

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

November - 2025

SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible Study and
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Service: 11: a.m.

Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS

November 2: Ivan Niemela,
Holy Communion

November 9: Ivan Niemela

November 16: Ivan Niemela

November 23: Charles
Korhonen, *Potluck meal*
following service

November 30: Ken Storm

CONTACTS

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God's Call to Repentance

"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" - Ezekiel 33:11

God's unwavering desire is for every person to live eternally with Him in heaven. However, our sinful nature prevents this from happening. Thankfully, even before the foundation of the world, God, in His grace, created a way for sinners to be reconciled with Him through Jesus. This truth is highlighted in our topic verse, which depicts a Creator whose love and patience surpass human comprehension. God's predestined plan for salvation involves Him reaching out to each person, awakening them to their sin, and inviting them to openly confess their transgressions before God and man. Tragically, many ignore His call to repent and believe the spoken gospel, choosing instead to seek salvation through their futile efforts, which can never lead to reconciliation with God. His intention is not merely to prevent the loss of souls but to joyfully welcome everyone into the fullness of His presence, where everlasting joy and peace reside. The Bible reveals a God whose ultimate purpose is redemption and inclusion in His heavenly kingdom. This divine plan was revealed starting in the earliest pages of Scripture.

God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ was not a reaction to sin but a purposeful design established before creation. This plan is emphasized in 1 Peter 1:19-20: *"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."* In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, the consequence of their transgression was the shedding of an animal's blood. That happened after God called out to them while they were hiding. When they came out to confess their transgression, He forgave them. The hide from the animal was then used to cover their nakedness, symbolizing their sinfulness and the need for a covering provided by a robe of righteousness, as mentioned in Isaiah 61:10. This moment foreshadowed the sacrifice of Jesus, whose blood would be shed on the cross thousands of years later. Thus, God's plan of salvation involves the sacrifice of His Son, the confession of sin, and forgiveness.

Although God wants no person to be lost, His desire is for us to willingly come to Him when He calls. This is illustrated in Leviticus 1:3, where offerings were to be brought voluntarily to a priest as an act of repentance for sin. Isaiah 65:12 reflects God's call and our choice to ignore it: *"When I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not."* This principle of God calling and humanity resisting is evident throughout scripture, particularly during Jesus' earthly ministry. Many, at that time, clung to the traditions upheld by their religious leaders, despite His teachings to the contrary. They refused to accept the truth because they believed they already possessed it, leaving them with no desire to seek further understanding. This same unwillingness to listen remains a challenge for many religious individuals today. It urges us to reflect on whether we are genuinely open to God's call or if we are merely holding onto our preconceived beliefs.



God's offer of eternal salvation is constant and unwavering, leaving the choice to respond in our hands. He reaches out to us in countless ways, revealing His plan of redemption. For those who resist God's call and refuse to believe His word, Romans 1:20 reminds us that they remain guilty of sin and without excuse: *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."* Tragically, many people follow the teachings of others without using discernment, failing to examine their hearts to see whether they are truly trusting in His written word or adhering to misguided beliefs. Like Adam and Eve, we, too, must come out of hiding to confess our sins and allow God to transform our lives, turning us away from evil practices. As the Bible encourages us: *"Exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"* (Hebrews 3:13). Dear reader, God's call to repentance is urgent and personal—please respond before it is too late.

God's Peace,
Charles Korhonen