

Rev. Trevor A. Freudenburg

Session 5

The Second and Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

1. Consider the quotations provided from Will Willimon, Mortimer Adler, and Dallas Willard.
2. The Second Article expands on the original confession that Jesus is Lord.
 - a. What does it mean to have a 'Lord'?
3. We confess that Jesus is true God.
 - a. Jesus is 'begotten by the Father before all worlds.'
 - b. Jesus was involved in creation – 'By Him all things were made'
 - c. He is *not* the first of God's creatures, as someone like Arius would have held
4. We confess that Jesus is true man.
 - a. In the Incarnation, the Second Person of the Trinity took on human flesh and became a man.
 - b. Jesus has human ancestry – see the genealogies in Matthew and Luke.
 - c. Jesus suffered the pains of human life as we do – including hunger and thirst.
 - d. Yet Jesus never sinned.
5. Why was it necessary, for our salvation, that Jesus should be both true man and true God?
6. What does it mean that Jesus redeemed us? Redeemed us from what or from whom?
 - a. Consider the ransom theory of the atonement, which many Church Fathers believed.
 - b. Consider different metaphors or ways to describe the Gospel, the Good News:
 - i. Creation: Birth, life, salvation, light, bread, and water.
 - ii. Commerce: Ransom, redemption, property, forgiveness/remission
 - iii. Legal: Justification, intercession, adoption, inheritance.
 - iv. Personal: Reconciliation, peace, forgiveness, marriage.
 - v. Sacrifice: Expiation/priestly mediation, sacrificial lamb, hallowing/cleansing
 - vi. Deliverance: Salvation, liberation, victory.
 1. Source: *Just Words*, by Jacob A.O. Preus
7. For what purpose has Jesus freed us from sin, death, and the devil?
 - a. Do we regard the Gospel as only 'eternal life insurance'?
8. The Third Article: I believe that I cannot believe the Gospel on my own.
 - a. How were you brought to faith? Who or what was at work in sustaining your faith?
9. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - a. The Third Person of the Trinity who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth.
 - b. Can you be a Christian without belonging to a church?
 - c. Where do you 'find' God or the forgiveness of sins?
 - d. What are some responsibilities which we have in the body of Christ, the church?
10. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead...
 - a. What happens at the point of death?
 - b. What are some of the teachings you've heard about the End Times?