

Large Catechism Lesson 18

Part 2: The 2nd Article

Opening Discussion: The Second Article in the Small Catechism

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

2nd Article

¶25-33

Anyone else surprised by the brevity of this section?

Jesus is my Lord

- Lord is synonym for Redeemer.
- Not a law word but a Gospel word

“The little word Lord means simply the same as redeemer. It means the One who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same” [II. 31].

Picture of battle

- Under Satan's armies we are his prisoners, under the power and tyranny of the devil.
- The Incarnate Son of God comes to do battle.
- We captives are rescued by his blood.
- The devil is called a “jailor” because he is not the Judge, God, or the Creator.

What is the purpose of the church year?

“To explain all these individual points does not belong to brief sermons for children. That belongs to fuller sermons that extend throughout the entire year, especially at those times that are appointed for the purpose of treating each article at length – for Christ's birth, sufferings, resurrection, ascension, and so on” [II. 32].

When are we done learning the faith?

“The entire Gospel that we preach is based on this point, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rests. It is so rich and complete that we can never learn it fully” [II. 33].

Closing Discussion: Jesus | Savior & Lord

How does the discussion of ‘Savior’ and ‘Lord’ get conveyed in other Christian circles?

-Have you made Jesus your Savior?

-Have you made him your Lord?

How does Luther’s treatment of these terms help us in this conversation?