

Session 2: God's Plan of Salvation

Last time we learned about God and the story of the world from a Christian worldview. We covered creation, the fall, sin and its consequences, and learned about the Law and the Ten Commandments. Today we meet the “hero” of the story, Jesus Christ, and we learn about God’s plan of salvation. We’ll talk about who Jesus is, His work of “redemption,” and will look at some theological concepts: Jesus’ States of Humiliation and of Exaltation.

God’s plan of salvation is perhaps best summed up in this very familiar passage from John’s Gospel:

John 3:16-17: ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1. God’s Plan to Save Us

- a. When mankind fell into sin, God pronounced curses and consequences and shame. But He also promised to ____ the problem by sending a _____ who was capable of delivering us.
- b. All of the Old Testament looks _____ and points to the Savior, the _____ who would come and bring forth the new creation.
- c. The people of _____ become God’s chosen representatives. They are called to be a _____ to the rest of the nations and to fulfill His _____ for mankind.
- d. Like Adam and Eve before them, Israel _____ in their calling and purpose, and they turned to idolatry and rebellion.

- e. Still, God used the nation of Israel to send another representative, a Messiah, a _____.

2. God Sends His Own Son

- a. The hero who arrives on the scene is _____, who came to do what man could not do for himself.
- b. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are the story of _____, God who became _____, who came to _____ and save the lost.
- c. The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed says, "I believe in _____, His only Son, our Lord, who was _____ by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, _____ under Pontius Pilate, was _____, died, and was buried. He _____ into hell. The _____ day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into _____ and sits at the right hand of _____, the Father Almighty. From thence He _____ to judge the living and the dead."
- d. We believe, teach, and confess that "Jesus Christ, true _____, begotten of the Father from _____, and also true _____, born of the Virgin Mary, is my _____."
- e. Jesus Christ has _____ us, that is, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. He did this not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious _____ and with His _____ suffering and death.
- f. The purpose for all of this is so that I may be _____ and live under Him in His kingdom and _____ Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

3. The nature of Jesus Christ

- a. Jesus Christ is true _____, because He is _____ of the Father. This was necessary in order to perfectly fulfill the _____, and so His sacrifice would be _____ for the whole world in order to overcome sin, death, and the devil for us.
- b. At the same time, Jesus Christ is also _____ man. He was born of the Virgin Mary and has flesh and blood just like all of us. This was crucial; only a man could stand in our place under the _____ and pay the _____ that mankind owes for our sin.

4. Humiliation and Exaltation

- a. Theologians talk about Christ's "state of _____" and His "state of _____."
- b. Christ's state of humiliation has to do with his _____ to take on _____ and to bear our sins.
- c. Jesus' descent into hell after his death was not _____. Rather, he descended into hell to _____ Satan that God's _____ of salvation was playing out, and that _____, _____, and the _____ had been defeated.
- d. On Easter morning, the empty _____ bore witness to the fact that Jesus had returned victorious.

Conclusion: The fall into sin left mankind with a serious problem: our sin separated us from God, and our sinful nature meant that there was nothing we could do about it. But God's love for all people led Him to plan for our salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of His own Son, Jesus Christ.

Assignment: Memorize the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning (*bottom of page 7 and top of page 8 in your Small Catechism*)