



His Word Is Truth!

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.



On Sunday, April 8th, many Christians around the world celebrated the *physical* resurrection of Jesus! Sadly, some do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead because they deny that such a miracle could happen. They refuse to believe that nothing is impossible for God! Others wrongly teach that Jesus only had a "spiritual" (non-physical) resurrection, even though God's Word clearly teaches that Jesus' BODY rose from the dead (see Luke 24:37-39, John 20:24-29 and Acts 2:24-32). *We should not be surprised that Jesus rose from*

the dead because before His death Jesus Himself said that He would be raised to life! (See Matthew 16:21 and Luke 18:31-33) *Jesus conquered death for us by His physical resurrection!* (See John 11:25-26, 1st Corinthians 15:51-58 and Philippians 3:20-21).

However, Jesus' physical resurrection is not the only victory we celebrate! On Friday, April 6th, many Christians around the world celebrated Good Friday – the *physical* death of Jesus by crucifixion. *But why should we celebrate Jesus' death?* The reason is that just as Jesus conquered our death by His physical resurrection, He also conquered our sin by His physical death! (See John 1:29, Romans 3:25-26, Galatians 3:13, Colossians 1:21-22, 1st Peter 1:18-19 and 2:24).

With the above in mind, today we continue our series on the Apostles' Creed with the following section from the 2nd article: **"...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried."** This part of the

Creed describes the part of Jesus' life known as His "humiliation." Jesus' ultimate act of humiliation took place when He willingly allowed Himself to be unjustly accused, convicted and crucified. Jesus humbled Himself even to the point of death on a cross – *and He did all this to save us from our sins against Himself!* (See Ephesians 1:7, Philippians 2:5-11 and 1st Timothy 1:12-17)

What historical events are behind Jesus' humiliation described in the Creed? After Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane He was put on trial in a Jewish court. Even though they could find no evidence against Jesus (see Matthew 26:57-61) they still wanted to put Him to death because He claimed to be the very Son of God (see Matthew 26:63-68). The Romans would not allow the Jews to execute anyone, and so they brought Jesus before the local Roman ruler, Pontius Pilate (see Matthew 27:1-2). Even though Pilate could find no reason to execute Jesus, he

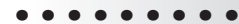
gave in to the pressure from the crowds and ordered that Jesus be crucified (see Matthew 27:11-26). The section of the Apostles' Creed that reads **"...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified..."** refers to these historical events recorded in Holy Scripture. *However, at this point we must understand that all this happened according to God's plan to save us from our sins by damning Jesus in our place!* (See Isaiah 53:4-12, Luke 24:44-47, Acts 2:22-23 and 1st Corinthians 15:1-4)

The next part of the Apostles' Creed simply says that Jesus **"died."** This is teaching us a profound mystery! God Himself suffered physical death to save us from the curse of our sin (see Romans 5:6-11 and Romans 6:23). When Jesus said *"It is Finished!"* (see John 19:28-30) He had completed His work of sacrificing Himself for our sins. After this, Jesus gave several signs that He was the very Son of God! (See Matthew 27:50-54) Contrary

to what many wrongly think, Jesus' death was NOT a victory for the devil! In fact, the devil did all he could to PREVENT Jesus from finishing His work on the cross (see Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 16:21-23 and Luke 23:35-39). Jesus conquered the devil by His sacrificial death for our sins! (See Colossians 2:13-15 and Hebrews 2:14-18) *That's why we call it GOOD Friday!* Finally, the Apostles' Creed says that Jesus was **"buried."** Just as Scripture teaches, Jesus was buried in a rich man's tomb (see Isaiah 53:9 and Matthew 27:57-60). This was also part of God's plan. Jesus rested from His work while His body was in the tomb on the Sabbath. No wonder the Apostle John said it was a SPECIAL Sabbath! (See John 19:31)

Sadly, even though God's Son was willing to humiliate Himself to save us sinners, many choose to cling to their sin and reject God's salvation. However, when the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to convict you of sin and give

you faith in Jesus you can be sure that you are forgiven and that you have the hope of eternal life in God's love. God gave this salvation to one of the criminals who was crucified with Jesus (see Luke 23:39-43). God also wants **YOU** to receive this salvation! *Repent and trust in Jesus today!*



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, May 21st! Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on the Apostles' Creed with the following section of the 2nd article: "He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead."

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

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