



19 Minutes with Luther

The First Article

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- **1st Article (Preservation)**
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

1. Martin Luther taught us to confess: "I believe that God . . . preserves me." What do the following passages tell us about our preservation by God?

"O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love!" (Psalm 36:6,7).

"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing" (Psalm 145:15,16).

2. What does the following passage tell us about how God preserves us?

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Genesis 8:22).

3. What is the relationship between God's preservation and a person's job? How do we understand this passage: *"If a man will not work, he shall not eat"* (2 Thessalonians 3:10)?

4. Agree or disagree: There is a relationship between worry and the confusion over what is a necessity and what is a luxury.

5. In John chapter 6, we find the account of the feeding of the five thousand. We're told that Jesus took *"five small barley loaves . . . and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. So "all had enough to eat"* (verses 9,11,12). What does this account tell us about how God preserves us?
6. What miracles has God worked in your life? In what area of earthly life, in particular, does it seem that miracles are fairly common today?
7. The Bible teaches us that God provides for all people, and yet there are many throughout the world and in our own communities who are starving or without other necessities. List at least four reasons why this is so.
- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
8. What comfort and assurance that God will meet your daily needs do you receive from the fact that God gave his only Son, Jesus, for your salvation?

Luther said:

"We should not be full of any other care for ourselves than this: not to be full of care for ourselves and thus to rob God of His care for us." (Plass, Vol. 3, p. 1544.)

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord God, your mercies are new every day. You richly and daily provide us with clothing and shoes, food and drink, all that we own, and all that we need for this earthly life. Above all, through your Son, our Savior Jesus, you provide all that we need for a life to come in heaven. Forgive our worry and our ingratitude. Lead us to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness, with the assurance that all things that we need will be given to us. Lord, we thank and praise you for your goodness to us. Move us to serve and obey you as well. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.
- Alone or with your family, list ten real needs that you have in this life. Of those ten needs, list any that God has not met.

Helps

(1) God, in love, provides us with all the necessities of life. (2) God provides for us through natural means (planting seeds and harvesting crops). (3) Enabling us to work and providing employment are two of the ways through which God provides us with the necessities of life. If a person refuses to (will not) work, he despises God's gifts. Such a person should not be allowed to live off others. (4) Agree. When people begin to see luxuries as necessities, they will be led to worry over not having what they need for this life. (5) God sometimes provides for us through miracles. (6) Answers will vary. The working of saving faith in each believer's heart is a great miracle of the Holy Spirit. Miracles, of course, happen in many areas of earthly life. A look at the field of medicine may supply some examples. (7) It may be the result of (a) sinful selfishness on the part of the rich, (b) a person's idolatrous religion that prevents him from using all of God's blessings (not eating cattle). (c) a punishment God may allow as a result of unbelief. (d) a call to repentance or an opportunity for a Christian to demonstrate love. (8) God has already done the greatest thing he could possibly do for us: he gave his own Son into death for our eternal salvation. Certainly he will satisfy our lesser needs as well: food, clothing, shelter.