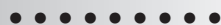




This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.

His Word Is Truth!



In last month's article I began a series on the **Apostles' Creed**. We learned that a "creed" is a statement of what one believes, and so the **Apostles' Creed** is a brief summary of what Christians believe about God. We call it the **Apostles' Creed** because its entire content is based on the writings of Jesus' Apostles as found in the New Testament Scripture. Therefore, the **Apostles' Creed** reveals what God Himself teaches us about **WHO** He is and **WHAT** He has done for us.

The **Apostles' Creed** is divided into 3 sections based on the 3 Persons of God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (See *Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 3:21-22, John 14:23-27 and 2nd Corinthians 13:14*)

Today we will examine the first section of the **Apostles' Creed**, which reads: **"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."** The words "I believe" do not merely mean that we acknowledge God's existence, because even the evil demons do that! (See *James 2:19!*)

The words "I believe" also mean that we trust God's Word!

What does the first section of the **Apostles' Creed** reveal to us about the Father? We're told that the Father is the "Maker of heaven and earth." However, Scripture teaches that the Son and the Holy Spirit also participated in the work of creation. (See *Genesis 1:2, Psalm 104:30, John 1:1-3 and Hebrews*

1:1-2) In Genesis chapters 1 & 2 we learn that God created the universe and all life within six ordinary days.

Creation is a miracle of God, beyond our ability to prove or comprehend! (Also see *Job 38:1-41, Psalm 148, Acts 17:24-26 and Hebrews 11:1-3*)

The first humans, Adam and Eve, were created "in God's image" (see *Genesis 1:27*), which means that we humans were meant to live forever in perfect fellowship with God, our loving Creator. However, Adam and Eve lost God's image when they doubted His Word and chose to trust in themselves and be their own "gods" (see *Genesis 3:1-20*).

We have the same problem! Why? We are all descendants of Adam, and we have inherited his sinful nature. Therefore, we need God's merciful intervention if we are to be rescued from the damnation we deserve and have the hope of eternal life with God once

again! (See *Romans 5:12-21, 1st Corinthians 15:1-23 and 2nd Corinthians 5:16-6:2!*)

The **Apostles' Creed** reveals that God chooses to be merciful to us unworthy sinners and give us many undeserved blessings. For example, the first section of the **Apostles' Creed** also teaches that God, our Creator, continues to provide for our physical needs in this sinful world. God gives us our bodies, food, clothing, shelter, family, friends, work, good weather, good government, and the list goes on. God gives us these things even though we deserve nothing but His wrath! In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes that God provides for all our physical needs **"out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us."**

But what about the times God does NOT provide for our physical needs? God sometimes withholds physical blessings and even

gives us suffering so that we will remember that we live in a world that is broken by our sin. (See *Romans 8:20-25*) God also allows us to suffer so that we will recognize that our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sin and the hope of eternal life with God through faith in Christ. (See *Romans 5:1-11, 2nd Corinthians 1:3-9, James 1:2-8, 1st Peter 1:3-9, 2nd Peter 3:1-13 and Revelation 21:1-5!*)

So, the first section of the **Apostles' Creed** teaches us that God the Father is the Creator of all things and that He continues to provide for us in this sinful world. However, God does not only provide for our physical needs. **Even more, the Father sent His Son into the world to be our Savior from our sin and the damnation we deserve so that we might become God's dearly loved children – now and for all eternity!** (See *John 3:16-21 and 1st John 4:9-10*)

Next month we will

examine the first few teachings in the second section of the **Apostles' Creed**, which is all about God's Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! God wants you to believe that His Son exists and that He came into this world to be YOUR Savior! **Trust in Jesus today!**



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, March 19th!

Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on the Apostles' Creed with the following part of the 2nd article: "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary..."

For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's webpage: www.concordiaajt.org

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