

Why is it important?

In a social studies textbook, I recently saw the question, "What is the New Testament, and why is it important to Christians?" While on the one hand, I was thrilled to see this question, as it opens an opportunity for children and teachers to discuss the Gospel in the classroom, it also caused me to ask another question: "Do all Christians understand why the New Testament is important to them?"

Of course, to understand *why* it's important, we need to understand *how* the New Testament is different from the Old Testament. They are more alike than you might think. In both Old and New Testaments, you will find the same God saving His people the same way: by grace through faith in the Savior. The difference, of course, is that in the Old Testament, the people looked to the One Who would come to pay for their sins, and we, the New Testament people of God, look to the One Who came already.

But if someone asked you, "Why is the New Testament important to Christians," or even, "Who is Jesus?," would you be ready to answer? The key to any question like this is found in the upcoming season: Easter. Jesus is the One Who came to pay for our sin on the cross and rise to eternal life. Because He paid for our sins on the cross, we are forgiven of all of them, no matter how big or how small. And because He rose to life, we have the promise of eternal life as well, rising just as He did. Nothing is more important than eternal life with Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and nothing is more important to Him than you receiving that eternal gift.

Over the next several months, you will be seeing one or more lessons from *Luther's Small Catechism* appear in this newsletter. These are excerpts from what will hopefully be an upcoming book, *6 Chief Parts for Families on the Go*, and they are intended to be used by families that you may teach your children more about our amazing, loving God. I encourage you to collect them and reuse them (or portions of them) with your children, grandchildren, godchildren, friends, and neighbors. Let them know as well that Jesus died for them, too.