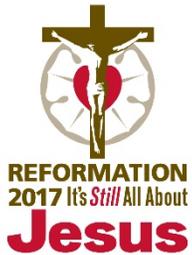


What God in Christ Has Done for Us

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As we learned last month, Jesus is not only Man, but is also God. This means that Jesus is my Lord.

But who Jesus is cannot be separated from what Jesus does. The *person* and *work* of Jesus go hand and hand. He is not just any Lord but He is *my* Lord “who has redeemed me... purchased and won me” (SC 2.2). This is what it means for Jesus to be *your* Lord. It means that He has redeemed you from sin, the devil, death, and all evil. For before Christ, our Lord was the devil, since we were “captive under the devil’s power, condemned to death, stuck in sin and blindness” (LC 2.27).

But Jesus, seeing our wretched state, and moved by His immeasurable goodness, “had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness. He came from heaven to help us” (LC 2.29). His compassion is found in His blood shed for us on the cursed tree as payment for our sins, a payment which God accepts since that which is shed is more precious than gold or silver (1 Pt1:18-19 & SC 2.2). We confess that God in Christ is truly our Great High Priest (Heb 2:17) who has come into the holy places with His own blood (Heb 9:12) in order to be not only the one who offers up the sacrifice but who is indeed Himself the Propitiation (Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17; 1 Jn 2:2).

In the Creeds we confess the incarnation of Jesus: that He truly came into the flesh. We do not confess merely an empty incarnation, but an incarnation that leads directly to His suffering and death which is done “to reconcile us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind” (AC 3.3). For this reason, we confess that not only the Man Jesus suffers and dies, but also that God suffers and dies on our behalf (cf. Ep 8.9).

This is the central and turning point of all Christianity, and the primary point of our preaching and teaching. That Jesus is my Lord, which means nothing else than that He is my Redeemer. “Yes, 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” (LC 2.33).

Further Reading Apostles’, Nicene, & Athanasian Creeds; AC 3; Ap 3; Ap 4; SA 1; SA 2.1; SC 2.3-5; LC 2.25-33; Ep 8; SD 8

Abbreviations

AC = Unaltered Augsburg Confession
Ap = Apology of the Augsburg Confession
SC = Small Catechism
LC = Large Catechism
SA = Smalcald Articles (exclusive of the Tractate)
Tr = Tractate on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
Ep = The Formula of Concord, Epitome
SD = The Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration
Cat = Catalogue of Testimonies

NOTE: Articles and sections/paragraphs in the *Book of Concord* are denoted in Arabic numerals, separated by a period. Please note that the first number in citations of SC and LC points to the Chief Part; any numbers following the period point to the specific section/paragraph. Thus SC 1.8 does not point to the 8th Commandment, but to the explanation of the 4th.