

HOME TALK

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



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.

203 When will Jesus' return?

Jesus says that no one knows the exact time of His return, but has given certain signs which show that He may return at any time:

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

204 What are some signs of Jesus' return?

Signs that point to Jesus' return at any time are:

1. The preaching of the Gospel (Matthew 24:14).
2. Increasing ungodliness among people (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
3. Wars and rumors of war (Matthew 24:6).
4. Catastrophes in nature (Matthew 24:7).
5. False Christs will appear and deceive many (Matthew 24:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8).



205 Is it enough for you to know all these things about Christ and consider them true in order to be saved?

No, the Holy Spirit must teach me to know Christ as my Savior from sin.

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard Version

