

## THE APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE II AND ARTICLE III

### LESSON 5

This lesson will continue the study of the Second Article. Two remaining phrases will be discussed. The lesson will also begin the study of the Third Article.

#### **And Sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty**

Ephesians 1:20-23 establishes that Jesus is now at the right hand of God the Father. This is simply a returning to where Jesus was before He came to earth.

#### **From Thence He Shall Come To Judge the Quick and the Dead**

Jesus will return to earth. Look up Acts 1:11. How will Jesus return?

*The same way in which He went*

When will Jesus return? Look up Matthew 24:36 for the answer.

*No one knows*

Jesus will judge all people when He returns. Read Matthew 25:31-46.

On what basis are the people divided? *According to what they have done*

This may seem like our works are the basis for our salvation. The point is that the people who have a personal relationship with the Lord will do the things for others that are described in these verses. People without a relationship with the Lord will either not do these things or they will do them for the wrong reasons.

So, how does all of this apply in a person's life? The Second Article states who Jesus is, what He did, what He will do. At this time, this study will look more deeply into what Jesus did.

Jesus redeemed us when He died on the cross. We are in great need of being redeemed. The word "redeem" means "to buy back." When we say "Jesus redeemed us," we mean He bought us back. In order to be bought, a price must be paid.

From what are we redeemed? *Sin and Satan*

What price was paid? *Jesus had to suffer and die*

How did we get into a situation where we needed to be bought back?

Adam and Eve sinned - we are born sinful

Define lost. separated

If you lose your tennis shoes, are you separated from them? yes

You are in one place and they are in another.

If you, as a child, wandered away from your parents and got lost, you were in one place; and they were in another. You were separated. Sinful man is separated from God. He is lost.

A man lost from God exhibits certain kinds of characteristics. See if you can distinguish lost man from redeemed man.

B 1. Does not see things as they really are      A. REDEEMED

B 2. Things are more important than God      B. LOST

A 3. Not overly concerned about food, clothing, etc.  
(physical things)

B 4. Is selfish

B 5. Turns to money or exotic religions to try to  
find peace and satisfaction

B 6. Looks out for "number one" (himself)

A 7. Seeks to do what God would have him do

B 8. Believes he controls his own destiny

What happens if a man steals something and is caught? he is punished

Would he be condemned to a jail sentence? yes

Stealing is a crime against society's laws as well as God's law.

All sin is a crime against whom? God

Are you guilty of sin? yes

If the answer to that last question is "yes," then you should be condemned to death and separated from God. For God's perfect goodness cannot tolerate sin. However, God, in His love and mercy, has provided a way out of the unhappy predicament we get into when we sin. God's way out is the Gospel - the good news. Look up Romans 5:8. Write it down.

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ

died for us.

Who gets us out of trouble with God? Jesus

How did He do this? By dying on the cross for me

What does it mean when we say, "Jesus died for me"? He took our sin upon Himself.

I should be the one who died for my own sins.

Do we, as sinners, deserve God's love or His wrath? His wrath

Who felt God's wrath? Jesus

Did He deserve God's wrath? No

Phrased another way, Christ's death and suffering should be our death and suffering. Christ's physical and emotional pain should be our physical and emotional pain. Christ's separation from God should be our eternal separation from God. Jesus took our place. He is our substitute. He paid the price.

This is how we are made right before God. Only through Jesus is there salvation from what we all deserve. Faith in Jesus - that He did all this for me - is all it takes.

What is to be our response? How should we live our lives?

Doing as God wants us to do

Using what you have learned so far do the following exercise.

If you were St. Peter standing at the Pearly Gates, which of the following testimonies would be sufficient for entry into heaven? Circle the numbers of those you would find acceptable.

1. Hi! I'm O.K. Dokey. I believe that I lived an okay life. I left everyone alone and didn't cause much trouble for anyone. I went to church when I was little, and I remember a few things, I suppose. But hey! I didn't get into trouble on earth, and I treated others fair and square.

2. Hello! I'm Duane Doright. Here, let me help you with your staff. Got it? All right. Let's see. About my life. Well, I lived a good one. I belonged to every civic organization there was in my town. I was a boy scout in my youth, and I was a boy scout leader when I got older. I gave to the March of Dimes, the United Way, and anybody else that came along who needed a

contribution. I owned a chain of stores, and I'm proud to say I treated everyone fairly. Why, if there ever were any complaints, I took care of them - free! After I retired, I helped with programs for the elderly. For as long as I could, I drove the van for the nursing home. I spent many an hour helping others. I've always tried to do what was right and fair.

3. Um. Is this where I talk to St. Peter? Oh! You're St. Peter. I'm Naomi Stein. Pleased to make your acquaintance. You want to know about why you should let me in there, right? My, it looks real nice over there. Oh, yes! I'm Jewish. I've been a good and faithful and religious Jew. I've observed all the holy days and festivals. I've kept the ten commandments or at least I've tried real hard. I confess I did do some coveting when Laura Peters - she lived next door to me right after I got married - got a new full-length fur coat. It was sooo gorgeous. Well, other than that, I've done real good. I've been faithful to the traditions of our forefathers. You know. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Yea! I've been real faithful.

4. Is that really you St. Peter? Oh, my! I'm honored to meet you at last. You know, you don't really look like all those pictures of you. Why, last week at the ladies aid meeting at the Lutheran church, you know, I was saying to the ladies how I wondered how you guys really looked. Fancy that! Now I get to see you! Oh! Why should you let me in there? Well, doesn't that little book of yours have a list of all the things I've done at my church? It doesn't! Well, let me tell you. I've gone to church every single Sunday, just about, for as long as I can remember. I've taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for years. I've sung in the choir. I've been on practically every board and committee there has been. I've worked my tail off for that church! Are you sure there's no record of that in your little book? Well, there should be!

5. St. Peter? Right? This is kind of like a dream. I'm John Strong. I didn't really think all of this existed. About my life? I've done things my way. I've taken care of myself - never troubled anyone for anything. I've taken no handouts and asked no favors. The best way to sum up my life is this line from a poem I once read, "I am the captain of my fate, I am the master of my soul."

6. I'm Emmet Wright, Em for short. Why should you let me in there? Well, left to myself, you shouldn't let me in there. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life. I don't deserve a second glance from God. However, I do know Jesus Christ. I know that He took upon Himself all my sins. I've had faith in Christ in my life, and He has promised me salvation.

7. Wow! So this is what happens when you die. I was thinking I'd be going back to earth to live another life as someone rich and famous. I am, or was, Willie Wow. And you're St. Peter. Wow! Why should you let me into heaven? I've always believed in God. I mean, he's the highest level of attainment, the force, the ultimate unity. All religions are pretty much the same anyway, aren't they? As for Jesus, he was a good teacher and role model for all humans. He had some great sayings. Yea. I've believed in God, but I kind of thought it would be different than this.

8. Hi there! I'm Nancy Nature. Oh. I've always believed in God. I mean, one look at all the beauty of the great earth lets me know there is a God. I've spent many hours and days

contemplating God and the enormity and complexity of the universe. I never really believed in any specific doctrine. I've just always known, because of the beautiful flowers and mountains, that there is a creator somewhere.

### Article Three, The Holy Spirit

"I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen."

The remaining portion of this lesson will deal with the Holy Spirit and His role. The Holy Spirit is responsible for bringing us to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Redeemer.

Try to determine four ways we grow as human beings.

1. Physically
2. Mentally
3. Emotionally
4. Spiritually

Article Three concerns spiritual growth. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Through the Holy Spirit (and only through the Holy Spirit) we come to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Look up 1 Corinthians 12:3. Can we possibly come to know Jesus as Lord without the Holy Spirit working in us?

No

How does the Holy Spirit make us able to believe in Jesus? He changes our hearts - our rebellious, unbelieving hearts. Only the Holy Spirit can turn our hearts to God.

We must also depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the power to live as God would have us live. And the Holy Spirit keeps us in our faith.

Here is the meaning for Article III. Read it.

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true."

What five things does the Holy Spirit do?

1. Calls
2. Enlightens
3. Sanctifies
4. Keeps



3.           *peace*                                4.           *patience*            
5.           *kindness*                                6.           *goodness*            
7.           *faithfulness*                                8.           *gentleness*            
9.                   *self-control*

The Holy Spirit keeps us in faith. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, we would lose our faith.

Read Philippians 1:6. Of what does this assure us? God will not give up on me