July 18, 2021

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HOME TALK

Making Disciples in the Middle of Everyday Life Mt 28:20a

Explanation of Luther's Small Catecistsm Talking about the Second Article of The Apostles' Creed *

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, dead, and 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 whence He shall 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, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought and freed me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil - not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death - in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

194 Why did Christ descend into hell*?

Christ descended into hell to announce the victory He had won over death and Satan (1 Peter 3:18-19)

195 What benefits do you have because of the resurrection of Christ?

1. The resurrection assures me that Jesus is the Son of God.

Romans 1:4 [Jesus] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead ...

2. The resurrection assures me that Jesus has fully paid for my sins.

Romans 4:25 [Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification ...

3. The resurrection gives me power to arise from spiritual death, and to live a new life.

Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

4. The resurrection assures me that I shall rise on the last day.

1 Corinthians 15:20-21 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

* Hell, as used here, does not refer to the place of final punishment. It refers to Hades, a place for the spirits of the dead between death and final punishment or reward.

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard Version



A Verse to Remember

ow this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17:3 ESV

* in the Explanation of Luther's Small