



19 Minutes with Luther

The Second 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 Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

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.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

1. What do the following passages tell us about Jesus' person?

"We are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"About the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] went out to them, walking on the lake" (Mark 6:48).

"Whatever the Father does the Son also does. That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him" (John 5:19,23).

2. What do the following passages tell us about Jesus' person?

"There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity. . . . He had to be made like his brothers in every way" (Hebrews 2:14,17).

3. What, then, must we say about the unique person of Jesus Christ? How did Jesus, true God from eternity, also become true man?
4. God demands perfect obedience to his law as a requirement for eternal life. With this in mind, why was it necessary that Jesus, our substitute and Savior, be true man? Why was it necessary that he be true God?
5. As a requirement for eternal life, God also demands that we be without sin. With this in mind, why was it necessary that Jesus, our substitute and Savior, be true man? Why was it necessary that he be true God?
6. What comfort for your everyday life do you find in the fact that Jesus is fully human, just like you? What comfort do you find in the fact that he is God?
7. React to the following statements:

Jehovah's Witnesses read and translate John 1:1 as *"The Word [that is, Jesus] was a God,"* rather than *"The Word was God."* But it really doesn't matter.

I don't get it. How can a man walk on water? And how can God be thirsty and die?

The virgin birth is an impossibility. It's not that important anyway.

Luther said:

"I do not want a Christ who is a mere man, to believe in Him as my Savior and invoke Him in prayer; for then I would go to the devil, because mere flesh and blood could not blot out sin, reconcile God, remove His wrath, overcome and destroy death and hell, and give eternal life." (Plass, Vol. 1, p. 166.)

Closing Prayer

We praise you, Lord Jesus. You are the very Son of God, who for our sakes assumed human flesh and blood. You are exactly the kind of Savior we need: one who could live and die as our substitute and one whose life and death would assure us of salvation. May we live to your glory, here and hereafter. Amen.

At home

Memorize the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

Helps

(1) The Bible calls Jesus God, teaches that he has the characteristics (or attributes) of God, and shows that he does the almighty works of God. It also teaches that he is the Son of God, who receives the same honor as God the Father. (2) The Bible calls Jesus man and teaches that he has a human body and soul, human emotions, characteristics, experiences, and actions. (3) Jesus is a unique person with two natures; he is both true God and true man. Through his being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, the Son of God became true man (the incarnation). (4) It was necessary that Jesus be true man so that he could live under God's law in our place. It was necessary that he be true God so that his perfect obedience to the law might count for all people. (5) It was necessary that Jesus be true man so that he might die in our place. It was necessary that he be true God so that his self-sacrifice might be a sufficient payment for all sins. (6) Because Jesus is true man, he can sympathize and empathize with us. Because he is our loving God, he is willing and able to help us. (7) Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus is true God, equal with the Father in every way. They claim that Jesus is a created individual and equate him with Michael the archangel. If Jesus is not true God in the fullest sense, he cannot be our Savior. The attributes of both Jesus' human and divine natures are ascribed to his one person. The man Jesus could walk on water because he is also God. The Son of God could die because he is also a man. The virgin birth came about through a miracle of the almighty God. Since Jesus was born, not in the natural way but in a supernatural way, he came fully qualified to be our Savior; he was not, like all other people, tainted with original sin.