

**PART II**  
**THE CREED**  
**CHAPTER XV**

**CREEDS OR CONFESSIONS**

THE CREED, from the Latin *Credo, I believe*, means that which we as Christians believe. The Creed given in our Catechism is the Apostles' Creed. It is so called, not because it was written by the apostles, but because it contains, in a brief summary, the doctrines which the apostles believed and taught. It grew out of the words of the baptismal formula: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."<sup>1</sup> It has come down to us from the early centuries of the Church's history, and is *her confession of faith*. It should be our confession also; we should say from the heart, "I believe in God, etc." There are

TWO KINDS OF CREEDS or Confessions of Faith:--

I. *Æcumenical* or Universal Creeds, which are accepted by the whole Christian Church throughout the world. They are

1. The Apostles' Creed.
2. The Nicene Creed.
3. The Athanasian Creed.

II. *Particular* Creeds or Confessions, which are accepted by the various Churches and Denominations as their distinctive confessions. Our Lutheran Confessions are:--

1. The Augsburg Confession.
2. The Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession.
3. The Schmalcald Articles.
4. The Small Catechism.
5. The Large Catechism.
6. The Formula of Concord.

These nine confessions together form the Book of Concord.

THE APOSTLES' CREED CONTAINS in Three Articles, a statement of what the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, has done and still does for us.

Article I treats of God the Father and His work of *Creation*.

Article II treats of God the Son and His work of *Redemption*.

Article III treats of God the Holy Ghost and His work of *Sanctification*.

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<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:19.

THE TRINITY. There is only one God.<sup>2</sup> But He has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, or Three in One, the Holy Trinity. The Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Ghost is God; and yet there are not three Gods but one God. This is a mystery which we cannot understand or explain. We must not expect with our finite mind to comprehend the infinite God. We simply accept the truth concerning God as He has made it known to us through His Word. He plainly tells us that He is one; for He says, "I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt have no other gods before Me."<sup>3</sup> But He has also plainly revealed Himself as three; not as three Gods but as three who are one God. The three are expressly mentioned in Christ's command to His disciples, "Go ye and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."<sup>4</sup> The three were made known at the baptism of Jesus, when the Father spoke from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," and the Holy Ghost descended on Jesus in the form of a dove.<sup>5</sup> Our salvation is the work of the triune God. The Father sent His Son to save us;<sup>6</sup> the Son became man and died for us;<sup>7</sup> and the Holy Spirit applies redemption to our souls<sup>8</sup> through the Word of God and the sacraments.

QUESTIONS.--1. Define the word Creed. 2. Why is the Apostles' Creed so called? 3. How did it originate? 4. What two kinds of creeds are there? 5. Name the oecumenical creeds. 6. Name the particular creeds or confessions of the Lutheran Church. 7. What does the Apostles' Creed contain? 8. Of what do the three articles of the Apostles' Creed treat? 9. What is meant by the Holy Trinity? 10. How do we know that God is only one God? 11. How do we know that He is Triune? 12. Show that our salvation is the work of the Triune God.

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2 Deut. 6:4.

3 Exod. 20:2,3.

4 Matt. 28:19.

5 Matt. 3:16,17.

6 John 3:16.

7 Rom. 5:8.

8 I Cor. 12:3.

# THE FIRST ARTICLE OF GOD THE FATHER, OR CREATION CHAPTER XVI

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What is meant by this Article?*

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, with all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with my raiment, food, home and family, and all my property: that He daily provides me abundantly with all the necessaries of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me and guards me against all evil; all which He does out of pure, paternal and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

**I Believe in**, that is, I trust in, I rely upon.

**God the Father.** He is the Father of my Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>1</sup> and the first Person of the Holy Trinity. Through Christ He is also my Father.<sup>2</sup>

**Almighty.** He is able to do all things, and to help me in every time of need.

**Maker of Heaven and Earth.**<sup>3</sup> He has made all things,--the universe and all that it contains. The world did not come into being of itself or by chance, nor did it exist from eternity. God made it out of nothing. In the beginning He created the heaven and the earth.<sup>4</sup> They were at first a formless mass;<sup>5</sup> but in six days God fashioned the formless mass into the world as it now exists. On these six days He created, 1. Light. 2. The Firmament. 3. Land and Sea. 4. Sun, moon and stars. 5. Fishes and birds. 6. Beasts and man.<sup>6</sup>

*God's Chief Creatures* are the angels in heaven and men on earth. All His creatures, as they came from His hands, were very good.<sup>7</sup> But some of the angels sinned, and became bad angels or devils.<sup>8</sup> And man also, though created in the image of God, fell into sin, and lost his original righteousness and holiness.<sup>9</sup>

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1 Matt. 11:25.

2 John 20:17. Eph. 1:3.†

3 Ps. 102:25.

4 Gen. 1:1.†

5 Gen. 1:2.

6 Gen. 1:3-31.

7 Gen. 1:31.

8 II Pet. 2:4.

9 Gen. 3. Gen. 8:21. Eph. 4:24.

Luther's explanation of this Article in the catechism tells us:

- I. What God has done and still does for me.
- II. Why God does all this for me.
- III. What I owe to God in return.

## **I. WHAT GOD HAS DONE AND STILL DOES FOR ME**

**I believe that God has**

### **1. *Created Me*<sup>10</sup> and all that exists;<sup>11</sup> that He has given to me**

**My Body,--with all my limbs and senses.** Though my body, like that of the beasts, is made of the dust of the ground,<sup>12</sup> it is vastly superior to their bodies, and is a marvelous piece of divine workmanship,<sup>13</sup> exquisitely adapted to be the earthly tabernacle of the soul which inhabits it.

**My Soul,<sup>14</sup>--my reason and all the faculties of my mind,** by which I am placed so far above the brute creation. God made the human soul to be a likeness of Himself;<sup>15</sup> that is, He gave to man in a limited measure those powers and faculties which He Himself possesses in unlimited and infinite measure. And while the human mind has become dimmed by the fall, its powers and faculties are still most wonderful.

**2. *Preserves Me*.**<sup>16</sup> All that has helped to support my life has been God's gift; namely, **my raiment, food, home and family, and all my property.** I continue to live because He sustains me.<sup>17</sup>

**He Daily Provides me abundantly with all the necessities of life.**<sup>18</sup> His care for me is a constant, daily care. His mercies are new every morning.<sup>19</sup>

**He Protects me from all danger,** seen and unseen.<sup>20</sup> I am beset with perils on every hand. If God withdrew His protecting hand, I should perish immediately.

**He Preserves me and Guards me against all evil.**<sup>21</sup> No real evil can come upon God's children. What seems an evil is meant for a good purpose, and is a blessing in disguise.<sup>22</sup>

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10 Job. 33:4.†

11 Neh. 9:6. Col. 1:16.†

12 Gen. 2:7.†

13 Ps. 139:14.

14 Gen. 2:7.†

15 Gen. 1:27. Gen. 9:6.

16 Neg. 9:6.

17 Jas. 1:17.†

18 Ps. 145:15,16.†

19 Matt. 6:31,32.† Lam. 3:22,23.†

20 Ps. 34:7.† Matt. 10:30.

21 Ps. 121:5,8.†

22 Rom. 8:28.† Isa. 55:8,9. Jer. 29:11. Ps. 23:4.†

## **II. WHY GOD DOES ALL THIS FOR ME**

He does it purely

1. **Out of Paternal and Divine Goodness and Mercy.**<sup>23</sup> It is

**Paternal** or fatherly goodness and mercy, because He is my Father through Jesus Christ, and loves me as His child. It is

**Divine** goodness and mercy, because God is love,<sup>24</sup> and only His unspeakable love could move Him to bestow His great benefits upon sinful men, even upon the wicked and unthankful.<sup>25</sup>

2. **Without any Merit or Worthiness in Me.**<sup>26</sup> I have merited (deserved) nothing and I am worthy of nothing but punishment; for I am a sinful being,<sup>27</sup> and have broken God's law many times by thoughts and words and deeds.<sup>28</sup>

## **III. WHAT I OWE TO GOD IN RETURN**

For all His goodness and mercy

**I am in duty bound**<sup>29</sup>

1. **To Thank and Praise Him.** I must not receive God's benefits as a matter of course, but must recognize them as gifts of His grace, and daily thank and praise Him in my heart and with my lips.<sup>30</sup>

2. **To Serve and Obey Him.** I must show my gratitude in my life by obeying God's commandments and giving myself with all my heart to His service.<sup>31</sup>

**This is most certainly true;** namely, 1. That all the blessings I enjoy come from God. 2. That they are the gifts of His grace and that I am unworthy of them. 3. That I owe to God the fullest gratitude of heart and life.

QUESTIONS.--1. What does "I believe" mean? 2. Why do we say "God the *Father*?" 3. What does "Almighty" mean? 4. What has God made? 5. Name His chief creatures. 6. What three things does Luther's explanation of this article tell us? 7. What has God done and what does He still do for us? 8. In creating us, what has God given us? 9. How does He preserve us? 10. Why does God do all this for us? 11. Why are we not worthy of it? 12. What do we owe to God in return? 13. What is meant by thanking and praising Him? 14. What is meant by serving and obeying Him? 15. What is most certainly true according to this article?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--Eph. 1:3. Blessed be he hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who heavenly places in Christ.

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23 Ps. 103:13.†

24 I John 4:16.†

25 Matt. 5:45.†

26 Gen. 32:10.†

27 Ps. 51:5.

28 Jer. 14:7.

29 Ps. 116:12.† Ps. 50:14.

30 Ps. 103:1.†

31 Rom. 12:1.†

Gen. 1:1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Job 33:4. The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Col. 1:16. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

Gen. 2:7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Jas. 1:17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Acts 17:28. For in him we live, and move, and have our being.

Ps. 145:15,16. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Matt. 6:31,32. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink, or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Lam. 3:22,23. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning.

Ps. 34:7. The angel of the LORD encampeth

READING.--The Creation of the World, Gen. 1.

ILLUSTRATIONS.--*Provides*: Manna, Exod. 16:14; Elijah, I Kings 17:6,14; Feeding the Five Thousand, Matt. 14:15-21. *Protects*: The Israelites, Exod. 14:19 *seq.*; Daniel, Dan. 6:22; Paul, Acts 23:12-33; Acts 27:42-44. *Guards from evil*: Joseph; Job. *Thankfulness*: Noah, Gen. 8:20; The Samaritan, Luk 17:15,16.

round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Ps. 121:5,8. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Rom. 8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Ps. 23:4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Ps. 103:13. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

I John 4:16. God is love: and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Matt. 5:45. He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Gen. 32:10. I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou has shewed unto thy servant.

Ps. 116:12. What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?

Ps. 103:1. Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Rom. 12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, unto God, which is your reasonable service.

# THE SECOND ARTICLE OF GOD THE SON, OR REDEMPTION

## CHAPTER XVII

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

*What is meant by this Article?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, secured and delivered me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death, in order that I might be His, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Second Article treats of Jesus Christ, THE SON OF GOD, and his work of REDEMPTION. Prompted by His infinite love, God pitied our lost race, and determined to save us by sending a Redeemer in the person of His only Son.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the centuries of Old Testament history He repeatedly gave the promise of redemption: in Eden,<sup>2</sup> to the patriarchs,<sup>3</sup> to David,<sup>4</sup> and through the prophets.<sup>5</sup> In the fulness of time God sent His Son into the world.<sup>6</sup>

Article II and its Explanation may be analyzed as follows:--

### I. OUR LORD

1. *His Names:* Jesus, Christ.
2. *His Person and Nature:* True God and True Man.
3. *His Life:* His Humiliation and His Exaltation.

### II. HIS WORK OF REDEMPTION

1. *Whom He has redeemed.*

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1 John 3:16.† I Tim. 1:15.†

2 Gen. 3:15.

3 Gen. 12:3. Gen. 26:4.

4 II Sam. 7:12,13.

5 Isa. 9:2-7. Mic. 5:2.†

6 Gal. 4:4.

2. *From what He has redeemed me.*
3. *How He has redeemed me.*
4. *Why He has redeemed me.*

## **OUR LORD**

### **I. HIS NAMES**

#### **I believe that**

**Jesus.** This was our Lord's personal name, given to Him by the angel.<sup>7</sup> It signified, "He shall save."

**Christ.** This was His official name, corresponding with the Old Testament name "Messiah,"<sup>8</sup> and signified "The Anointed One." God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit for the work of redemption,<sup>9</sup> to a threefold office:--

1. As Prophet, to teach us God's will.<sup>10</sup>
2. As Priest, to atone for our sins, and to intercede for us.<sup>11</sup>
3. As King,<sup>12</sup> to reign over us in the Kingdom of Power, of Grace, and of Glory.

### **II. HIS PERSON AND NATURE**

He is

**True God, Begotten of the Father from Eternity.** Christ is true God,<sup>13</sup> just as the Father is God.<sup>14</sup> He is the Son of God, not as a good or great man who has been received or adopted as God's son, but He is in His very nature the Son of God, *begotten by His Father*<sup>15</sup> *from all eternity.*<sup>16</sup> He is "God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father."<sup>17</sup> The Scriptures show this by ascribing to Him divine names, attributes, power, honor, and works. At His baptism and at His transfiguration the Father spoke from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."<sup>18</sup> His divine nature is proved by His teaching, His miracles, His holy life, and especially by His resurrection from the dead.

**And also True Man, Born of the Virgin Mary.** Christ was in all respects a human

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7 Matt. 1:21.

8 John 1:41.

9 Luke 4:18-21.

10 Acts 3:22.

11 Heb. 4:14.

12 Matt. 21:5. Rev. 17:14.

13 Rom. 9:5.†

14 John 5:23.† John 20:28.† John 8:58.† Matt. 16:16.

15 John 3:16.†

16 John 1:1. John 17:5.

17 John 10:30.†

18 Matt. 3:17. Matt. 17:5.

being such as we are, except that He was without sin.<sup>19</sup> He was “conceived by the Holy Ghost,” and thus had God alone for His Father.<sup>20</sup> But he was “born of the Virgin Mary,”<sup>21</sup> with a human body<sup>22</sup> and soul.<sup>23</sup> He grew, increased in wisdom and stature,<sup>24</sup> and reached the age of manhood. He suffered our human wants,<sup>25</sup> such as hunger, thirst, weariness, and pain. He was moved by human emotions,<sup>26</sup> such as joy, sorrow, and indignation. He wept,<sup>27</sup> prayed,<sup>28</sup> suffered and died.<sup>29</sup> He could not have done these things if He had not been true man. Christ is therefore both God and man in one Person.<sup>30</sup> Consequently He is the

*God-Man.* It was necessary that the Redeemer should be both God and man.<sup>31</sup> If He had not been God, but only man, He could not have paid a sufficient ransom for our deliverance from sin, nor have acquired any merit to bestow upon us. Even a sinless *man* could have saved no one but himself. On the other hand, if Christ had not become man, but remained God only, He could not have put Himself in our place under the law, nor have suffered and died in our stead. But as the *God-man*, Christ was able to accomplish, and did perfectly accomplish, our redemption.<sup>32</sup> Thus He became and

**Is my Lord, who has Redeemed Me,** and in whom I trust for salvation.<sup>33</sup>

QUESTIONS.--1. Of what does the Second Article treat? 2. How did God plan to save man? 3. Analyze the Second Article and its Explanation. 4. Give the meaning of the names of our Lord. 5. What was Christ's threefold office? 6. What is to be said about the person and nature of Christ? 7. In what sense is Christ the Son of God, and how do we know it? 8. How do you know that Christ was true man? 9. Why was it necessary that the Redeemer should be both God and man? 10. What name do we give to Christ in view of His two-fold nature?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I Tim. 1:15. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Rom. 9:5. Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.

John 5:23. That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 20:28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

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19 I Pet. 2:22.†

20 Luke 1:35.

21 Luke 2:7.

22 Heb. 2:14.

23 Matt. 26:38.

24 Luke 2:52.

25 Matt. 4:2. John 4:6,7.

26 Luke 10:21. Matt. 26:38.

27 John 11:35.

28 Matt. 26:39.

29 I Pet. 2:23,24.

30 Rom. 1:3,4. John 1:14.†

31 I Tim. 1:15.†

32 Rom. 3:24.†

33 Rom. 8:38,39. Rom. 5:1.†

John 8:58. Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 10:30. I and my Father are one.

I Pet. 2:22. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.

John 1:14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the

glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Rom. 3:24. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 5:1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

READING.--The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2:1-20; or, The Eternal Word, John 1:1-18.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### OUR LORD

#### III. HIS LIFE

The Saviour's life includes two states; namely, His Humiliation and His Exaltation.

#### ***HIS HUMILIATION***

Christ's state of humiliation comprises His life on earth, during which He laid aside the full use of His divine glory and was content to appear among men in the form of a servant. He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross,<sup>1</sup> in order that He might redeem us. He gave men glimpses of His divine glory: in the authority with which He taught,<sup>2</sup> in the holy life which He led,<sup>3</sup> and in the miracles which He performed.<sup>4</sup> But in general He appeared like other men.

This state of humiliation includes five stages:--He was

1. **Conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary.** Christ might have appeared among men in the full splendor of His divine glory and majesty. But, in order to redeem us, He was content to be born in poverty,<sup>5</sup> to grow up in obscurity,<sup>6</sup> and to appear to most men as if He were simply a man.

2. **Suffered under Pontius Pilate.** The whole life of Jesus on earth was a life of suffering endured for our sakes. He bore all the trials and hardships which have come upon our race as a result of its sinfulness. He also suffered constant persecution at the hands of his enemies.<sup>7</sup> But His greatest sufferings came at the end of His life, in the agony of Gethsemane,<sup>8</sup> in the mock-trial before the Jewish Council,<sup>9</sup> and in His sufferings under Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.<sup>10</sup> He was mocked, spitefully entreated, spitted on, crowned with thorns, and scourged; and then He

3. **Was Crucified.**<sup>11</sup> Though innocent and holy, He was treated as though He were a malefactor, and was put to a cruel and shameful death. He was nailed to a cross, and left suspended there till He died. So great was His agony, that He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"<sup>12</sup>

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1 Phil. 2:8.†

2 Matt. :28,29.

3 John 8:46.

4 John 2:11.

5 Luke 2:7. II Cor. 8:9.†

6 Matt. 2:23.

7 Heb. 12:3. John 1:11.

8 Matt. 26:36-46.

9 Matt. 26:57-75.

10 Matt. 27:1-30.

11 Luke 23:33.

12 Mark 15:34.

4. **Dead.** After unspeakable sufferings, Jesus died on the cross.<sup>13</sup> He was really, and not seemingly, dead.<sup>14</sup> He voluntarily gave up His life for ours.<sup>15</sup> His death was *vicarious*. He suffered the penalty for our sins.<sup>16</sup>

5. **Buried.** His body was laid away in the grave, where our bodies shall decay. But since Christ was “the Holy One of God,” His body could not “see corruption.”<sup>17</sup>

## ***HIS EXALTATION***

After the work of redemption was completed, Christ assumed the full use of the glory and majesty which had belonged to Him as the Son of God from eternity; His human nature was exalted to a full share in the glory of His divine nature.<sup>18</sup> He had humbled Himself as a man; and He was exalted as a man. His divine nature, being unchangeable, can neither be humbled nor exalted.<sup>19</sup> Christ's exaltation, like His humiliation, includes five stages:--

1. **He Descended into Hell.** Immediately before His resurrection He descended into the place of the departed spirits and proclaimed His victory.<sup>20</sup>

2. **The Third Day He Rose again from the Dead.** Having paid in full the penalty for our sins, He rose again from the dead, triumphant, on the third day (Easter). He had power to lay down His life, and power to take it again.<sup>21</sup> As His death had been a real death, so His resurrection was a real resurrection. He re-appeared to His disciples, not as a spirit, but with the same body that was crucified, the prints of the nails and of the spear being plain in His hands and side.<sup>22</sup> But His body was a transformed and glorified body, with new properties and powers.<sup>23</sup>

*The Resurrection a Fact.* The reality of the resurrection is established beyond all doubt. The strongest proof of its reality is found in the fact that the disciples themselves were so unwilling to believe it, but were obliged to do so by the evidence of their own senses. Even the doubting Thomas exclaimed, “My Lord, and my God.”<sup>24</sup> During the forty days between His resurrection and His ascension the Lord gave His disciples so many proofs of His resurrection that all their doubts were removed.<sup>25</sup> The women on Easter morn found the grave empty and were told by an angel that He had risen.<sup>26</sup> He

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13 Mark 15:37.

14 John 19:33,34.

15 John 10:18,19.†

16 I Pet. 3:18. Isa. 53:5.†

17 Ps. 16:10.

18 Phil. 2:9-11.†

19 Heb. 13:8.†

20 I Pet. 3:19.

21 John 10:19.

22 Luke 24:36-40.

23 John 20:19.

24 John 20:28.

25 Acts 1:3.

26 Mark 16:6.

was seen by Mary in the Garden,<sup>27</sup> by Peter,<sup>28</sup> by the two disciples at Emmaus,<sup>29</sup> twice by the eleven as they were gathered together,<sup>30</sup> by seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberias,<sup>31</sup> by more than five hundred brethren at once,<sup>32</sup> by James<sup>33</sup> and by the eleven when He accompanied them to Mount Olivet and ascended before their eyes to heaven.<sup>34</sup> The wonderful change which took place in the apostles when the risen and ascended Christ had sent the Holy Spirit upon them,<sup>35</sup> and the wonderful change which took place in Paul,<sup>36</sup> are further proofs of the reality of the resurrection of Christ.

*The resurrection proves* 1. That Jesus is the Son of God.<sup>37</sup> 2. That the sacrifice which He made for sin was sufficient and accepted.<sup>38</sup> 3. That we also shall rise from the dead.<sup>39</sup>

3. **He Ascended into Heaven** from Mount Olivet forty days after His resurrection.<sup>40</sup> Having finished His work on earth, He returned to the heaven from which He had come. He has gone to prepare a place for us.<sup>41</sup>

4. **And sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty;** that is, on the right hand of God's power. As the God-man He now wields all power in heaven and earth.<sup>42</sup> He rules over all creatures in the realm of Power; over the believers in the realm of Grace (the Church on earth); and over angels and saints in the realm of Glory in heaven. He continues His office of High-priest, and intercedes for us with the Father.<sup>43</sup>

5. **From thence He shall come to judge the Quick and the Dead.** At the end of the world Christ will come again visibly,<sup>44</sup> suddenly, and unexpectedly,<sup>45</sup> with power and great glory, to judge both the quick (living) and the dead.<sup>46</sup> He will separate the believing from the unbelieving; receive the believers unto Himself; and cast the impenitent and unbelieving into outer darkness and torment. His coming will fill the believers with joy,

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27 John 20:14-16.

28 Luke 24:34.

29 Luke 24:15.

30 John 20:19-29.

31 John 21:1.

32 I Cor. 15:6.

33 I Cor. 15:7.

34 Acts 1:9-12.

35 Acts 2.

36 Acts 9:1-29.

37 John 20:28. Rom. 1:4. † Acts 2:36.

38 Rom. 8:34. I Thess. 1:10.

39 Rom. 4:25. † I Cor. 15:19, 20. † I Cor. 6:14.

40 Acts 1:9

41 John 14:2.

42 Matt. 28:18. † Eph. 1:20-22. †

43 Rom. 8:34. † Heb. 4:14-16.

44 Mark 13:26. †

45 Matt. 24:36-42. Luke 21:27.

46 II Cor. 5:10. † Matt. 25:31-46.

<sup>47</sup> and the unbelievers with dismay.<sup>48</sup> No one knows or can compute the exact time of His coming. We should be always ready.<sup>49</sup> His coming will be preceded by signs.<sup>50</sup> The present order of the world shall pass away;<sup>51</sup> and there shall be new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.<sup>52</sup>

QUESTIONS.--1. What two states does Christ's life include? 2. What is meant by His state of humiliation? 3. How many stages were there in his humiliation? 4. Name them. 5. Was Christ's glory entirely hidden during his state of humiliation? 6. How might Christ have appeared, and how did He appear among men? 7. Describe the sufferings of Christ. 8. What is to be said of Christ's crucifixion? 9. What is to be said of Christ's death? 10. What is to be said of His burial? 11. What is meant by Christ's exaltation? 12. How many stages were there in His exaltation? 13. Name them. 14. What is meant by the descent into hell? 15. How did Christ re-appear to His disciples? 16. Prove that the resurrection was a fact. 17. What does the resurrection of Christ prove? 18. When and why did Christ ascend into heaven? 19. What is meant by His sitting at the right hand of the Father? 20. What can you tell about Christ's second coming?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--Phil. 2:8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

II Cor. 8:9. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

John 10:18,19. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.

Isa. 53:5. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Phil. 2:9-11. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Heb. 13:8. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.

Rom. 1:4. Declared to be the Son of God with

power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Rom. 4:25. Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

I Cor. 15:19,20. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Matt. 28:18. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Eph. 1:22. And hath put all things under his feet.

Rom. 8:34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Mark 13:26. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

II Cor. 5:10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

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<sup>47</sup> Luke 21:28.

<sup>48</sup> Rev. 6:15-17.

<sup>49</sup> Matt. 24:42,44.†

<sup>50</sup> Luke 21:25,26.

<sup>51</sup> II Pet. 3:10.

<sup>52</sup> II Pet. 3:13.†

Matt. 24:44. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

II Pet. 3:13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

READING.--The Death and Resurrection of Christ, Luke 23-24:9; and The Ascension of Christ, Acts 1:1-11.

# CHAPTER XIX

## CHRIST'S WORK OF REDEMPTION

### ***I. WHOM HE HAS REDEEMED***

He **has redeemed**

**Me.** Christ died for all;<sup>1</sup> and consequently for me also.<sup>2</sup> Believing on Him, all the blessings of His redemption belong to me in time and in eternity. He is *my Saviour, my Redeemer.*

**A Lost and Condemned Creature.** I was lost,<sup>3</sup> because my sin had separated me from God, and I could not have found my way back to Him, if Christ had not sought and found me. I was condemned,<sup>4</sup> because I had broken God's commandments and deserved eternal punishment.

### ***II. FROM WHAT HE HAD REDEEMED ME***

He **has secured and delivered me**

**From all Sins;** namely, from the *guilt* of sin by paying its penalty for me on the cross;<sup>5</sup> and from the *dominion* of sin by giving me grace to fight against it and overcome it.<sup>6</sup>

**From Death:** not from bodily death, for even the Christian must die; but from the fear of bodily death;<sup>7</sup> from spiritual death;<sup>8</sup> and from everlasting death.<sup>9</sup>

**And from the Power of the Devil.**<sup>10</sup> On account of my sins, I was in Satan's power. But Christ has freed me. Since He has paid the penalty for my sins, Satan no longer has any claim upon me, and can no longer harm me.<sup>11</sup> He still tempts me to sin; but Christ gives me grace to resist. He still accuses me before God on account of my sins; but Christ shields me against Satan's accusations by the satisfaction which He, my Saviour, has made for all my sins.<sup>12</sup>

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1 Pet. 2:24.† I John 2:2.† John 1:29.†

2 Gal. 2:20.†

3 Isa. 53:6.† I Pet. 2:25.

4 Eph. 2:3.

5 I John 1:7. II Cor. 5:21.†

6 Rom. 6:14. Rom. 8:2-4.

7 Phil. 1:23. I Cor. 15:55,57.

8 Eph. 2:6.

9 John 3:16.

10 I John 3:8.†

11 John 10:27,28.

12 I John 2:1.

### **III. HOW HE HAS REDEEMED ME**

**Not with Silver and Gold;**<sup>13</sup> for no material wealth could purchase freedom from spiritual slavery and death. Nor has He redeemed me merely by becoming my great teacher and example; for this would not take away my guilt;

**But with His Holy and Precious Blood.**<sup>14</sup> His blood was the price which Christ paid for my ransom. It was holy, because He was holy; and precious, because He was the Son of God. The shedding of Christ's blood for my sins was the only way in which I could be redeemed; for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.<sup>15</sup>

**And with His Innocent Sufferings<sup>16</sup> and Death.**<sup>17</sup> Christ suffered and died, not for any sins of His own, but for *my* sins. He was innocent and had no sin at all. But He voluntarily bore the punishment which I deserved, and thus satisfied all the demands of divine justice for me. Since He has borne the punishment for me, I, believing on Him, need no longer be punished.

*Christ was my Substitute.* By His holy life He perfectly fulfilled God's law in my place;<sup>18</sup> and by His innocent sufferings and death He bore the punishment for my sins in my place.<sup>19</sup> All that Christ has done is imputed to me by faith;<sup>20</sup> that is, it is all counted as if I myself had done it.<sup>21</sup> His death, therefore, frees me from guilt and condemnation: and His holy life makes me appear righteous in God's sight and fit to enter into heaven. My entire hope of salvation rests on Christ and what He has done for me.<sup>22</sup>

### **IV. WHY HE HAS REDEEMED ME**

**In order that**

**I might be His.** He desired me for His own, and therefore purchased me with His precious blood.<sup>23</sup> Hence I now belong to Him, and not to Satan or to myself. He wishes me to yield myself fully to Him in heart and life.<sup>24</sup> If I refuse to do so, I am withholding what belongs to Him.

**Live under Him in His Kingdom;** namely, in His kingdom of Grace on earth by a life of faith, and in His kingdom of Glory in heaven.<sup>25</sup>

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13 I Pet. 1:18,19.†

14 I John 1:7.†

15 Heb. 9:22.

16 I Pet. 3:18.†

17 Rom. 5:7,8.†

18 Rom. 5:19.

19 II Cor. 5:21.†

20 Rom. 4:24.

21 Ro. 4:5.

22 II Cor. 5:19.

23 II Cor. 5:15.†

24 Gal. 2:20.†

25 Col. 1:12-14.

**And serve Him in Everlasting Righteousness, Innocence and Blessedness.**<sup>26</sup> I am to serve Him and do His will, not as a slave by compulsion, but willingly, gladly, and out of love.<sup>27</sup> With my best efforts I only partially succeed in doing His will on earth, for I am still imperfect.<sup>28</sup> But in the next world I shall be freed from all sin, and be transformed and glorified in body and soul. Then I shall serve Him in perfect holiness and happiness for ever.<sup>29</sup>

**Even as He is Risen from the Dead, and Lives and Reigns to all Eternity.** As Christ rose from the dead, so I am to rise from the death of sin to newness of life in Him.<sup>30</sup> As He lives and dies no more, so I am to live in righteousness and no more become a servant of sin.<sup>31</sup> As He reigns to all eternity, so I am to live and reign with Him for ever.<sup>32</sup>

**This is most certainly true:** 1. That Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, is my Lord, who has redeemed me. 2. That He has paid the penalty for my sins with His holy and precious blood and His innocent sufferings and death. 3. That consequently I belong to Him, and should serve Him now and for ever.

QUESTION.--1. What four things does the explanation of the second article tell us about Christ's redemption? 2. Whom has Christ redeemed? 3. What was I before Christ redeemed me, and why? 4. From what has Christ redeemed me? 5. What is meant by redemption from sin? from death? and from the devil? 6. How has Christ redeemed me? 7. Why was the shedding of Christ's blood necessary? 8. Why did Christ suffer and die if He was innocent? 9. What is meant when we say that Christ was our substitute? 10. Why has Christ redeemed me? 11. To whom do I now belong, and what is my duty therefore? 12. What is meant by living under Christ in His kingdom? 13. In what spirit am I to serve Him? 14. What hope has Christ secured for me? 15. What three things are most certainly true according to this second article?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--I Pet. 2: 24. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

I John 2:2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 1:29. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Gal. 2:20. I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Isa. 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray.

II Cor. 5:21. For he hath made him to be sin

for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

I John 3:8. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

I Pet. 1:18,19. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

I John 1:7. The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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26 I Pet. 2:9.†

27 Matt. 16:24.†

28 Rom. 7:21-24.

29 Rev. 7:15.

30 Rom. 6:4.

31 Rom. 6:9,10.

32 Rev. 3:21.

I Pet. 3:18. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

Rom. 5:7,8. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

II Cor. 5:15. He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Gal. 2:20. I am crucified with Christ:

READING.--Jesus our High Priest, Heb. 9:11-15.

nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I Pet. 2:9. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Matt. 16:24. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

# THE THIRD ARTICLE OF GOD THE HOLY GHOST, OR SANCTIFICATION

## CHAPTER XX

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and the Life Everlasting. Amen.

*What is meant by this Article?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me by His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and will raise up me and all the dead at the last day, and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.

THE THIRD ARTICLE treats of GOD THE HOLY GHOST and His work of SANCTIFICATION. It tells us how we become partakers of the Redemption which is described in the Second Article. Christ *has accomplished* our redemption, and the Holy Ghost *applies* that redemption to our souls. The work of the Holy Ghost *in us* is as necessary for our salvation<sup>1</sup> as the work of Christ *for us*. We must believe in Christ, if we would be saved;<sup>2</sup> and it is the Holy Ghost who causes us to believe.<sup>3</sup>

Article III and its Explanation may be analyzed as follows:--

### THE HOLY GHOST

- I. *His Person and Nature*: He is True God.
- II. *His Work*: He Calls, Enlightens, Sanctifies, and Preserves me in the true Faith.
- III. *His Workmanship*: The Holy Christian Church.
- IV. *The Fruits of His Work*: 1. The Forgiveness of Sins. 2. The Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting.

### **THE HOLY GHOST**

#### **I. HIS PERSON AND NATURE**

**I Believe in the Holy Ghost.** The Holy Ghost is true God. He is not simply a power

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1 I Cor. 2:14.†

2 Mark 16:16.

3 I Cor. 12:3.

or energy of God, but a Person.<sup>4</sup> “He proceedeth from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified.”<sup>5</sup> Scriptures ascribe to Him divine names, attributes, power, honor, and works. Christ commanded His disciples to baptize men in the name of the Father and of the Son *and of the Holy Ghost*.<sup>6</sup>

The Holy Spirit instructed the prophets and teachers of Old Testament times,<sup>7</sup> and was poured out upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost.<sup>8</sup> He inspired the Holy Scriptures.<sup>9</sup> He comes into our hearts through the Word of God and the Sacraments.

## II. HIS WORK

The work of the Holy Ghost is *Sanctification*. This word is used here, at the head of the Third Article, in the wide sense, and includes the Holy Spirit's entire work upon our souls; namely, Calling, Enlightening, Sanctification in the narrower sense, and Preservation in the Faith.

1. ITS NECESSITY. If the Holy Spirit does not work in us, we cannot be saved. Hence, we say in the catechism,

**I believe that I cannot by my own Reason or Strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him.** For as I am by nature, my *reason* is so darkened by sin,<sup>10</sup> that I do not see my need of the Saviour. and I am so lacking in spiritual *strength* (being dead in trespasses and sins),<sup>11</sup> that I am unable to believe in Christ. Consequently it is necessary that the Holy Spirit should teach me to see in Christ my only Saviour, and give me strength to believe in Him.

2. ITS NATURE. **But the Holy Ghost has Called me through the Gospel.**<sup>12</sup> He has caused His Word to be written,<sup>13</sup> and causes it to be continually proclaimed<sup>14</sup> for the purpose of making God's grace known to me, and inviting me to share in it. He calls all men, and means His call earnestly. He does not merely seem to call some, but actually calls all who hear or read His Word.<sup>15</sup> And along with the call, He gives us the strength which we need in order to believe.<sup>16</sup> Those who obey the call are the Elect or Chosen<sup>17</sup> ones, and obtain salvation. Those who refuse to obey the call are lost.<sup>18</sup>

**Enlightened me by His Gifts.** The Holy Ghost shows me my lost condition and

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4 Acts 5:3,4.

5 John 14:26. John 15:26.

6 Matt. 28:19.

7 II Pet. 1:21.

8 Acts 2.

9 II Tim. 3:16.

10 I Cor. 2:14. †

11 Eph. 2:1.

12 II Tim. 1:9.

13 II Thess. 2:14. II Tim. 3:16.

14 John 20:31. † II Cor. 5:20. I Cor. 1:21.

15 I Tim. 2:4. † I Pet. 3:9.

16 Eph. 2:4-6.

17 Matt. 20:16. †

18 Mark 16:16.

God's saving mercy, and thus leads me to Repentance through the Law,<sup>19</sup> and to Faith through the Gospel.<sup>20</sup>

*Repentance* includes

1. An Acknowledgment and Confession of Sin.<sup>21</sup>
2. Sincere Sorrow for Sin.<sup>22</sup> It must be sorrow for the sin itself, and not merely for the consequences of sin.
3. The Hating and Forsaking of Sin.<sup>23</sup>
4. An Earnest Desire for Forgiveness.<sup>24</sup>

True repentance always leads to faith.<sup>25</sup> Sorrow for sins which does not lead to faith, is not repentance but remorse, and often drives men to despair.<sup>26</sup>

*Faith* includes

1. A Knowledge of the Facts of the Gospel.<sup>27</sup>
2. A Belief of the Facts.<sup>28</sup>
3. Trust or Confidence in Christ our Saviour.<sup>29</sup> This trust is the chief part of faith.

True faith is not a mere matter of the head, but of the heart. It is not a mere intellectual belief that God exists or that Christ lived and died; but it is a firm confidence that Christ is actually *our* Saviour, and that all *our* sins are washed away by His precious blood.<sup>30</sup> Faith says, "The Son of God loved *me* and gave Himself for *me*."<sup>31</sup>

True faith is always preceded by repentance. The impenitent have no promise of forgiveness, and therefore cannot have faith. They cannot believe a promise which has not been given to them.

*Regeneration and Conversion.* Those whom the Holy Spirit has brought to repentance and faith are in a state of regeneration and conversion. The change which has taken place in them is called a new birth or regeneration,<sup>32</sup> because a new life has been planted in them.<sup>33</sup> It is called conversion,<sup>34</sup> because they have been converted or turned from sin to

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19 John 16:8. Rom. 3:20.

20 John 15:26. John 1:17.

21 Ps. 51:3,4.

22 Luke 22:62.

23 Ps. 51:10.

24 Ps. 51:2,9.

25 II Cor. 7:10.

26 Matt. 27:3-5.

27 Rom. 10:14.

28 Rom. 4:20,21.

29 II Tim. 1:21. †

30 I John 1:7.

31 Gal. 2:20.

32 John 3:5,6.

33 II Cor. 5:17. †

34 Acts 3:19.

righteousness, from self to God.

It is not necessary that a Christian should be able to point to the exact time of his conversion. The important question is not, “When were we converted?” but, “Are we now in a converted state?” that is, “Are we now penitent and believing?”

*Justification.* All those who have true faith are justified;<sup>35</sup> their sins are forgiven, and the righteousness of Christ is imputed (counted as belonging) to them.<sup>36</sup> When we believe in Christ, all that He has done and suffered for us is regarded by God as if we had done and suffered it ourselves<sup>37</sup> for Christ was our substitute. Consequently, those who believe in Christ are *justified* for His sake; that is, they are pronounced by God to be righteous and fit to enter into heaven.

*By Faith Alone.* We are justified and saved by faith alone, without works.<sup>38</sup> We shall enter heaven, not because we deserve to enter,<sup>39</sup> but only because we believe in Christ. Salvation is a *Gift*: acquired for us by Christ's holy life and innocent death; bestowed upon us freely by God's grace; and accepted by faith.<sup>40</sup> Our faith is not a merit on account of which we are forgiven, but it is the hand with which we reach out and accept the free gift of forgiveness which God offers for Christ's sake.

Our own works have nothing to do with our justification.<sup>41</sup> If God took them into consideration at all, they would condemn us; for at best we are imperfect and sinful creatures.<sup>42</sup> In order to be saved, we need a *perfect* righteousness. Christ's righteousness alone is perfect. It becomes ours by faith.

**And Sanctified.** Those who have true faith are sanctified by the Holy Spirit; that is, they are made holy in heart and life.<sup>43</sup> While good works do not save us, they do and must follow faith as its fruit.<sup>44</sup> Believers do good works out of love to God and gratitude for His mercy. Faith that does not result in a holy life is a dead faith,<sup>45</sup> and cannot save. The Christian dare not live in sin.<sup>46</sup> He has become a new creature; for he is born again: and consequently he leads a new life. We shall, indeed, never become sinless in this world, but we must honestly and earnestly *try* to do God's will in all things.<sup>47</sup> We should grow more and more holy every day.<sup>48</sup> We cannot do this by our own power, but we can by the help of God. We should, therefore, be diligent and faithful in the use of the Word of God and the Sacraments; for these are the means which the Holy Ghost uses for our

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35 Rom. 5:1.† Rom. 4:5.

36 Phil. 3:9.

37 II Cor. 5:21. Rom. 8:1.†

38 Rom. 3:28.†

39 Gal. 2:16.†

40 Eph. 2:8,9.†

41 Rom. 3:20.†

42 Rom. 7:18-23. Gal. 3:10.†

43 Rom. 8:5.† Rom. 6:22.

44 Matt. 7:18.

45 Jas. 2:26.†

46 Rom. 6:2.†

47 Phil. 3:12-14. Matt. 5:16.†

48 Eph. 4:22-24. Rom. 12:2. I Thess. 4:1.

sanctification.\*

**And Preserved me in the True Faith.** As it is the Holy Ghost who brings us to faith, so it is He who preserves us in it.<sup>49</sup> The world, the flesh, and the devil are enemies who seek to destroy our faith and to rob us of our salvation. We should constantly pray for strength to resist these enemies,<sup>50</sup> and should obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We must avoid wilful, intentional sin,<sup>51</sup> and live a life of daily repentance. If we sin wilfully, we fall from grace and are lost, unless we come to true and lasting repentance. If we faithfully use the Means of Grace, and earnestly strive to lead a Christian life, the Holy Spirit will preserve us in the faith to the end.<sup>52</sup>

QUESTION.--1. Of what does the Third Article treat? 2. What is to be said about the importance of the Holy Spirit's work? 3. Analyze the Third Article and its Explanation. 4. What is to be said about the person and nature of the Holy Ghost? 5. How does the Holy Ghost come into our hearts? 6. Describe the Work of the Holy Ghost. 7. Why can we not be saved if the Holy Spirit does not work in us? 8. How has the Holy Spirit called me? 9. How has He enlightened me? 10. How does the Holy Ghost bring me to repentance? 11. What does repentance include? 12. How does the Holy Ghost bring me to faith? 13. What does faith include? 14. What is true faith? 15. What is meant by regeneration? 16. What is meant by conversion? 17. Must a Christian know the exact time of his conversion? 18. What is meant by justification? 19. What is the relation of faith and works in salvation? 20. What is meant by sanctification? 21. What is the relation between faith and good works? 22. How are we preserved in the faith?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--I Cor. 2: 14. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 20:31. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

I Tim. 2:4. Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Matt. 20:16. So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

II Tim. 1:12. For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

II Cor. 5:17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Rom. 5:1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 3:28. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Gal. 2:16. Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ.

Eph. 2:8,9. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.

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\* Faith in Christ does not at once make us perfectly holy and sinless, as some persons maintain; but it takes away the guilt of our sin. We are completely justified and forgiven as soon as we believe; but we are not completely sanctified. Sanctification is a gradual process, which will be completed only when we are transformed and glorified in heaven.

49 Phil. 1:6. †

50 Matt. 26:41. † Rev. 2:10.

51 Eph. 4:30. †

52 Phil. 2:12,13. †

Rom. 3:20. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Gal. 3:10. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Rom. 8:5. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Jas. 2:26. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Rom. 6:2. God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

READING.--The Outpouring of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:1-41.

ILLUSTRATIONS.--*Calling*: The Great Supper, Luke 14:16-24; The marriage of the King's Son, Matt. 22; Matthew, Matt. 9:9; Peter and Andrew, Matt. 4:19; Nathanael, John 1:45. *Repentance*: Cain, Gen. 4:13; Judas, Matt. 27:4,5; The Pharisee, Luke 18:10-12. *Faith*: The Centurion, Matt. 8:5-13; The Woman of Cana, Matt. 15:22-28; The Twelve Disciples; The Three Thousand, Acts 2; The Thief on the Cross, Luke 23:39-43; The Philippian Jailor, Acts 16:25-34. *Faithfulness*: Paul, II Cor. 11:23-33; II Tim. 4:7. *Apostasy*: Ana aias, Acts 4:5; Demas, II Tim. 4:10.

Matt. 5:16. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Phil. 1:6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Matt. 26:41. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Eph. 4:30. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Phil. 2:12,13. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

CHAPTER XXI  
THE HOLY GHOST  
III. HIS WORKMANSHIP

The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints.

**WHAT THE CHURCH IS.** The Church is “The Communion of Saints” or fellowship of believers. It consists of all those persons who truly believe in Christ.<sup>1</sup> We call it the *Workmanship* of the Holy Ghost, because He brings men to faith and thus produces the Church. **He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the true faith.**<sup>2</sup>

The Church may also be called the Holy Spirit's *Workshop*, because He abides and works in it through the Means of Grace,—the Word of God and the Sacraments.

**WHEN FOUNDED.** The Holy Christian Church was founded on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost was poured out upon the disciples.<sup>3</sup> On that day the Gospel of the crucified and risen Saviour was first preached by the apostles, the first converts were made, and the first Christian baptisms were administered.

**VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE.** The Church is invisible, because we cannot read men's hearts nor tell who are real believers. But if we regard the Church as an external organization which includes all who profess to believe, it is visible. In this outward visible Church there are many persons who are not real believers. But Christ knows His own.<sup>4</sup> The angels on the day of judgment will separate the hypocrites from the true Christians.<sup>5</sup>

**THE MARKS OF THE CHURCH.** The Church is found wherever the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered. For wherever God's Word is preached, some persons believe it,<sup>6</sup> and where believers are, there is the Church.

**THE CHURCH IS ONE.** It consists of the true believers out of all the different churches, denominations, and sects. There is one Flock, with one Shepherd.<sup>7</sup> The Church is the Body of which Christ is the Head.<sup>8</sup>

**ITS NAMES.** The Church is called *Holy*, because the Holy Spirit works in it and through it, and because its members, though not perfect, lead holy lives. It is called *Christian*, because it consists of those who believe in Christ. It is called *Catholic* or *Universal*, because it is meant to include all men everywhere. Catholic does not mean

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1 Matt. 16:16,18.†

2 Eph. 5:25-27.

3 Acts 2:1-41.

4 II Tim. 2:19.† John 10:14.†

5 Matt. 13:41,42.

6 Isa. 55:10,11.

7 John 10:16.

8 Col. 1:18. Eph. 1:22,23.†

*Roman Catholic.*

**MILITANT AND TRIUMPHANT.** The Church, consisting of true believers, is one and the same Church on earth and in heaven. On earth it is the Church Militant, because its members are still fighting the good fight of faith.<sup>9</sup> In heaven it is the Church Triumphant, because its members have won the victory of faith.<sup>10</sup> The only way into the Church Triumphant is through the Church Militant.

## **THE CHURCH'S WORK**

The Church is the agency or instrument which the Holy Spirit uses for the evangelization of the world.<sup>11</sup> It is the institution through which He does His work of applying redemption to the souls of men. The Church, therefore, has a work to do; namely, to make disciples of all men.

THE MEANS through which the Church, as an agency of the Holy Spirit, is to do its work are the Word of God and the Sacraments. They are sufficient for the purpose for which they are intended, because the Holy Spirit works through them and endows them with supernatural power.<sup>12</sup>

THE WORKMEN who are to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments are the *ministers*. They must be properly called and ordained by the Church.<sup>13</sup> In the New Testament all pastors are called elders or bishops. It was only at a later period that the office of a bishop was made superior to that of elder, pastor or minister. The office of an apostle was a separate and higher office. The apostles were the witnesses of Christ's redemption, and possessed miraculous powers. They have no successors. Ministers are the ambassadors of Christ, beseeching men to be reconciled to God.<sup>14</sup> Christ speaks through them. He who hears them, hears Christ; he who despises them, despises Christ.<sup>15</sup> If a minister should happen to be a hypocrite, his official acts, such as baptism and the like, would still be valid.<sup>16</sup> *Deacons*<sup>17</sup> are officers whose duty it is to assist the pastor, and to look after the temporal interests of the congregation. *Deaconesses*<sup>18</sup> are consecrated to the work of love and mercy, and minister to the sick, the needy, the neglected, the ignorant, the fallen, and the friendless.

## **THE VARIOUS CHURCHES**

While the Church, in the strict sense of the word, is the “communion of saints” and therefore *one*, yet outwardly it has become divided, in the course of time, into many different churches, denominations, and sects. It contains Four Great Branches: *The*

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9 I Tim. 6:12.†

10 Rev. 7:9-14. Rev. 2:10. rEV. 3:21.

11 Matt. 28:19. Mark 16:15.

12 Rom. 1:16.† Heb. 4:12.†

13 Acts 14:23. Tit. 1:5.

14 II Cor. 5:20.†

15 Luke 10:16.

16 II Tim. 2:13.

17 Acts 6:1-6.

18 Rom. 16:1.

*Greek Catholic Church; The Roman Catholic Church; The Evangelical Lutheran Church; and The Reformed Churches*, comprising a great number of denominations and sects. The Lutheran Church and the Reformed Churches are called Protestant. (For the names and relations of various branches of the Church, see the accompanying Diagram, on page 110.)

## **THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church is in reality the old original Church which came into existence on the day of Pentecost. Luther simply threw out the errors which had crept into the Church during the course of the centuries, and held fast the doctrines taught in God's Word. As a separate and distinct Church, the Lutheran Church dates from the year 1530, when the Augsburg Confession was read before the emperor and diet of the German Empire.<sup>19</sup> Her doctrines are laid down in her six Confessions, contained in the Book of Concord.\*

**THE CHURCH OF THE PURE GOSPEL.** The Lutheran Church receives the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only rule and standard of religious teaching. The Roman Catholic Church accepts the tradition of the Church as of equal authority with the Holy Scriptures. The Lutheran Church teaches the great central doctrine of the Gospel, that we are saved by *faith alone* without works. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that we are justified by *faith and works*. The Lutheran Church abides by the teachings of Scripture even when she cannot understand them. The other Protestant Churches explain away and reject some teachings of Scripture because they cannot understand them.

**HER NAME.** The name Lutheran was first given to our Church by her enemies. But she accepted it, because she believes the doctrines which Luther taught. The name which she chose for herself is Evangelical (true to the Gospel). She is now known by both names taken together, Evangelical Lutheran.

**WHERE FOUND.** The Lutheran Church is found in nearly all parts of the world, especially in Germany, the Scandinavian countries and the United States. She numbers eighty-two million adherents (in 1930), or nearly as many as all the other Protestant Churches combined. In the United States and Canada there are two million, nine hundred thousand confirmed members of the Lutheran Church, and about twenty million adherents. The Lutheran Church ranks third in size among the Protestant Churches of America.

**IN AMERICA.** The Lutheran Church in America comprises three general bodies: The Synodical Conference, organized in 1872; The United Lutheran Church in America, organized in 1918; and the American Lutheran Conference, organized in 1930. To these general bodies there belong various synods. There are also a number of independent

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<sup>19</sup> Since a particular Church is no older than her distinctive confession, the Lutheran Church is more than thirty years older than the Roman Catholic Church; for the Augsburg Confession was adopted in 1530, while the Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, which are the Confession of the Roman Catholic Church, were not completed until 1563. The ecumenical creeds are accepted by both Churches, and therefore prove nothing as regards their *relative* age.

synods which are not connected with any general body. Synods are often subdivided into Conferences.

**HER WORK.** The Lutheran Church, like the Church in general, is to make disciples (Christians) of men. She is all the more bound to do her work, because she is the Church of the Pure Gospel. Her work is done in local congregations, in Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Inner Missions, and in maintaining the necessary institutions of learning (colleges, seminaries, etc.) and of mercy (orphanages, asylums, hospitals).

**DUTIES OF HER MEMBERS.** It is the duty of her members to lead a Christian life, to be loyal to their own Church, and to co-operate heartily in all her local and general work, for the glory of God and the salvation of immortal souls.

**QUESTIONS.**--1. What is the Christian Church? 2. Why do we call it the Workmanship of the Holy Ghost? 3. When was it founded? 4. Is the Church visible or invisible? 5. What are the marks of the Church? 6. Why is the Christian Church *one*? 7. Why is the Church called, Holy, Christian, Catholic? 8. What is meant by the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant? 9. What use does the Holy Spirit make of the Church? 10. What are the means which the Church uses for its work? 11. Who are the Church's workmen, and what is their work? 12. Name the four great branches of the Christian Church. 13. How old is the Lutheran Church? 14. What three fundamental principles characterize the Lutheran Church? 15. Explain how the Lutheran Church got its name. 16. Where is the Lutheran Church found? 17. How large is it? 18. Name the General Bodies of the Lutheran Church in North America. 19. Describe the work of the Lutheran Church. 20. What are the duties of her members?

**SCRIPTURE VERSES.**--Matt. 16: 18. Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

II Tim. 2:19. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

John 10:14. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Eph. 1:22,23. And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

I Tim. 6:12. Fight the good fight of faith, lay

hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Rom. 1:16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Heb. 4:12. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

II Cor. 5:20. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

**READING.**--The Church at Jerusalem, Acts 2:41-47.

# CHAPTER XXII

## THE HOLY GHOST

### IV. THE FRUITS OF HIS WORK

The Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and the Life Everlasting.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit's work in us are: 1. The Forgiveness of Sins. 2. The Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting.

1. **The Forgiveness of Sins** has been acquired for me by my Saviour Jesus Christ; <sup>1</sup> but it is made mine by the Holy Ghost, who has brought me to faith and preserved me in it. For it is through faith that I obtain forgiveness.<sup>2</sup>

**In which Christian Church.** The forgiveness of sins is made mine *in the Church* through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Faith takes hold of and clings to the promises therein given. Special assurance of forgiveness is also given in Confession and Absolution.

**He daily forgives abundantly all my Sins.** Even if I am a sincere Christian, I am an imperfect and sinful creature, and I need God's forgiveness every day.<sup>3</sup> By keeping me in a state of repentance and faith, the Holy Spirit secures to me the continuous forgiveness of all my sins. The Christian's life is a daily repentance and a daily believing that God for Christ's sake graciously pardons all our transgressions and shortcoming.<sup>4</sup>

**And the Sins of all Believers.** All who lead a life of daily repentance and faith are daily and abundantly forgiven.

2. ***The Resurrection of the Body and the life Everlasting.*** The work of the Holy Spirit in me will not be completed until the last day. He will raise up me and all the Dead at the Last Day. The bodies of all men shall be raised from the dead and re-united with the souls from which they were parted at death.<sup>5</sup> These bodies will be essentially the same which we had on earth, but they will be immortal and incorruptible.<sup>6</sup> The bodies of the believers will be endowed with new and glorious properties, like the body of Christ after His resurrection.<sup>7</sup> They will be fit tabernacles for the glorified souls to inhabit through all eternity. They will be spiritual bodies, freed from all the imperfections and limitations to which they were subject on earth. The bodies of those believers who are still alive at Christ's second coming shall undergo the same change in a moment, in the

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1 I John 1:7.†

2 Rom. 5:1.

3 I John 1:8,9. Ro. 7:18-25.

4 Luke 11:3,4. Rom. 8:32.†

5 John 5:28,29.† Acts 24:15.†

6 I Cor. 15:42.

7 I Cor. 15:42-44. Phil. 3:21.†

twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.<sup>8</sup>

**And will grant Everlasting Life to me and to all who believe in Christ.**<sup>9</sup> The believers shall then enter upon the full and perfect enjoyment of eternal salvation.<sup>10</sup> Here we have the forgiveness of sins, but there we shall have life everlasting. The believers shall obtain an eternal inheritance in heaven,<sup>11</sup> and enter upon the enjoyment of a bliss so exalted that we cannot form any adequate conception of it here on earth. There will be differences of glory proportioned to the strength of faith and the zeal in labor manifested on earth.<sup>12</sup> But all shall be perfectly happy. They shall be free from sin and from every evil,<sup>13</sup> and dwell in the light of God's presence forever.<sup>14</sup>

*Eternal Death.* The impenitent and unbelieving shall be cast into eternal torment,<sup>15</sup> and shall suffer indescribable pain and misery for ever.<sup>16</sup> The greater their wickedness and neglected opportunities on earth, the deeper will be their remorse and anguish.<sup>17</sup> Having refused to let the Holy Spirit make them fit for entrance into heaven,<sup>18</sup> they shall be cast out into the only place for which they are fit, into hell.<sup>19</sup>

QUESTIONS.--1. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit's work in us? 2. How does the forgiveness of sins become yours? 3. Where is the forgiveness of sins made yours? 4. How do we obtain daily forgiveness? 5. When will the Holy Spirit's work in you be completed? 6. Describe the resurrection of the dead? 7. What is to be said about everlasting life? 8. Why will the impenitent and unbelieving be cast into hell?

SCRIPTURE VERSES.--I John 1: 7. The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Rom. 8:32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

John 5:28,29. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Acts 24:15. There shall be a resurrection of the

READING.--Christ Judging the World, Matt. 25:31-46.

dead, both of the just and unjust.

Phil. 3:21. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

I Pet. 1:4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Rev. 21:4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed

8 I Cor. 15:51-53.

9 John 3:16.

10 Matt. 25:34.

11 I Pet. 1:4. †

12 I Cor. 15:41,42. Luke 19:17-19.

13 Rev. 21:4. †

14 I Thess. 4:17. John 17:24. Rev. 7:15.

15 Matt. 25:41.

16 Rev. 14:11.

17 Luke 12:47,48. Matt. 11:24.

18 Rev. 21:27. Matt. 7:23.

19 Luke 16:23,24.