

FINDING THE WAY: PROPHETS AND APOSTLES

READING ACTS AND THE EPISTLES

Acts 1.1-8 (909)

2 Peter 3.1-3, 15-16 (1019)

Peculiarly Christian: The Book of Acts describes the progress of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the center of the known world in Rome. The mustard seed of the Gospel grew into a great and marvelous tree. As this growth occurs, persecution of Christians is stirred up, but the persecution often only serves to increase the growth of the Gospel further. The Church also suffered attack from the inside as false teachers arise and attempt to disfigure the teachings of Christ. The epistles of the New Testament are written to churches under such attacks. The epistles attempt to encourage, rebuke, and correct.

SMALL CATECHISM: THIRD ARTICLE

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

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit 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 me up and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

CHURCH CALENDAR: PENTECOST

Acts 2.1-21 (909)

1 Corinthians 12.1-11 (959)

Peculiarly Christian: Pentecost celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon all those baptized into Jesus Christ. This outpouring grants gifts to all believers that they may serve the Body of Christ and witness to His grace. All gifts ought to point to Jesus and be exercised in the Spirit of Love.

INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE

John 20.19-23 (906)

1 Cor. 15.1-11 (961)

Ephesians 2.19-22 (977)

Acts 1.15-26 (909)

2 Timothy 3.16-17 (996)

Galatians 1.6-9 (972)

Peculiarly Christian: Apostles, as prophets before them, were sent by the Son of God to preach with His authority. These writers were also uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit to guard the integrity of their message. We call the collection of these writings, the Bible, and believe it to be the utterly reliable Word of God.