. It’s His Word! Jesus used it often. He liked it! When He first met the men who would be His disciples, He said, *“Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of God.”*

This was the first time Jesus said this word in His public ministry. It was His first word, but it also was His last word. It was the beginning point for new things, new thoughts, with the firmness of truth behind, underneath, and around everything!

When Jesus used the word, “Amen,” He put Himself directly behind everything He was saying. When we use it at the end of a prayer, we put ourselves directly into the hands of the God to Whom we pray! Jesus also used “Truly”, “Verily”, “Surely” as other ways to say Amen.

Amen is our saying to God, “You can count on me!” Amen is the word of commitment. It’s a word people use to commit themselves to what’s ahead. It’s direct, straightforward, and honest. “Amen,” means “Yes!”

Jesus came to earth for all people. He gave up heaven and put Himself in our humanity and suffered and died in our place that we might have forgiveness and life everlasting. He was sent by His Father. He was His Father’s choice for this work. Jesus serves as our Savior, and also as a mediator between God and His children. Jesus is God’s yes to the world, a world that has learned mostly to say only no!

Open to 2 Corinthians 1, page 964. All the promises of God are Yes in Jesus! All His promises are certain, firm, and true. When He promises something, it will happen! **Verses 18-20**, *“As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”*

At the end of the Bible in Revelation, Jesus Himself is called the great Amen! Jesus is God’s ultimate “Yes” to the world. He is its forgiveness and life! For anything in your life that needs forgiveness, Jesus is your “Amen”. He died for your sins, was raised, and lives in you now! He is your Lord! Jesus needs to be your “Amen”. He can be trusted.

When we say “Amen”, we claim Jesus as our own. By His death on the cross, He claims us as His! Because of sin, we may turn away, ignore Him, or reject Him, but He’s still the “Amen!”

He says to you as His faithful child right now, *“There are better things to come. You will see greater things than the cross, or even the empty tomb. You will see the angels of God ascending and descending on Jesus Christ. Amen and amen!”*

It’s a great thing to know God through Jesus Christ. Many people say they believe in God, but all they believe about Him is that He has power to pass judgment on them. They think that if they do good they’ll be found good enough by God. But that will never happen! There is no way to stand in the presence of God, except through the forgiveness we receive in Jesus Christ!

All through their lives, Jesus’ disciples didn’t point to themselves, but pointed to Jesus. That’s what we as His disciples need to do. We need to point to Him! We have life now and the promise of life forever! We need to share Him. Listen to John 16:23-24, *“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”*

As we’ve gone through the Lord’s Prayer this whole sermon series, we’ve seen the power and majesty of our God in all things! We’ve received His blessings! We’ve pleaded for His Kingdom and power to come! We’ve asked for forgiveness and help. And through our lives, He’s blessed us over and over again!

Jesus Christ is God’s Yes, His Amen to you! Amen is His first and last word! He showed His Amen to you so clearly as He gave Himself for you! No matter how often you’ve said the Lord’s Prayer, say it again with warm and generous love for Him: *“Amen, Lord God, my Father. Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever! Amen and Amen forever!”*