

APOSTLES' CREED - FIRST ARTICLE

LESSON 3

The next three lessons will be studies of the Apostles' Creed. The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo. Lesson 2 gave the meaning for credo. What does it mean?

I Believe

The Apostles' Creed is a Biblical statement of what Christians believe about the triune God. The Apostles' Creed is divided into three sections or articles. There is one article for each part of the Trinity. Article I deals with God the Father. Article II deals with God the Son. Article III deals with God the Holy Spirit.

This lesson will consider Article I. The study will include a discussion of what it means to believe in something and a study of God as the Creator. The last section will cover the Genesis account of creation and God as the preserver of His creation.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

How are beliefs communicated? The obvious answer is that they are communicated through spoken language. But as the saying goes "Talk is cheap." It is easy to state a belief, but often much harder to live by that belief. Behavior can be a much better indicator of what a person truly believes.

What is wrong when someone says, "I believe smoking is wrong" and then that person goes and smokes?

They are showing by their action that they do not really believe what they say

When a person never goes over the speed limit, what does that person probably believe?

Believes it is wrong to go over speed limit

Using the above illustrations, which of the following is more true? *B*

- A. Words are better indicators of what a person believes.
- B. Actions are better indicators of what a person believes.

Following this line of reasoning, how can people tell if someone really believes in God?

By their actions

God the Creator

APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE I - "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

Which attribute of God is included in the first article of the creed?

Omnipotent

What does "Almighty" mean? All powerful, most powerful of all

Look through Genesis, Chapter 1 to find out what God did to create the universe, earth, animals, and plants.

He simply spoke

Can man create anything by simply speaking? No

Can man, using anything and everything available, create something out of nothing?

No

According to the First Article, what two things did God create?

A. heavens B. Earth

Aside from God Himself, who else dwells in heaven? Angels

The word "angel" is an official title, not a description. The title designates an ambassador or messenger.

Look up John 1:1-3 to find out how angels came into being. God make them

How are angels described in Hebrews 1:14? Ministering Spirits

According to Hebrews 12:22, how many angels are there? Thousands & thousands

What does 2 Thessalonians 1:7 tell us about angels? They are powerful

Look up the following passages to find out the functions of angels.

1. Luke 2:13 give praise to God
2. Matthew 18:10 serve Children
3. Hebrews 1:14 serve believers
4. Luke 16:22 minister to (take care of) the dying

Although we do not want to dwell on this for long, we will take a moment to look at what happened to some of the angels.

Read Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4. What had the angels done? sinned

Some of the angels God created rebelled against God. These are demons the chief of which is Satan.

According to 1 Peter 5:8,9, what does the devil do? prowls around looking
for someone to devour

We need to be aware of Satan and his forces, but we must not get overly interested in him. God has defeated him by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Faith in Jesus is that with which we are to concern ourselves.

God Our Preserver and Protector

Look up Genesis 1 and determine what was created by God on each day.

Day 1 light Day 4 Sun, moon, stars

Day 2 firmament (sky) Day 5 water creatures , birds

Day 3 ground, vegetation Day 6 land animals, green plants, Man

All things were created by God. Everything in our lives has been created by God. List five things for which you are most thankful.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

Luther, in his explanation for the first article, includes a rather lengthy list of gifts from God. **Underline** all of the things Luther lists as gifts from God.

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children. fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy; without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

What does "still preserves them" mean? continues

The above explanation to the First Article says God "guards and protects me from all evil." Why is this necessary?

I cannot protect myself

Read Genesis 32:10. Do we deserve God's gifts and His protection? No

Now read Psalm 103:13.

Why does God preserve and protect us? Out of love

According to the meaning of the First Article, how can we show thanks to God for what He has done for us?

A. Serve Him and Obey Him B. Praise Him and Thank Him