



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. Martin Luther reminds us that Jesus has redeemed us "from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil . . . with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death." According to the following passages, for what glorious purposes did Christ redeem us?

"[Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14).

"He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

2. Martin Luther stated that Christ redeemed us so that we might serve him in "righteousness." Why, in spite of our daily sins, can we claim that we serve our God in righteousness?
3. Luther also stated that Christ redeemed us so that we might serve him in "innocence," that is, hating sin and being filled with a new desire to live a holy life. Where does this new desire in Christians come from?

4. Luther finally stated that Christ redeemed us so that we might serve him in “blessedness,” that is, filled with a thankful joy as we gladly serve our Savior. Share examples from the Bible in which God’s people served in blessedness.

5. Agree or disagree:

It is Christ’s love for us that moves us to love him and serve him joyfully.

Being a Christian makes us nothing more than slaves to God and his laws.

We can never serve the Lord perfectly in this life, so it’s senseless even to try.

Living as God wants is an uphill climb for which there is no help.

Only in heaven will we be able to serve God as we want, that is, perfectly.

No one can be one hundred percent certain that he will someday be in heaven, where he will be able to serve the Lord perfectly.

Luther said:

“Christ rescued us poor, lost humans out of the jaws of hell, won us, freed us, and brought us back into our Father’s favor and grace. He has taken us beneath his shield and shelter to reign in us with his righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and bliss.” (Tappert, p. 414.)

Closing Prayer

Precious Lord, you have redeemed us so that we might wake each day to a high and holy purpose. By your Spirit, empower us to glorify you more and more by our lives. We long for the day when, free from sin, we will serve you forever in perfect righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Amen.

At home

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

Helps

(1) Christ redeemed us so that we might be his own, live for him and serve him now, and live with him eternally. (2) We can serve God in righteousness because he has removed our sins through the blood of his Son and has covered us with Christ’s righteousness. (3) When the Holy Spirit brings Christians to faith, he gives them a “new man” that opposes the sinful nature and desires to serve and honor God. (4) Answers will vary. Zacchaeus, who repaid those he had cheated and gave to the poor (see Luke 19), and Mary, who without hesitation anointed Jesus with very expensive perfume (see John 12), are examples of Christians who served in blessedness. (5) The gospel is the Christian’s proper motivation for service to the Lord; we serve, not to gain God’s favor but because in Christ we have God’s favor. Christians, in response to the gospel, gladly and willingly offer themselves as slaves to righteousness, not because they have to but because they want to. Even though our sinful nature keeps us from serving God perfectly in this life, our love for him moves us continually to try. The Holy Spirit, through Word and sacrament, helps us in our daily struggle to put away sin and live righteously. In heaven, where we will be freed forever from sin and its effects on our lives, we will be able to serve the Lord in perfect righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Christ’s death and resurrection are our certain guarantee of eternal life.