

**Bible
Teachings
Series**



*A self-study
course about
the Apostles'
Creed*

What Christians Believe

What Christians Believe

A self-study course about
the Apostles' Creed

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Revised 2013

Printed in 2002

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Level 1, Book 5



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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.



Getting Started

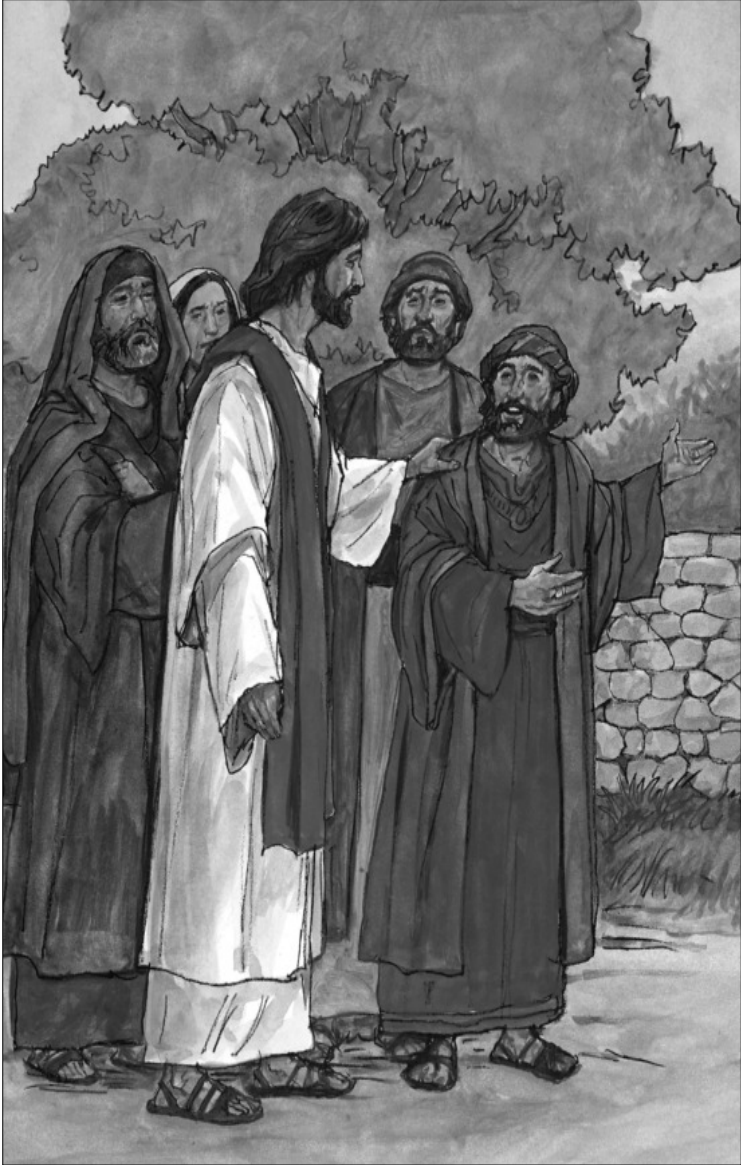
This book will help you learn some exciting things about God. Each chapter begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of the chapter there is a test. The test questions cover only what you read in the chapters and the questions you have completed.

When you finish answering a group of questions, you will be given a page number where you can turn to check your answers. If you turn to that page, you will find the answers at the very bottom of that page. Check your answers carefully, correcting any mistakes you made. Make sure you understand all the answers before reading any farther.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you complete the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test, you can either turn it in to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

You may also wish to order other books in this series of Bible studies. Those books are listed at the end of this book.

May God help you as you learn more about Jesus and what he did so you can live with him forever.



*Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted
to come to his house.*



Chapter One

WHAT IS A CREED?

During a court trial, there are many witnesses. A witness is someone who tells what he knows or believes. In court, he swears that he is telling the truth. He may tell what he saw or what he knows.

Christians are witnesses, too. They tell what they know about God. They can do this in their own words. Maybe they do this when they talk to their friends. But they can also witness by saying the Apostles' Creed.

In this book, you will learn about the Apostles' Creed. You will find out what its words mean. You will discover why it is so important. In this chapter, we will introduce the Apostles' Creed. At the end of this chapter you will know:

- * what a creed is;
- * who the Apostles were; and
- * why the Apostles' Creed is important for Christians.

The word creed is an unusual one. It is not used often. It comes from the Latin language. The Latin word “credo” simply means, “I believe.”

A creed is what you believe. However, it is even more than that. After all, you believe the earth is round. You believe water is wet. You believe many things. You would not call all those things your creed.

A creed is a belief that makes a difference in your life. It affects how you act and what you say.

1. The word creed comes from a Latin word meaning _____.
2. A creed is what you _____.
3. A creed is a belief that makes a _____ in your life.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 12)

The word creed does not only refer to beliefs you have in your heart. It can also refer to a written statement of what you believe.

Christians have many written and unwritten creeds or statements of belief. The best known of them is the Apostles' Creed.

4. The word creed also means a written _____ of your beliefs.

5. A Christian's beliefs about God could be called his _____.
6. The most well-known creed of Christians is the _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 12)

We know what a creed is. It is especially a written statement of what we believe. Who, then, are the apostles?

In the days of Jesus, the word apostle meant someone who was sent out. He was sent out, for example, by a king. He had a message the king wanted people to hear. The king would send apostles throughout his kingdom. They would tell people his message.

Jesus chose twelve of his followers to be his apostles. Sometimes we refer to them as the Twelve Disciples. The word "disciple" means a follower. At times, Jesus would send them out. They would go to the villages Jesus planned to

visit. They would tell the people about Jesus. They would get the people of the village ready for Jesus' arrival.

When Jesus returned to heaven, he wanted the disciples to continue to be apostles. He told them they would carry his message to the whole world. He promised them that God would be with them. God would make sure they kept the message right. They would make no mistakes when they preached and wrote what Jesus said and did for us. They wrote these things down in the part of the Bible we call the New Testament.

7. An apostle was someone who was _____ out.
8. An apostle had a _____ from the person who sent him.
9. Jesus had _____ apostles.

10. He promised them that _____ would make sure they kept the message right.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 12)

The Twelve Apostles did not write the Apostles' Creed. It was written after they died. But it is called the Apostles' Creed because it is a statement of the beliefs they taught in the Bible. We believe what the apostles said and wrote. By speaking the Apostles' Creed, we reveal what we believe.

This creed is very important for Christians. There are two reasons the Apostles' Creed is very important. The first reason is that it is helpful to have this short statement of our beliefs in our memory. Someone might want to know about your beliefs. Many Christians would find it hard to answer that person. They know they believe things from the Bible, but they cannot start reciting that whole book! Also it can be hard to put all your beliefs about God in a proper order.

But we do not need to recite the whole Bible. We have the Apostles' Creed. It is short and easy to memorize or learn. It sums up our Christian beliefs. It makes a good answer to the question, "What do you believe about God?"

There is a second reason why the Apostles' Creed is so important for Christians. We enjoy coming together for worship services. Worshiping God is a time to thank God for everything he has done for us. It is a time to be together with fellow Christians. In these worship services, we often will recite, or join our voices to say, the Apostles' Creed. This shows something about us. We know that we are bound together by our beliefs. God has made us a family. We share the same creed—the same beliefs about him. To show this, we recite the Apostles' Creed together.

11. The _____ did not write the Apostles' Creed.

12. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of the beliefs they taught in the _____.
13. The Apostles' Creed is easy for us to _____.
14. It is a good answer to the question, "What do you _____ about God?"
15. We often recite the Apostles' Creed in _____ services.
16. This shows that we are bound together by our _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 12)

Review of Chapter One

The word creed comes from a Latin word “credo.” Credo means “I believe.” A creed is what you believe. However, it is more than the things you think are true. Your creed is those beliefs that make a difference in how you act and talk.

A creed can also be a written statement of those beliefs. Christians have such a written statement of their beliefs. It is called the Apostles' Creed.

The apostles were twelve men Jesus chose. He gave them a task to carry out. They were to carry his message to the whole world. He promised them God would be with them. God would make sure they kept Jesus' message right. They made no mistakes when they preached or wrote about Jesus. They wrote the part of the Bible that teaches about what Jesus said and did for us. It is called the New Testament.

The apostles did not write the Apostles' Creed. But this creed is a statement of the beliefs they taught in the Bible. There are two reasons why the Apostles' Creed is very important to Christians. First of all, the Apostles' Creed is a good answer for those who ask us what we believe about God. Second, it is something we can recite together in worship services. This shows how our Christian beliefs bind us together in God's family.

Answers to questions within Chapter One:

1. I believe; 2. believe; 3. difference; 4. statement; 5. creed; 6. Apostles' Creed; 7. sent; 8. message; 9. twelve; 10. God; 11. Apostles; 12. Bible; 13. memorize; 14. believe; 15. worship; 16. beliefs.

Test on Chapter One

1. The word creed can mean the _____ that make a difference in how you act and talk.
2. A creed can also be a _____ statement of your beliefs.
3. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of our beliefs about _____.
4. There were _____ Apostles.
5. They were chosen by _____.
6. Their mission was to carry his message to the whole _____.
7. _____ helped them to keep Jesus' message right.
8. They wrote the part of the Bible we call the _____.

9. The Apostles' Creed is a written statement of the beliefs the Apostles taught in the _____.
10. It is short and easy to _____.
11. It gives us a good answer to the question, "What do you _____ about God?"
12. Christians often recite the Apostles' Creed in worship _____.
13. This shows how our beliefs bind us together in God's _____.

(Check your answers on page 99)



Chapter Two

WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

Suppose someone wants to know you. He or she wants to know all about you. How would that person find out what you are really like?

The person might ask others about you, but they would only be giving their opinions. He might check your birth records, or your school records, or your police record. But these would only tell him what you have done, not what kind of person you are.

The person should talk to you. You know yourself better than others know you. You

could write that person a letter. You could tell what you are like. You could tell the person all about yourself. That person would then know a lot about you.

The same holds true about God. He is the one who can tell us what he is really like. In his Word, the Bible, he tells us about himself. In this chapter, you will be able to:

- * tell what the words triune and Trinity mean; and
- * tell what activities are carried out by each of the three persons of God.

Many people have wondered what God is like. Many years ago, people were certain there were many gods. They believed that one god controlled the sea, one controlled the thunder, one controlled love, and so on. In some lands, people worshiped hundreds of gods. In some lands, they still do.

But the Bible tells us we are not to worship many gods. It tells us there is only one God. For example, it says, "The Lord is our God. The Lord is the one and only God" (Deuteronomy 6:4). In another place, God himself says, "I wanted you to know me and believe in me. I wanted you to understand that I am the one and only God. Before me, there was no other god at all. And there will not be any god after me. I am the one and only LORD. I am the only one who can save you" (Isaiah 43:10-11).

This belief set God's people apart from all the other nations. All other people believed there were many gods. Only God's people knew there was only one God. The only reason they knew there was only one God was because God told them this in his Word.

1. Many years ago, people believed there were _____ gods.
2. But the _____ tells us there is only one God.

3. This belief has set God's _____
apart from all other nations.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 26)

At times, however, people have been confused by what the Bible says about God. The Bible is very clear on the point that there is only one God. Yet, in some parts of the Bible, it sounds like there are three.

The Bible speaks of God the Father, who created all things. For example, the apostle Paul writes, "He is the God who made the world. He also made everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth.... From one man he made all the people of the world.... We are his children" (Acts 17:24-28).

The Bible also speaks of God the Son. He came to earth and became a man to save us. His human name is Jesus Christ. Again and again we read of Jesus calling God his Father. Yet the Bible also speaks of Jesus as being God. For example, when he had risen from the

dead, Jesus allowed his disciple Thomas to call him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

The Bible also speaks of God the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost. The very first chapter of the Bible talks about how God made everything. There we read, "The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1:2). This was before God had created any living things, and so this Spirit of God must be God. He is referred to again and again in the Bible. He is always spoken of as being God.

4. The Bible speaks of only one God, and yet at times there seem to be _____.
5. It speaks of God the _____ who made all things.
6. It speaks of Jesus Christ as being God the _____.
7. It speaks of God the Holy _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 26)

So how can the same Bible speak of God as being one and as being three? And how can we understand it? And how can we believe it, when we cannot make sense of it?

The Bible is the Word of God. If this book says God is one and three at the same time, it must be true. God would not lie about himself.

How can we make any sense of this? We cannot. Do not even try. People have tried for many years and been unable to do it. We simply take God's Word for it that this is what he is like.

Some people do not like this answer. They feel that if they cannot understand a thing, they cannot believe it. But they are not consistent about this. They do not apply this same rule to other things. For example, most of us cannot understand how a radio or television works. We have a vague idea, perhaps. So the fact we cannot understand what God says about himself does not give us a reason not to believe him.

There is a word to describe the fact that God is one and yet also three. It is the word triune. "Tri" means three and "une" means one. When we say that God is triune, we mean that God is one God and also three persons. We do not say that there are three Gods because the Bible never tells us there are three Gods. There is only one God. He is three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We also refer to him as the Trinity.

8. We believe what the Bible says about God because it is the _____ of God.
9. We do not need to _____ something to believe in it.
10. We say God is _____, meaning he is three in one.
11. There is one _____ who is also three _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 26)

The Bible tells us much about the Trinity. For one thing, it tells us that all three persons are equal.

They are equally eternal. Eternal means God had no beginning, and will never end. These persons are equally powerful. They are equally wise. They are equally fair and equally loving. You cannot say that any one person of the Trinity is more important or more divine than any other person in the Trinity.

This did not change even when God the Son came to earth in order to save us. To do this, he needed to be both God and man. So, God the Son came here by being conceived and born as Jesus Christ. You see, Jesus is very special. He is only one person, but he has two natures. His divine nature (God-nature) has always existed. But his human nature began when he was conceived and born of the virgin Mary. So he is both God and man. This wonderful miracle did not change God. But many changes happened in the human life of Jesus.

During the time that he was here, Jesus did not always or fully use the abilities that his divine nature gave to his human nature. Jesus humbled himself as a man. He lived as God's servant. "In his very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:6-7). He obeyed even when the time came for him to die on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. This is why Jesus said, "The Father is greater than I am" (John 14:28). God was greater than the human nature of Jesus during his time of service and suffering. But after Jesus had paid for all sin with his holy life, his human nature once again enjoyed full equality with God. He showed this when he rose from the dead and told his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).

All three persons of the Trinity are equal. But we think of each person in a special way. We

connect the Father with creating all things and with preserving, or taking care of, everything in the world. We connect the Son with saving us from our sins. We connect the Holy Spirit with giving us faith to believe in God and what he has done for us. This does not mean the other two persons had nothing to do with these activities. But the one person is more involved than the others in these activities.

12. All three persons of God are _____.

13. All three persons are equally _____
that is, without beginning and without end.

14. God the Son came to earth as a
_____. But during most of his
life here, Jesus did not fully use his abilities
as the _____.

15. After Jesus had risen from the dead God
lifted up the human nature of Jesus
restoring his full _____ with God.

16. The _____ is connected with creating and preserving all things.
17. The _____ is connected with saving us from our sins.
18. The Holy Spirit is connected with giving us _____ in God.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 26)

Review of Chapter Two

Throughout history, people have tried to imagine what God is like. They usually thought there were many gods. But the Bible tells us there is only one God. This belief has set God's people apart from other people. But the Bible also speaks of God as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is only one God, and yet he is three persons.

We cannot understand this. But we do not need to understand something to believe it.

God's Word says this is what he is like, and so we believe it. God does not lie about himself.

We use the word triune to describe the fact that God is one God and three persons. We also call our triune God “the Trinity” to describe the same thing. Each person of the Trinity is equally divine and powerful and wise and fair and loving. One of them is not more divine than another. The Son of God came to earth as the God-man, Jesus Christ. During most of his human life, Jesus lived as a servant of God. He did not fully use his abilities as the Son of God. But this changed when he rose from the dead. Now everyone who sees him knows that he is the Lord our God.

We connect each person to a special activity of God. All three persons share in these activities. But we think of one of them as being more involved in each activity. The Father is

Answers to questions within Chapter Two:

1. many; 2. Bible; 3. people; 4. three; 5. Father; 6. Son; 7. Spirit;
8. Word; 9. understand; 10. triune; 11. God, persons; 12. equal;
13. eternal; 14. human being, Son of God; 15. equality; 16. Father;
17. Son; 18. faith.

connected with making and preserving all things. The Son is connected to saving us from our sins. The Holy Spirit is connected with giving us faith in God.

Test on Chapter Two

1. People used to believe that there were _____ gods.
2. The Bible tells us there is only _____ God.
3. Yet this one God is described also as being three persons: the _____, the _____, and the Holy _____.
4. We believe this because the _____ says it is so.
5. God is one God but also three _____.

6. We use the words _____ and _____ to describe that God is both three persons in one God.
7. The three persons are _____ to each other in power, wisdom, fairness, and love.
8. During most of his human life on earth, Jesus did not fully use his abilities as the _____.
9. After he had risen from the _____, he no longer hid his equality with God..
10. We connect the Father with the activities of _____ and _____ all things.
11. We connect the Son with the activity of _____ us from our sins.
12. We connect the Holy Spirit with the activity of giving us _____ in God.

(Check your answers on page 99)



Chapter Three

GOD THE FATHER

Have you ever created something? Perhaps you are an artist. You may have a few drawings or paintings you have made. Some people are writers. They write stories or poems or books. Maybe you are a weightlifter. You have molded your muscles into a work of art. There is a creative spark in almost all of us.

God is creative, too. He created the whole world. He also created the sun and moon and stars. He made everything. God the Father is the person of the Trinity we connect most

closely with this work of creation. In this chapter we will discuss the first part of the Apostles' Creed. In this part, which is called the First Article, Christians confess what they believe about the Father. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

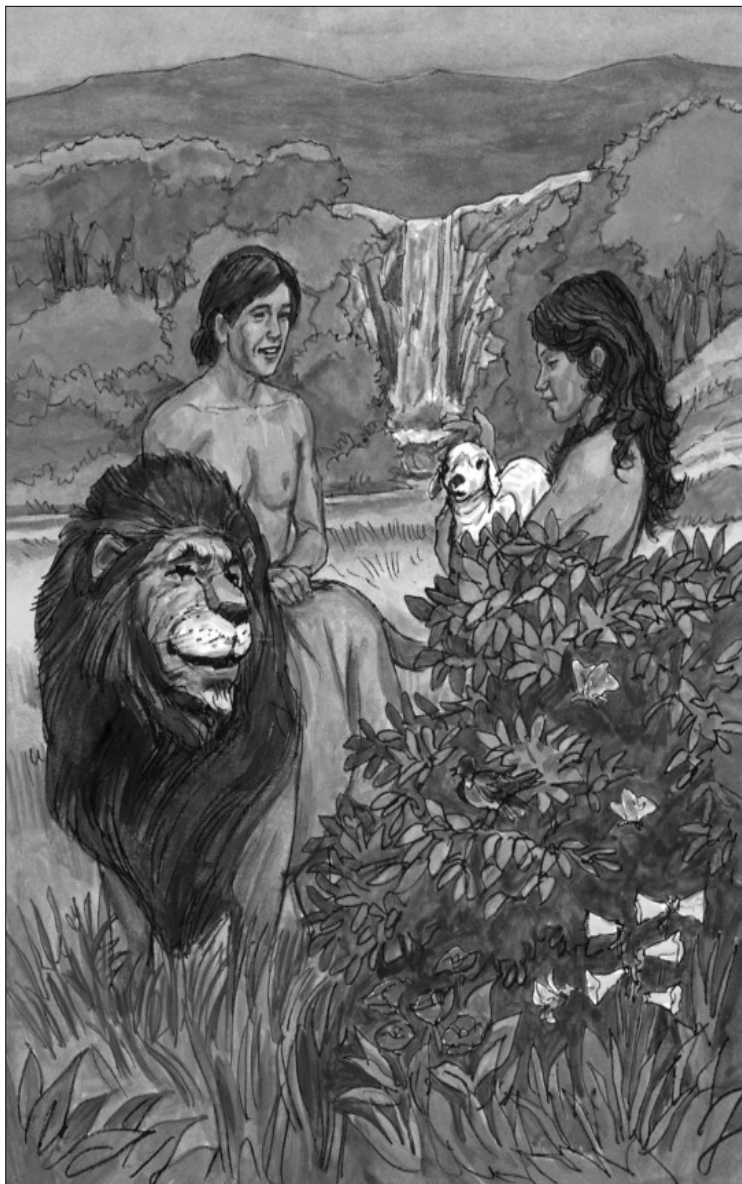
- * tell how and when God created all things;
- * tell how he still takes care of them; and
- * tell what ruined his creation.

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty . . ."

These are the first words of the First Article. With them we say that the Father is almighty or all-powerful. There is nothing he cannot do. There is no one who can stop him from doing what he wants to do.

". . . Maker of heaven and earth."

How did God make everything? You and I have to start with something if we are to create. For example, an artist has to start with brushes,



God created everything on earth.

paint, and a piece of paper or a canvas to create a painting. But in the beginning, God was alone. There was nothing else. He created everything by just saying the word. The Bible tells us, "He spoke, and it was so."

God's very first words in the Bible are, "Let there be light." And the Bible tells us, "There was light" (Genesis 1:3). The story of the creation of the world is found in the first chapter of the Bible, Genesis 1. It tells us how God, just by saying the word, made the entire universe and everything in it. He did this in just six days, and on the seventh day he rested, that is, he stopped creating. This is the reason we have a seven-day week. It recalls the week of creation.

1. The First _____ of the Apostles' Creed is about the Father.
2. We say that God is _____, that is, all-powerful.

3. God created all things just by using his _____.
4. God created all things in _____ days.
5. On the seventh day he _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

In our day, many people do not believe what the Bible says about creation. They think the universe came into being by itself. They think there was a ball of matter at the beginning. It blew up, and all the matter went flying out into space. Pieces of it became the stars and planets.

After that, they say life just accidentally came into being on our planet, and after many millions of years it developed into the people and animals and trees we have today. This belief is called the Theory of Evolution.

There are a number of reasons why this Theory of Evolution is false. One of them is the idea of an explosion at the beginning. When

did an explosion ever result in something as complex as the universe? Explosions destroy; they do not build. One man this writer knows used to say, "I will believe in the Theory of Evolution when I can take a stick of dynamite, throw it into a pile of junk, and make an automobile."

But there are other reasons this theory cannot be true. The Bible gives the two strongest ones. First of all, it says, "Every house is built by someone. But God is the builder of everything" (Hebrews 3:4). Things do not make themselves. Someone has to make them. God is the Maker of heaven and earth.

The other reason is this. In one part of the Bible, God asks a man named Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?" (Job 38:4). There were no human witnesses of the beginning of the world. There was only God. His Word, the Bible, is his testimony about what happened. People made up the Theory of Evolution. But they were not there at

the beginning. They are only guessing, and guessing badly.

6. Some people believe in the Theory of _____.
7. They think that the universe came into being by _____.
8. They think the universe started when a ball of matter _____.
9. Explosions destroy, they do not _____.
10. The Bible says that the Builder of all things is _____.
11. The Bible says that God is the only _____ of how the world began.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Of course, we are most interested in how God made people. He formed the first man, Adam,



God gave Adam and Eve many blessings.

out of the dust of the ground. He breathed life into him. Later, he took one of Adam's ribs and made it into a woman who became his wife. He told the man and his wife they were to be rulers over the earth.

God made all things. He also made the angels. Angels are invisible creatures who serve God. When he was finished he did not forget about the world and what he had made. He continues to preserve this world and all of us. He makes the rain to fall and the sun to shine so plants can grow. He sends the seasons of summer and winter, spring and fall. He keeps the stars and planets in their orbits.

He preserves us, too. He gives us all we need to live. He gives most of us much more than we need. For example, he does not give us just one kind of food. He gives us many different kinds of food and drink to keep us alive. He gives us clothing and shelter in our houses. He keeps harm away from people and helps them to heal when they are hurt.

12. God made man from the _____
of the ground.
13. He made the first woman from the man's
_____.
14. He made them to be _____
over the whole earth.
15. He continues to _____ the
world and all of us.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

For making us and preserving us God deserves our thanks. We ought to love him and serve him. But we know that we do not always love and serve God, as we should. People sin against him all the time.

Adam and his wife became the first sinners. When God made them, they were perfect. God made them free from any sin. He had given them the whole world, and it was perfect also. He told them only to keep away from the fruit of one tree. But the devil tempted them to eat that fruit. And they did.

This caused the ruin of God's perfect creation. Decay and death entered in. God did not create these things. Death and decay came because of man's sin. And they are still with us today.

But God is forgiving. He promised Adam and his wife a Savior. That Savior is Jesus Christ. He took away the death that we deserve because of our sins. He has promised to come back one day. Then this sin-filled earth will be changed. God will make a new heaven and earth, which the Bible says will be perfect once again.

He will make us sinless too. And we will live in heaven with him forever.

16. For making and preserving us God deserves our _____.

17. But people _____ against him every day.

18. Adam and his wife first sinned by eating some _____ that God had forbidden.

19. Because of their sin, _____
and _____ entered the world.

20. When Jesus returns, he will make a new
_____ and _____.

21. We will live there with him _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 41)

Review of Chapter Three

The first part of the Apostles' Creed is called the First Article. It says God the Father is almighty, that is, all-powerful. He is the Maker of heaven and earth. He made the whole universe. He did this by the power of his word. He said something, and it was so.

In this way he made all things in six days. On the seventh day he rested. Some people believe the universe came into being by itself. They think it started in a big explosion long ago. This belief is called the Theory of Evolution. But to believe this theory you would

have to believe that explosions build things instead of destroying them. The Bible says that someone must have built everything, and that the builder of everything is God. It also says God was the only witness of how things began. His Word is true.

God the Father also preserves all things. He makes the sun shine and the rain fall. He makes the seasons come and go. He gives us food and clothing and shelter. He gives us much more than what we need to keep alive.

For all of this we ought to thank him and obey him. But we sin every day. Sin started with the first human beings. Adam, the first man, was formed from dust. God breathed life into him. He took one of his ribs and made a woman from it. He made them rulers over the earth. They were perfect and sinless.

Answers to questions within Chapter Three:

1. Article; 2. almighty; 3. word; 4. six; 5. rested; 6. Evolution;
7. accident; 8. exploded; 9. build; 10. God; 11. witness; 12. dust;
13. rib; 14. rulers; 15. preserve; 16. thanks; 17. sin; 18. fruit; 19. death,
decay; 20. heaven, earth; 21. forever.

But they disobeyed his commands. Therefore, death and decay entered into the world. Jesus Christ took away our sins by his perfect life and his death on the cross. He will come again to change this world of death and decay. He will make it new and perfect, and we will live with him forever.

Test on Chapter Three

1. The First _____ of the Apostles' Creed speaks of God the Father.
2. He is _____, that is, all-powerful.
3. He created the whole universe by the power of his _____.
4. Some people think the universe came into being by itself; they believe the Theory of _____.

5. The Bible says that _____ is the builder of everything.
6. God is also the only _____ of how the world began.
7. God continues to _____ everything he has made.
8. He gives us _____, _____ and _____, which we need for our lives.
9. God made the first man, _____, from the dust of the ground.
10. He made a woman out of the man's _____.
11. He made them the _____ over the whole world.
12. For all God has done for us, we ought to _____ and obey him.

13. But we continue to _____
against his commands.
14. The first man and woman sinned by eating
some _____ that God had forbidden.
15. Because of our _____, death
and decay entered the world.
16. When Jesus returns he will _____
this world.
17. He will make a new _____
and earth.
18. There we will live with Jesus Christ
_____.

(Check your answers on page 99)



Chapter Four

GOD THE SON

We look forward to the time when friends visit us. Having visitors is a refreshing change. It is a good feeling to know that someone cares enough to come and visit with us. Sometimes friends must travel a long distance to see us. But they gladly come from far because that shows how much you mean to them.

In a very real way, God the Son did the same for us. He came to our world to be with us. But

he did even more than that. He came to save us from the punishment our sins deserve.

How would you feel if you hurt someone, and the person you hurt was coming to visit?

Probably you would worry that he wanted to hurt you. But what if he came and told you he was going to forgive you?

Does that sound impossible? In the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess that God the Son did just that. The Second Article explains who he is, what he came to do, and what he plans to do in the future. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * tell about God the Son becoming a human being;
- * tell how he defeated sin, death and the devil for us; and
- * tell what he will do for us now and in the future.

"I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. . . "

These are the first words of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. By speaking them, we say we believe some amazing things. We believe that a Jewish carpenter who lived about 2,000 years ago was, and is, both a man and God the Son.

Like God the Father, God the Son is eternal. He had no beginning. We know that earthly fathers live before their sons are born. A man is perhaps eighteen or twenty years old before he has a son. But both God the Father and God the Son are eternal.

This means that God the Father did not create God the Son. He is without beginning like his Father.

1. The Son of God is equally _____ with his Father, without beginning or end.



Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and laid him in a manger.

2. God the Father did not _____
before God the Son.
3. God the Father did not _____ God
the Son.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

***“... (he) was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary...”***

God the Son came to live on earth. He entered our world by becoming human. He became one of us.

Aren't all humans sinful? We inherit our sinfulness from our fathers and mothers. But when God the Son became a human, he did not inherit sin. He became human in a sinless way. No human father was involved. God the Holy Spirit (he is written about in the next chapter) performed a miracle.

We know how babies usually begin life. They have a mother and a father. It was different

with Jesus because he had no human father. The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus. The Holy Spirit placed him into the womb of a young woman named Mary.

Mary was a virgin. She had never been to bed with a man. An angel came to her to tell her what was going to happen. The angel also came to her future husband, a carpenter named Joseph. He told them both that the son Mary was going to have would be the Son of God. Today Christians celebrate the birthday of Jesus every Christmas.

4. God the Son became a _____ like us.
5. But he was not born _____
like other people.
6. He was _____ by the Holy Spirit.
7. His mother was a virgin named _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

".... (he) suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried."

In a way, we were all prisoners. We broke the laws of the Triune God. We broke God's law by sinning. We were condemned to eternal death. This world was like a place of death for everyone.

Jesus came to die in our place. He took our sins on himself. He was punished for all the evil or bad things people had done. This happened when he was crucified.

Many religions try to deal with the problem of sin. They know we are sinners. They know God will punish sin. They try to tell us of different ways we can avoid being punished. But they are all the same. Those religions tell people they are supposed to do this and do that and to say this prayer and to offer this sacrifice. Then, at the end of your life, you will find out whether you did enough good deeds. That is what these false religions teach.

But no one can do enough good to avoid God's punishment. At the end of life, the only thing people will learn is that they cannot save themselves. And then it is too late to do anything about it.

Listen to the Bible. It tells us we can know that we are saved right now. We will not be punished for our sins. Jesus was punished for them. It already happened! We do not need to wait until we die to know whether we are going to heaven or hell. Jesus already saved us. In the Apostles' Creed we say how he did this and when he did it. How? He **"suffered.... was crucified, died and was buried."** When? **"Under Pontius Pilate."** It is like saying this: "I was saved around the year 30. That was the year Pontius Pilate was the governor in the land of the Jews."

8. Jesus died to take away the punishment that we deserve for our _____.

9. He saved us when he was nailed to a _____ and died for us.
10. The governor who sentenced Him was _____.
11. Other religions teach that you cannot know if you are saved until you _____.
12. We can say we were saved the year that _____ was governor in the land of the Jews.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

"He descended into hell."

Jesus' death paid for all our sins. When he was about to breathe his last breath, he said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). As soon as he died, his mission of suffering punishment for our sins was over.

So why did he descend to hell? When sinful people who do not believe in Jesus die and go

to hell, it is to suffer punishment. They are captive there forever. But when Jesus went to hell, it was not as a captive. It was as the conqueror of the devil.

The devil thought that anyone who entered hell would never leave. But one day Jesus came into hell as someone different. He ruled over the devil. He came as a conqueror who had beaten the devil. He told everyone in hell that he had defeated the devil. People who believe in Jesus will never have to come into hell to be punished for their sins.

Then Jesus did something that no one had ever done before. No one has ever done it since. No one will ever do it again. He left hell. He turned around and left the place that no one can leave. In fact, the Bible says he is like a person who holds the keys to hell. This means that Jesus is in control. He decides who will be in hell and who will be in heaven.

13. Jesus did not descend into hell to _____ for sins.

14. He came to tell the devil and everyone in hell that he had _____ the devil.

15. He now holds the _____ to hell.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

"On the third day he rose again from the dead."

Three days after he died, Jesus rose from the dead. That is what we celebrate on Easter Sunday. Why do we celebrate? Jesus proved many things by coming back to life. First, he proved he really is the Son of God. He had told people he was the Son of God, and he had told them he would prove it by rising again. When Jesus rose, that was the proof.



An angel tells the women that Jesus is alive and his grave is empty.

Second, his rising proves he paid for all our sins. Death is the punishment Jesus suffered for the sins of the world. He died in order to pay for the sins of everyone. As he died, he said, "It is finished." By this he meant that his work of saving us was complete. But how can we be sure of this? Because his death ended on the third day! He came back to life. This miracle of God proves that all the sins of all people were paid for.

Third, his rising proves that those who believe in him will also rise from the dead. Before he died, he promised his followers, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19). He paid for all our sins, so we do not have to pay for them. On the Last Day, we, too, will leave our graves. We will live with Jesus forever in heaven.

16. Jesus rose from the dead on _____ Sunday.

17. His rising proved that he really is the _____ of _____.

18. It also proved that all our _____
have been paid for.

19. It also proved that we will rise from our
_____ on the Last Day.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

"He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty."

Forty days after he rose from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. He took his followers out to a hillside, and went up into the sky until a cloud covered him from their sight. We call this the Ascension (a word which means "going up").

Now we confess that he is at the right hand of the Father. What this means is that he now shares all power with his Father. When he was a man on earth, he did not make full use of the powers and rights that he had as the Son of God. Every now and then he would use his

almighty power when he did miracles to heal and help people. But for the most part, he lived as a humble man. He completed his mission of dying for our sins. Then he ascended to heaven and again made full use of the powers and rights that belong to him as the Son of God.

This means he rules the entire world. Nothing happens that he does not allow. Nothing occurs, or takes place, that he does not use for our good. Even your studying this book is part of his plan. Think about it. Would you have started studying about Jesus and learned about his love for you if you had not been given this study guide?

Jesus does even more for us now that he is at God the Father's right hand. He prays for us when we sin. We still sin every day. And every day, Jesus, who died for all our sins, is praying for our forgiveness. The Father hears the prayers of Jesus and forgives us.



Jesus arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

20. After _____ days Jesus ascended into heaven.
21. During his time on earth he did not make _____ use of his divine powers and rights.
22. After his ascension, he does make full use of his _____ powers and rights.
23. Jesus now _____ over all things.
24. He also asks the _____ to forgive us our sins.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

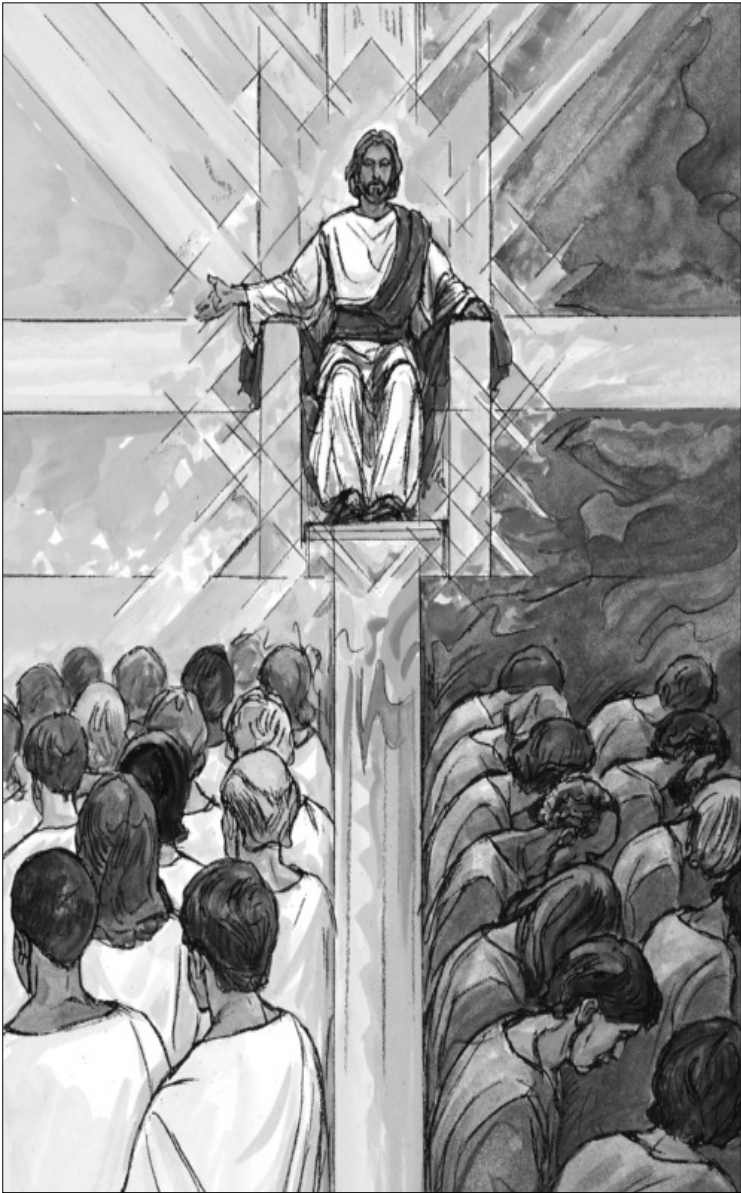
"From there he will come to judge the living and the dead."

On the Last Day, Jesus will return in a way that we can see him. He will judge everyone. He will bring the dead back to life. Everyone who has ever lived will appear before Jesus, their Judge.

We do not have to be afraid of that day. He has already told us what the verdict is. The Bible says, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God's sentence" (Romans 8:1). We already know we are saved.

So what will this Last Judgment be about? Jesus has told us. He will gather all people together. Then he will talk about what we did in our lives. Did our actions prove that we believed in him? Or did our actions prove that we did not believe in him? He will present the evidence of our faith in him or of the lack of faith in him. Then everyone, even the devil himself, will bow before Jesus, and admit he is perfectly fair in his judgment.

When will this happen? Only God knows, and he is not telling us. Every now and then someone says he has figured out the day when Jesus will return. No one has been correct yet! Jesus said that the Last Day will come "at an hour you don't expect him" (Matthew 24: 44). So we should be ready at all times.



Jesus separates the believers from the unbelievers.

How can we be ready? We can be ready by being strong in our faith. That is why it is so important to continue to read our Bibles, to go to worship services, to pray to Jesus constantly, and to live as Christians. Then we will be ready, even if he returns when we least expect him.

25. On the Last Day, Jesus will return to _____ the living and the dead.

26. He will present the _____ of our faith in him or the lack of faith.

27. Everyone, even the _____ will bow to him and admit that he is fair in his judgments.

28. Only _____ knows when that day will be.

29. We should be _____ at all times.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

Review of Chapter Four

The Second Article speaks about God the Son. He is eternal, as is the Father. That is, he is without beginning and without end. We say he is God's one and only Son because there is no one else like him. He became a human, but he did not have a human father. A virgin named Mary was his mother. He did not inherit sin from her because he was conceived by a miracle of the Holy Spirit.

He came to pay for our sins. He did this by suffering and dying on a cross. This happened when a man named Pontius Pilate was the governor in the land of the Jews. This makes Christianity different from other religions. Other religions teach that you cannot be sure you are saved until the day of your death. The Bible says we can be sure now since we were saved way back when Jesus suffered and died under Pontius Pilate.

He descended into hell to prove to the devil that he, Jesus, had defeated him. He rose again on the third day to prove he really is God's Son, that our sins are forgiven, and that he will raise us from our graves on the Last Day. After forty days, he ascended into heaven. Now, he rules over all things. He also asks his Father to forgive our sins, since he has already died for them.

On the Last Day, he will return. He will raise all the dead, and then he will be the Judge of all people. He will prove people had faith in him by the way they lived. He will prove others did not have this faith by the way they lived. No one but God knows when this day will be. So we should be ready for the Last Day at all times by reading our Bibles, going to worship services, saying our prayers and living as Christians.

Answers to questions within Chapter Four:

1. eternal; 2. exist; 3. create; 4. human; 5. sinful; 6. conceived;
7. Mary; 8. sins; 9. cross; 10. Pontius Pilate; 11. die; 12. Pontius Pilate;
13. suffer; 14. beaten (or defeated); 15. keys; 16. Easter; 17. Son, God;
18. sins; 19. graves; 20. forty; 21. full; 22. divine; 23. rules; 24. Father;
25. judge; 26. evidence; 27. devil; 28. God; 29. ready.

Test on Chapter Four

1. God the Son is equally _____ with the Father: without beginning or end.
2. He was _____ by the Holy Spirit so that he would not inherit sin from a human parent.
3. His mother was a virgin named _____.
4. He came to _____ for our sins.
5. He did this when _____
_____ was the governor in the land of the Jews.
6. We do not have to wait until we _____ to find out if we are saved.
7. Jesus descended into _____ to prove he had conquered the devil.

8. Jesus rose from the dead on the _____ day after he died.
9. His rising proves he really is the _____ of God.
10. His rising proves that all our _____ are paid for.
11. His rising proves that we will also rise from our _____.
12. After forty days he _____ into heaven.
13. He now makes full use of all his _____ powers and rights.
14. He rules over _____ things.
15. He asks the _____ to forgive us for all our sins.
16. He will come again to judge the living and the _____.

17. He will prove whether or not people had _____ in him by the way they lived.

18. Only _____ knows when that day will be.

19. We should be _____ for it at all times.

(Check your answers on page 99)



Philip baptized the man from Ethiopia.



Chapter Five

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you tell people the truth, you want them to believe you. You especially want them to believe you when it is important. A man or woman who is on trial for a crime really wants everyone to believe it when he or she says, "I did not do it!" You almost wish you could get inside their heads and make them believe you.

What God has to tell us in his Word is really important. He wants us to believe it so that we will go to heaven. This is so important to him

that he does what you would like to do. He gets into people's heads and hearts and turns them into believers.

This is the work we think of when we think of the Holy Spirit. The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed is about the Holy Spirit. This article tells us about who he is and what he does. The Third Article also tells us about the result of what he does. In this chapter we will study the work of the Holy Spirit. By the end of the chapter you will be able to:

- * tell how the Holy Spirit turns us into people who believe the Bible;
- * tell how he keeps us in the Christian faith; and
- * tell what we mean by the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

"I believe in the Holy Spirit. . . "

Many people do not believe what the Bible says. They do not believe it when the Bible tells us that God the Father created the world in six days. They do not believe it when it says that God the Son became a human being. They do not believe it when it says he died for the sins of the world. They do not believe it when it says Jesus rose from the dead, or that he will return to the world someday.

This is not surprising. The fact is, much of what the Bible says is hard to believe. It is hard to believe that we are completely bad. But the Bible says, "No one does anything good, no one at all" (Romans 3:12). It is hard to believe that one man's death could pay for everyone's sins. But the Bible says, "... the blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us pure from all sin" (1 John 1:7). It is hard to believe that a dead person could come to life again, but the Bible tells us Jesus did.

This is where God the Holy Spirit comes in. He turns people from unbelievers into believers. Left to yourself, you would never believe all that the Bible says. But the Holy Spirit changes your heart and mind. He uses his divine power. He makes you believe that you are sinful. He makes you believe that God's Son died to pay for your sins. He makes you believe that you are now God's child.

1. Many people do not _____ what the Bible says.
2. The Bible tells us many things that are _____ to believe.
3. God the _____ uses his divine power to make us into believers.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

How does the Holy Spirit make us believers? It is not done by magic. The Holy Spirit uses tools to do this.

You could compare his work to the work of a house builder. A builder of a house does not simply come up to a pile of wood, cement and paint and magically make it into a house. He uses a saw to cut the wood. He uses a hammer to nail it together. He uses a brush to put on the paint.

The Holy Spirit also uses tools to build us into Christians. The tool he uses is the **gospel**, that is, the good news about our Savior. The gospel is presented to us in a couple of ways. One is through the Word of God, the Bible. In the Bible the Holy Spirit tells us we are sinners and that Jesus is our Savior. Whenever we read the Bible, or hear it preached or taught, the Holy Spirit is using it to make us into believers. If we are already believers, he uses it to make our faith stronger.

The Holy Spirit has two other ways of presenting the gospel to us. We call them the **sacraments**. Sacrament is a word for some action, which the Holy Spirit uses to make us

sure our sins are forgiven and we are God's children. Jesus Christ is the one who told us to provide and receive these sacraments.

One of these sacraments is Holy Baptism. In baptism, water is poured on a person in the name of the triune God. In this way, the Holy Spirit convinces us that our sins are washed away. He also convinces us that we are God's children. When we are baptized into his name, it is an adoption. In an adoption, you receive the name of your new parents. God is now our Father.

The other sacrament is the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. In it, we receive Jesus' body and blood with the bread and the wine we eat and drink. At the same time, the Holy Spirit reminds us that Jesus' body was nailed to the cross, and his blood was shed to earn forgiveness for our sins. At the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit convinces us that Jesus earned forgiveness for the sins of each of us.

4. The Holy Spirit uses _____
to make us believers.
5. The _____ is the good
news about our forgiveness.
6. The gospel is presented to us in the Word
of God, the _____.
7. The gospel is also presented to us in the
_____.
8. In _____, we are convinced
that our sins are washed away.
9. We are baptized into the name of the
_____.
10. This is our _____ into his
family; God is now our Father.
11. In the Lord's _____, we receive
Jesus' body and blood with the bread and
the wine.

12. Another name for the Lord's Supper is

_____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

"(I believe in) the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints..."

The Holy Spirit does not make only a few people into Christians. He has brought billions of people to faith. He does not leave them all alone. He gathers them together with other Christians. We call this gathering of Christians the Holy Christian Church. In the Apostles' Creed, we also call it the communion of saints. Communion here means a gathering together.

Where do you find the Holy Christian Church? Actually, that is not very hard. You will find it wherever you find the gospel. When God's Word is preached and his sacraments are given out, the Holy Spirit is at work. He never fails to make some people into believers. As a

result, wherever the tools of the Holy Spirit are used, the Holy Christian Church is there.

We must avoid a common mistake. We see many different kinds of churches in the world. Each one is a gathering of people who believe the same things about God. Why are there so many of them? Why do they differ from each other? It is because there are many disagreements about God and his Word.

The Holy Christian Church is not a human organization. You cannot point to any one church on earth and say, "That is the Holy Christian Church." No, the Holy Christian Church is really seen only by God. Only he can see which people truly believe the gospel and which ones do not believe. Those who believe are the Holy Christian Church. The Holy Christian Church is all the people that the Holy Spirit has made into Christians.

13. The Holy Christian Church is the gathering of all _____ in Jesus Christ.
14. Only _____ knows who is really a Christian.
15. The Holy Christian Church is found wherever the _____ of the Holy Spirit are found.
16. There are different kinds of churches because there are many _____ about God and His Word.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

"(I believe in) the forgiveness of sins. . ."

Many people know what forgiveness of sins is. It means that someone decides not to hold it against you if you do something wrong. If you hit someone and he decided not to hit you back and not to hold it against you, you would say he has forgiven you.



The father hugged his son, forgave him, and welcomed him home.

God forgives sins. But it was not as easy as people might think. After all, God is perfect. He is also the Judge of all people. A perfect Judge has to enforce the law. If he lets someone get away with a sin, he is not perfect any longer.

So, how could God forgive us our sins? According to his own law, the person who sins must be punished forever. God solved that problem by sending his Son Jesus to be punished for our sins. Since Jesus suffered and died for our sins, we do not have to be punished. God can forgive us for our sins, and remain a perfect Judge.

The questions some people have are these: Whose sins did Jesus die for? Did he only die for believers? Or did he die for everyone's sins? The Bible gives the answer. In a letter written by one of Jesus' followers, it says, "He [Jesus] gave his life to pay for our sins. But he not only paid for our sins. He also paid for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2). That is

clear. There is not one sin Jesus did not die for. Jesus was punished for the sins of everyone. God has forgiven the whole world for all its sins.

17. _____ means someone not holding it against you when you did something wrong.

18. Because God is a _____ Judge, He could not let anyone get away with his or her sins.

19. God sent _____ to be punished for our sins.

20. Jesus died for the sins of the whole _____.

21. God has forgiven the sins of the whole _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

So, will the whole world be going to heaven then? Sadly, the answer is no. The Bible speaks again and again of how some will go to heaven and others to hell. How can someone go to hell if his sins are forgiven?

It all depends on faith. Does the person believe that Jesus died for his sins or not? Does he believe that Jesus rose from the dead to prove that all our sins are forgiven, or does he not believe? The Bible says the believer will be saved, but the unbeliever will be punished forever.

Perhaps an example will help to explain this. Suppose someone stole something from you. You would be so angry with him that you might want to beat him up. Since he knows you want to hurt him, he decides to stay away from you. He will not go near you when he knows you are nearby.

But suppose you forgive him. You say to yourself, "I do not hold that against him any longer." And you tell him so. You write him a

letter. You have his friends tell him. You even give him a gift to prove that you have forgiven him.

Now, if he believes you, he will stop trying to avoid you. He will stop being afraid of you. He will be your friend. Everything will be fine.

But if he does not believe you, he will keep on avoiding you. He will still be afraid of you. He will not read the letters you write him to tell him you have forgiven him. He will not listen to the friends. He will not accept your gift.

Whether he believes it or not, you have really forgiven him. But it will not do him any good unless he believes you. In the same way, whether we believe it or not, God has really forgiven us. But it will not help us if we do not believe it. We will not want to be around God. We will be afraid of him. We will not want to read his letter of forgiveness, the Bible. We will not listen to the friends he sends, namely, pastors and other Christians. We will not ever

want to be where he is. As a result we will not ever enter heaven.

But the Holy Spirit can make us into believers. Then that forgiveness of sins Jesus earned helps us. Then we know we are God's children. We are glad to read his Word and obey it. We listen to the pastor and other Christians. There is peace between God and us.

22. The sins of the whole world have been _____ by God.

23. God has forgiven us our sins whether we _____ it or not.

24. If we do not _____ it, this forgiveness will not help us.

25. But if we do _____ it, there will be peace between God and us.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

"(I believe in) the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. "

The last things we mention in the Apostles' Creed are the last things that will happen on earth. The Bible clearly tells us what the end of the world will be like. Jesus will return to earth. He will come in the clouds surrounded by angels. He will command everyone, the living and the dead, to appear before him.

The word resurrection means rising from the dead. The Bible says that the bodies of the dead will rise to life when Jesus returns. It does not matter if they have decomposed or been burned or lost at sea. All the dead will rise and appear before Jesus.

Unbelievers spent their entire lives running away from the true God. On that day, they will be sent away from him forever. But believers will be taken to be with God forever. He will replace this world with a new one, a perfect

one. There will be no trouble there. There will be no sadness, no crime, and no injuries. There will not be death there, either. That is why we call life in heaven the life everlasting.

26. On the last day, Jesus will return to earth in the _____.

27. He will call everyone before him, the living and the _____.

28. The word _____ means rising from the dead.

29. God will replace this world with a new one, a _____ one.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 91)

Review of Chapter Five

Not everyone believes the Bible. Much of what the Bible teaches is hard to believe. Here is where God, the Holy Spirit, comes in. He makes us into believers. By ourselves, we would never believe the truths of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit does not use magic to make us Christians. He uses tools to do this. The tool he uses is the gospel, that is, the good news about Jesus Christ. He presents the gospel to us in the Bible, when we read it or hear it taught or preached. He also presents the gospel to us in the sacraments.

A sacrament is an action the Holy Spirit uses to convince us that our sins have been forgiven and that we are God's children. One of the sacraments is Holy Baptism. In baptism, water is poured on a person in the name of the triune God. Baptism washes our sins away and makes us God's children. The other sacrament is the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. In

the Lord's Supper, we receive Jesus' body and blood with the bread and wine. The gospel in the Lord's Supper makes us sure that he gave his holy life to pay for our sins.

God gathers all believers together into the Holy Christian Church. It is also called the communion, that is, the gathering together, of saints. The Holy Christian Church is found wherever the Holy Spirit's tools are found. After all, he will always be able to make some people into Christians with them. There are also many different kinds of churches. There are many of them because there are disagreements among Christians about God and his Word.

Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. Whether people believe it or not, their sins are all forgiven. However, if they do not believe their sins are forgiven, this good news will not help them. They will not be at peace with God. But when the Holy Spirit makes you a believer,

the forgiveness that Jesus earned for you becomes your own. And then you are at peace with God.

On the Last Day Jesus will return to earth in the clouds. He will raise the bodies of all the dead. This is called the resurrection of the body. Those who did not believe in him will be punished forever. But believers will be blessed forever. God will make a new world for them. It will have no sin or sickness or crime or death. This is called the life everlasting.

Answers to questions within Chapter Five:

1. believe; 2. hard; 3. Holy Spirit; 4. tools; 5. gospel; 6. Bible;
7. sacraments; 8. baptism; 9. triune God; 10. adoption; 11. Supper;
12. Communion or Holy Communion; 13. believers; 14. God; 15. tools;
16. disagreements; 17. Forgiveness; 18. perfect; 19. Jesus; 20. world;
21. world; 22. forgiven; 23. believe; 24. believe; 25. believe;
26. clouds; 27. dead; 28. resurrection; 29. perfect.

Test on Chapter Five

1. Many people do not _____
what the Bible says.
2. God the _____
makes us into believers.
3. The Holy Spirit uses the _____
as a tool to make us believers.
4. He presents it to us in the Bible and the
_____.
5. In _____ water is poured on
us in the name of the triune God.
6. In the _____
(or communion) we receive Jesus' body and
blood with the bread and wine.
7. The Holy Christian _____
is the gathering of all believers.

8. It is found wherever the _____
of the Holy Spirit are found.
9. Jesus died for the sins of the _____.
10. God has forgiven everyone's sins, whether
they _____ it or not.
11. Only _____ get any good out
of the forgiveness Jesus won for everyone.
12. On the Last Day _____ will
return in the clouds of the sky.
13. He will raise up all the _____.
14. _____ will be taken to
live with God forever.

(Check your answers on page 99)



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

accident	a happening by chance
activities	the things someone does
adoption	the act of taking someone's child and making him or her your own legally
apostle	1. someone who is sent out 2. one of the men Jesus sent out with his message
arrival	to reach a person or place
article	one of the three parts of the Apostles Creed
artist	a person who paints or draws pictures
ascension	going up
avoid	to stay away from someone or something
bind	to tie something together
canvas	a kind of cloth
complex	complicated, made up of many working parts

confused	to be mixed up about something
conqueror	someone who defeats someone else
conceive	to become pregnant with a child
consistent	applying the same rule to everything alike
convince	to cause someone to believe something is true
creative	being able to make things
creed	1. a belief that makes a difference in your life 2. a written statement of what you believe
crucified	nailed to a cross and left to die
decomposed	rotted away
descended	went down
deserve	to be suitable for or worthy of
dynamite	a powerful blasting explosive
disciple	follower
distinguish	to set one thing apart from another
divine	god-like
dynamite	a powerful blasting explosive

equal	the same as, as important as
equality	being equal to someone else
eternal	having no beginning and no ending
evidence	information that supports a statement or belief
exciting	causing a person to have a feeling of happiness
explosion	an act of blowing something into pieces
gospel	the good news about the Savior
hover	to stay in the air over one place
introduce	to make someone or something known for the first time
imagine	to form an idea or mental picture about something
involved	to take part in or be connected with something
magic	use of charms to pretend to control events
matter	material, the stuff that things are made of
memorize	to learn something by heart
mention	to be spoken or written about

nation	a large number of people under one government
New Testament	the part of the Bible written by Jesus' apostles
opinion	what a person thinks
orbits	the paths that planets and stars follow in the sky
planet	a heavenly body that moves around the sun
preserve	to take care of
recite	to say something you know by heart
refer	to mention, speak or write about
refresh(ing)	to give a feeling of comfort and new strength
resurrection	rising from the dead
ruin	to destroy completely
sacraments	actions the Holy Spirit uses to convince us that our sins are forgiven and we are God's children
sacrifice	something you offer up to God
statement	a list put into words
savior	someone who saves or rescues you

swear	to take an oath that what you say is true
task	some work that needs to be done
testimony	a person's statement about what happened
Theory of Evolution	the idea that the universe came into being and developed all by itself
Trinity	a name for God which refers to him being one God yet three Persons
triune	three and yet one
universe	all of space and what is found in it
unusual	something that is not common or ordinary
vague	not clearly understood
verdict	a decision of a jury in court
virgin	someone who has never had sex
womb	place inside a woman's body where a baby is carried before the baby is born



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter One: (Pages 13-14)

1. beliefs; 2. written; 3. God; 4. twelve; 5. Jesus; 6. world;
7. God; 8. New Testament; 9. Bible; 10. memorize;
11. believe (or think); 12. services; 13. family.

Chapter Two: (Pages 27-28)

1. many; 2. one; 3. Father, Son, Spirit; 4. Bible; 5. persons;
6. Trinity, triune; 7. equal; 8. Son; 9. dead;
10. creating (or making), preserving; 11. saving; 12. faith.

Chapter Three: (Pages 42-44)

1. Article; 2. almighty; 3. word; 4. Evolution;
5. God; 6. witness; 7. preserve; 8. food, clothing, shelter;
9. Adam; 10. rib; 11. rulers; 12. thank; 13. sin; 14. fruit;
15. sin; 16. change; 17. heaven; 18. forever.

Chapter Four: (Pages 67-69)

1. eternal; 2. conceived; 3. Mary; 4. die (or pay); 5. Pontius Pilate;
6. die; 7. hell; 8. third; 9. Son; 10. sins; 11. graves;
12. ascended; 13. divine; 14. all; 15. Father; 16. dead; 17. faith;
18. God; 19. prepared (or ready).

Chapter Five: (Pages 92-93)

1. believe; 2. Holy Spirit; 3. gospel; 4. sacraments; 5. Baptism;
6. Lord's Supper; 7. Church; 8. tools; 9. world; 10. believe;
11. believers; 12. Jesus; 13. dead; 14. Believers.



Final Test

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals marked with a star (*) at the beginning of each lesson. When you are sure you know all the goals, you are ready to take the final test.

Complete the final test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

You may also ask for more Bible study books in this series.



What Christians Believe *Final Test*

1. A creed is a written statement of your _____.

2. The _____ were men chosen by Jesus to carry his message to the whole world.

3. The Apostles' Creed is short and easy to _____.

4. The Bible tells us there is only _____ God.

5. God is one God but also _____ persons.

6. God is these three persons: the _____, the _____, and the _____.

7. We connect the _____ with the activity of creating and preserving all things.

8. We connect the _____ with the activity of saving us from our sins.

9. We connect the _____ with the activity of giving us faith in God.
10. God created the whole world by the power of his _____.
11. He made the first man, Adam, out of the _____ of the ground.
12. Because of our sin, _____ and decay entered God's perfect world.
13. Jesus' mother was a virgin named _____.
14. Jesus came to earth to _____ for our sins.
15. Jesus' rising from the dead proves that all our _____ are paid for.
16. Jesus' rising proves that he really is the _____ of God.
17. Jesus' rising proves that we also will rise from our _____.
18. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel as a _____ to make us into believers.

19. The gospel is presented to us in the Word and the _____.
20. In baptism _____ is poured on us in the name of the triune God.
21. In the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion) we receive Jesus' _____ and _____ with the bread and wine.
22. The Holy Christian _____ is found wherever the tools of the Holy Spirit are found.
23. God has forgiven the sins of the whole _____, whether they believe it or not.
24. Only believers receive help from the forgiveness _____ won for everyone.
25. On the _____ Day, Jesus will return in the clouds of the sky.
26. Believers will be taken to live with God _____.

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