

First Lutheran Church of Venice
Foundations Class – Fall 2013
Session 4 – The Story That Shapes Us: The Apostles' Creed II

Introduction – Our Problem

- I. Session 2 and 3 Review
 - a. What did you learn God did for you from the 1st article of the Creed?
 - b. What is to be our response?

- II. What happened soon after the Creation of Adam and Eve?
 - a. Read Genesis 3

- III. What is now the natural condition of all people?
 - a. Gen. 5:3; Rom. 3:13-23, 5:12, 19; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3
 - b. This natural condition is often called “original sin”. It is a total corruption of our nature that renders us unable to “possess true fear of God and true faith in God”.

- IV. What is the effect of original sin in our lives?
 - a. Mt. 7:17, Mt. 15:19, James 4:17

- V. How are people saved from the consequences of the fall and restored to a right relationship with God and His creation?
 - a. This is the story of the 2nd article of the Creed!
 - b. God’s promises throughout the Old Testament
 - i. Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14, Is. 52:13-Is. 53:12, Ps. 110

God’s Solution – Jesus the Christ

- VI. Read “The Story of Jesus” by D.T. Strelan – Key Question – Who is this guy?

- VII. Read the 2nd article of the Apostles’ Creed – the Story of God *for us*

- VIII. The “Two Natures” of Jesus Christ – God AND Man
 - i. Jesus is both God AND man - Mt. 28:18-20; John 1:1-18, John 20:28, Acts 3:15, 20:28 Col. 1:15-20, 2:9; 1 John 5:20, Heb. 1, 1 Tim. 2:5, 3:16; Lk. 24:39, Heb. 4:14-16

 - ii. Why does it matter that Jesus is both God and man?

1. As man, He fulfills the Law in our place and pays the just penalty for sin (Rom. 5:19, Gal. 3:13, Gal. 4:4-5, Col. 1:22, Heb. 2:14)
2. As God, His fulfilling of the Law, His life, suffering and death serves as a sufficient ransom for all people and that He might be able to overcome death and the devil for us (Mk. 10:45, 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 15:55, 57)

IX. The “Two States” of Jesus Christ- Humiliation and Exaltation

- a. Humiliation – Birth through Burial
- b. Exaltation – Descent through the Last Judgment
- c. A Brief summary – Phil. 2:5-11

X. Why did Jesus humble Himself?

- a. To be the perfect substitute sacrifice for Sin – Is. 53:4-5, John 10:17-18, Rom. 5:19, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 John 1:7
- b. To deliver us from death – 1 Cor. 15:55-57
- c. To conquer the devil – Gen. 3:15, 1 Jn. 3:8
- d. For all people – 2 Cor. 5:15, 19; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Jn. 2:2

XI. Christ’s Exaltation - To Proclaim His Victory

- a. In hell - 1 Peter 3:18-20; Ephesians 4:8-9, Ps. 16:8ff, Acts 2:27-31
- b. In the world through His
 - i. Resurrection – Acts. 10:41, 1 Cor. 15:4-8, Rom. 1:4, John 11:25-26, John 14:19, 1 Cor. 15:20
 - ii. Ascension to God’s Right Hand – Lk. 24:51, Eph. 1:20-23, Eph. 4:10-12, Rom. 8:24, 1 John 2:1
- c. Until His coming on the Last Day – see esp. Mt. 24-25; Mt. 24:27, Acts 1:11, 2 Pet. 3:10, Rev. 1:7, Mt. 25:31-32, Jn. 12:48, 2 Cor. 5:10, Lk. 21:28, Heb. 9:28, Tit. 2:13, Rev. 22:20, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

XII. Why has Christ done all this?

- a. See Luther’s explanation... “That I may be His own...”
- b. Rom. 6:6, 2 Cor. 5:15, Gal. 2:20, 1 Pet. 2:9, Titus 2:14, Col. 3:1-3, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Lk. 1:69, 74-75, Rev. 7, Rev. 21-22

Remember: the story of Jesus in the Apostles’ Creed is the story of God *for you!*