



The Second Article

Introduction

Are you respectful? Kind? Compassionate? Happy? How does someone know if you are or are not described by those words? By what you do. Much the same way, the things Jesus did, even the way he was born, reveal a lot to us about who he is.

Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, I am here to learn about you. Lead me to know you according to what is taught about you in your Word, not according to what this world teaches about you. Please, strengthen my faith in you as my Savior from all my sins now and always. Amen.

Lesson Aim: Who is Jesus Christ?

Part One

Read Luke 1:26-38.

- 1) What word does this account use to describe Mary?
- 2) What news did the angel bring to Mary?
- 3) What did the angel say about the child to reveal that he would be more than just a boy?
- 4) Mary asked a good question: "How will this be?" The angel then told her how this child would be conceived in her. How would this take place?
- 5) To what other amazing fact did the angel point Mary to help her believe what he had told her?
- 6) How does Mary's reaction in verse 38 show her trust in the angel's words?
- 7) Even before his birth, the Bible describes Jesus as true God and true man. How do you see that taught in these verses?

Read Matthew 1:18-25.

- 8) What word would we use today for the status of Joseph and Mary's relationship as verse 18 describes it?
- 9) Who was the source of the child within Mary?
- 10) This is why we say in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus was " _____ by the _____."
- 11) The name "Jesus" means (v.21):
- 12) Why was this name fitting for Jesus?
- 13) What other name does the angel say will apply to Jesus?
- 14) Why is this name also fitting for Jesus?
- 15) Why does the Bible specifically say Joseph did not consummate their marriage until after she gave birth?

Read Mark 2:1-12.

- 16) Because of a great crowd, they can't get their paralyzed friend to Jesus. What was their solution?
- 17) You might expect Jesus to immediately heal this man. Instead, what are his first words to the man?
- 18) Why were the religious leaders upset about Jesus' statement?
- 19) Jesus confronts them by asking them a question. What did he ask?
- 20) After asking them that question, Jesus heals the man. But notice, Jesus gave a reason for doing this miracle. What was the reason?
- 21) Many people today claim that Jesus was just a man and not true God. Yet this passage proves otherwise. List several ways that these verses shows that Jesus is true God.

Jesus also performed many other miracles which all prove his divine power and love.

Read John 1:1, Romans 9:5, Colossians 2:9 and 1 John 5:20.

- 22) What do these verses tell us Jesus is?

Read Matthew 4:2, Luke 2:52 and John 4:6.

- 23) What do these verses tell us Jesus is?

We know that Jesus is both God and man because the Bible calls him both, tells us he has the characteristics of both, and tells us that he does the things that both do. One reason Jesus became man was so he could be subject to God's law and keep it for us. The second reason Jesus became man was so that he could die and by his death pay for the sins of the world.

KEY POINT 1 - Jesus, who has always been true God, became man in order to be my Savior.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

- 1) Define redeem:
- 2) Define ransom:

In this section, answer each blank according to what is taught in the passage referenced.

3) Christ had to redeem and ransom us because by nature we are slaves to _____ (John 8:34), _____ (Romans 5:12), and _____ (1 John 3:8). Jesus gave his _____ (Matthew 20:28) to give us _____ (Ephesians 1:7) and to pay for our sins. He suffered the _____ (Isaiah 53:5-6) that we deserve and brought us peace. Think for just a minute about the pain Jesus went through. A Roman soldier used a whip that had a sharp piece of metal on the end of each of the cords. Each time that soldier hit Jesus with the whip, it sliced into his back, much like sharp knives would do. Then nails were pounded into Jesus' hands and feet. And when the cross was put upright, the weight of his body pulled down on those nails. Above all, he was forsaken by his Father. The price of our redemption was not paid for with _____ (1 Peter 1:18-19) things, but Christ's blood, suffering and death was the price he paid to

ransom us from slavery to sin, death, and the devil. We've learned that our sins caused death. But Christ's death, as our ransom, sets us free from death and from the _____ (Hebrews 9:15) we committed. Christ removes our sins and gives us _____ (2 Corinthians 5:21) in its place. Now, even though we are sinners, we will never be _____ (Romans 8:1) because of Christ's death to redeem and ransom us. You aren't afraid to put your head down on a pillow and fall asleep at night. You know that you'll wake up again in the morning. So also, you need not ever fear death. The Bible describes death as a sleep from which we know we will wake up again. Jesus freed us from death by making death a sleep from which we will wake up to life in heaven, rather than to eternal punishment in hell. Jesus freed us from the devil by taking away the power of the devil's temptations and accusations, because we are forgiven!

KEY POINT 2 - Jesus freed me from slavery to sin, death, and the devil by removing all the bad things they can bring on me.

What I've learned so far:

Part Three

Study pages 148-162 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

- 1) Why do we believe that Jesus is true God and also true man?
- 2) Why did Jesus have to be both God and man?
- 3) What are the three "offices" that Jesus is carrying out right now in heaven? Explain what each one means.
- 4) Why do we call Christ's blood holy and precious, and why do we call his suffering and death innocent?
- 5) In what sense did Christ's redemption free us?

Helpful Passages

Galatians 4:4—God's requirement to enter heaven is perfection/holiness. Since we can't do it, we needed a Savior who could. In order for him to be subject to the law, he needed to be man.

Hebrews 2:14-17—The fair punishment for sin is death. We therefore need a Savior who could die. In order for him to be able to die, he need to be man.

Hebrews 4:15—As true God, Jesus was able to do what we could not. He kept God's law perfectly. In order for him to be perfectly holy, he needed to be God.

2 Corinthians 5:21—God demands a perfect life if we are to enter heaven. We needed Savior who is true God so that his perfect life could be great enough to count for the sins of all people of all time. In order for his life and death to count for everyone, he had to be God.

John 5:23

Who is to honor Jesus?

And we are to give Jesus the same honor that we give to whom?

1 Timothy 2:5—This verse clearly identifies Jesus as God and clearly identifies him as man at the same time.

Main point — Jesus Christ, true God and also true man, is my Savior from all my sins.

Final considerations:



Agree or Disagree?

- 1) ___ God died.
- 2) ___ When we see a picture of Jesus' bloody body hanging on the cross, we should feel sorry for him.
- 3) ___ Because Jesus took away the guilt of our sins, we shouldn't be bothered by the fact that we fall into sin every day.
- 4) ___ When the Bible says that Jesus redeemed me, it means he paid the necessary price to free me from my slavery to sin, death, and the devil.
- 5) ___ Jesus came into existence on Christmas morning.
- 6) ___ Jesus was a true man.
- 7) ___ Jesus lived a life that was exactly like ours in every respect.
- 8) ___ Those who deny that Jesus is both true God and true man are not Christians.

- 9) According to the Bible, Jesus Christ is ___ .
 - A. a man whose life was so perfect that he became a god.
 - B. the eternal Son of God who by the miracle of his incarnation made himself look like a man.
 - C. both true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the virgin Mary.

- 10) To say that Jesus is both God and man in one is ___ .
 - A. scientifically impossible.
 - B. believed by all true Christians, since it is one of the greatest truths clearly taught in the Bible.
 - C. not really essential to the Christian faith and may be rejected, since the important thing is what he did, not who he was.

- 11) If someone says the virgin birth of Jesus is not true, what also is that person denying?

- 12) A friend of yours who doesn't know much about Jesus says to you, "I don't see why you make such a big deal about Jesus' sacrificing his life for you. Many people throughout history have sacrificed their lives to save other people." How would you answer your friend?

- 13) List some (at least one for each) examples of how Jesus showed his power over each of the following.
 - Disease or disability
 - Nature
 - The devil and his demons
 - Death

- 14) How does the second article lead us to praise and thank god for his kindness and generosity?

Keep working on your personal confession of faith creed.

What I've learned about Jesus Christ:

Commit to Memory:

- The Second Article with Luther's explanation.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Christmas—Luke 2