

## Large Catechism Lesson 17

### Part 2: The 1<sup>st</sup> Article

#### **Opening Discussion: The Small Catechism on the 1<sup>st</sup> Article**

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*What does this mean? 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 takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.*

*This is most certainly true.*

- What is surprising to you in this part of the Small Catechism?

#### **Article I**

¶ 9-11

- What does Luther mean when he says that the creed is nothing other than the answer and confession of Christians arranged with respect to the first commandment?
- How does Luther determine who God is?

¶ 12-19

- I am God's creature. How does that shape our entire worldview?
- What all is included in the word 'Creator'?
- Without our merit...

¶ 17-24

- What happen when we ignore the 1<sup>st</sup> Article?
- What is our Christian duty with regard to the 1<sup>st</sup> Article?
  - To what extent?
- What we receive from God, and what we owe in return

#### **Closing Discussion: The Arrangement of Catechism**

- How have the past weeks' discussion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Article shaped your views of the following?
  - The smallness of the creation/evolution debate
  - Vocation
  - Creator-creature language
  - Anthropology (body&soul)