

Pastors Note 5/09

Spring is here and it is wondrous to see the colors emerge from once lifeless clumps of grass and cold dead looking pillars of bark. As we enjoy the wonders of our gracious creator we continue our adventure examining the mysteries of the faith. Last month I gave an overview of who God reveals himself to be. We will conclude our discussion of who God is by giving a little more attention to who Christ is. We touched on this last month but a large amount of disagreement and confusion surrounds the person of Christ and I felt a concise summary of who Christ is would be in order.

Christ, a coequal part of the triune Godhead discussed last month is both fully God and fully Man. This is the simple revealed truth found in God's word (**True God**: John; 1:1-3,48, 4:17-18, 5:27, 20:28, 21:6,17, Rom 9:5, 1 John 5:20, Heb 1:3, 13:8, Matt 9:6, 28:18, 20, 21:1-7, 26:20-25, Luke 5:4-6, 18:31-33, 22:8-13. and **True Man**: 1 Tim 2:5, Luke 2, 24:39, Matt 4:2, 26:1-27:66, John 11:35, 19:28, Heb 4:14-16.) Christ revealed nature has caused much confusion and disagreement over the past 2000 years. Not because God's word is not clear but because man tries to apply fallible human reason to the unfathomable God-Man Christ. (*as stated before I include the scripture references for those who wish to use this as a bible study & we will discuss scriptural authority in coming issues*)

Many of those failed attempts have centuries ago been clearly shown to be wrong by God's word and the church but, these Heresies (*false doctrines that contradict the truth of scripture*) keep coming back with new generations. Christ is not like two boards glued together where one can define where the divine and human begin and end. His human nature was comingled with His divine nature at His conception and from that point forward Christ nature was changed forever to include His human nature. He was not a manifestation or three and a half year aberration as the modern day Gnostics (*those who believe all flesh is evil therefore Christ in their minds could not have been true man*) teach, the long list of "True Man" text above attest to the truth that Christ was and is clearly true man, fully human.

The three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene & Athanasian) were all written to give a clear proclamation of who God reveals himself to be. However, the primary thing under attack between 2nd and 6th century AD when these three creeds were confessed by the church to proclaim the person of Christ in His fully divine and fully human natures. For this reason you will find that all three creeds give the bulk of their attention to defining scripturally who Christ is. A careful examination of these creeds reveals them to be thoroughly biblical both in their language and content. For a fuller explanation of the creeds, I direct your attention to the following website: <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/lutheran-confessions>

Why does any of this matter? It is only through the person of Christ that we have access to God. So Satan the author of confusion has been in a continuous misinformation campaign to confuse sinful man as to who Christ is. Because Satan knows faith in Christ is the only way we can escape the clutches of the great deceiver, he is always working hard to confuse God's truth!

Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil were purchased by Christ. His fully human nature is a necessary part of that purchase price. How a fully human Christ can be comingled with a fully divine Christ is an unexplainable mystery that is also a clearly revealed truth. Human reason and our sinful nature can not understand what only faith can accept. The cross is foolishness to those who do not believe, and the pain and suffering of Good Friday is illogical, scandalous, and an "in your face" proclamation of Christ's victory.

There is no Easter celebration without a Good Friday!!!

An empty cross is meaningless if our Lord and Savior never bled and died on it!

And an empty tomb is meaningless if our Lord and Savior never laid dead within its walls!

I know that my redeemer lives... what comfort this sweet sentence gives....

This truth has eternally life saving implications.

Do not reject the revealed truth that gives all mankind access to a redeemed life,

Eternally reconciled to God.

Have a blessed Christ centered Easter season

Pastor Portier