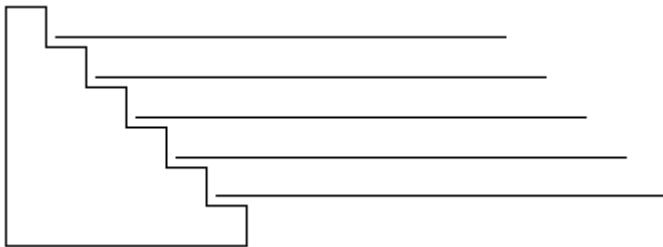


Session 6 – The Apostles’ Creed The Second Article Part II: The Son (Humiliation / Exaltation)

1. Many people living today think that God is distant, far off, and unconcerned with the daily affairs of human beings. Consider again the words of the Apostles’ Creed: *And [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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.* How do these words resonate with the historical reality of God’s intimate concern for all people?
2. In his book, The Case For Christ, Lee Strobel asks a critical question to those who consider Jesus to be only a great teacher or legendary figure: “Is it enough that Jesus is a symbol of hope, or is it important for you to be confident that his life, teachings, and resurrection are rooted in history? **Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19.** What do these verses say about the *historical necessity* of Christ’s work?”
3. The Apostles’ Creed presents the narrative of Christ’s redemptive work within the timeline of human history. The time period from Jesus’ conception until the moment prior to His return to life in the tomb is called Jesus’ state of _____. The words of the Creed that confess this state are “*conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.*” During His earthly ministry, Jesus, according to His divine and human nature, did not always or fully use His divine powers. Rather, He humbled Himself (Philippians 2:6-8).
4. The steps down in Christ’s humiliation are His:



5. This is what the Scriptures teach concerning Christ’s:
 - A. _____: He is the Son of God Who received a true human body and soul in His mother Mary through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, not through a human father (Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:20).
 - B. _____: Jesus, the God-man, was born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 2:7).
 - C. _____: He endured poverty, contempt, and persecution in His earthly life (2 Corinthians 8:9, Matthew 8:20, Isaiah 53:3, John 8:40). He

suffered great agony of body and soul under Pontius Pilate (John 19:1-3, Mark 15:1-20).

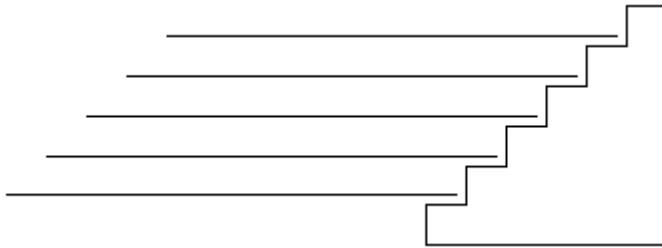
D. _____: He died in excruciating agony because of His great love for us (John 19:16-18, Matthew 27:46, John 19:30).

E. _____: His body was buried in the tomb and remained there until the third day, without decaying in any way (Mark 15:42-47, Acts 13:37).

6. Why did Christ humble Himself for us? **Read John 10:17-18.** He loves us so much that He suffered _____. He loved people enough to serve and suffer without limit (Isaiah 53).

7. The time period after Jesus' resurrection is called His state of _____. The words of the Creed that confess this state are "*He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*" Beyond the resurrection, Jesus according to His human nature, fully and always makes use of the powers and qualities of His divine nature (Philippians 2:9-11).

8. The steps up in His exaltation are His:



9. This is what the Scriptures teach concerning Christ's:

A. _____: He was made alive in the grave, descended into hell, not to suffer punishment, but to pronounce His victory over His enemies in hell. This was a step up because all the suffering for people's eternities was done on the cross. This was not a second chance, but a proclamation of victory to all who defied God and His ability to act in this world (Colossians 2:15, 1 Peter 3:19-20).

B. _____: He rose victoriously from the grave and showed Himself alive to His disciples and more than five hundred others (Acts 10:40-41, 1 Corinthians 15:4-8, Acts 1:3).

C. _____: When Jesus rose from the earth into the cloud at His ascension, the cloud symbolized the presence of God (Acts 1:9, Exodus 40). He did not withdraw His physical presence, He _____ it. In the presence of His disciples, He ascended bodily into the glory of His Father 40 days after His resurrection to prepare a place for us in heaven (Luke 24:51, Ephesians 4:10, John 14:2-3, John 17:24, Acts 1:9-11)

D. _____: He sits at the right hand of the Father in the position of all spiritual authority. He is present now everywhere, even as true man, and

exercises His divine power over the whole universe for the good of His Church (Psalm 110:1, Ephesians 1:20-23, Ephesians 4:10-12).

E. _____: He will return visibly and with great glory on the Last Day to judge all people (Matthew 24:27, Luke 21:27, Acts 1:11, 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 1:7).

10. Why is Christ's resurrection so important and comforting? Christ's resurrection proves that:

- A. He is the Son of God (Romans 1:4).
- B. His doctrine is the truth (John 2:19, John 8:28).
- C. God the Father accepted His sacrifice for the reconciliation of the entire world (Romans 4:25, Romans 5:10, 1 Corinthians 15:17).
- D. All believers in Christ will rise to eternal life (John 11:25-26, John 14:19, 1 Corinthians 15:20).

11. It is a common feeling for each of us to think *no one understands me*. We may feel no one truly understands our personal struggles and the situations that we face on a daily basis. **Read Hebrews 4:14-16**. How can this truth invite us to approach Jesus in prayer with confidence?

12. Jesus rules the universe for His Father, and does it all for the sake of His people. Our triumphant Lord Jesus at the right hand of the Father has authority over the universe, the Church, and our very lives. We know the Person in charge, and He is for us. We can have peace in all we do. **Read Romans 8:31-39**. How are these words a wellspring of comfort?

13. If we are honest, it appears at times that history and even our own lives are spinning out of control. Even so, the Bible insists that Jesus guides all history so that Christians are given opportunity to live, not necessarily _____, but _____ (Romans 8:28). When life situations seem *out of control*, how do they often convince us to place our lives *under God's control*?

14. There is much confusion concerning what will happen when Christ returns – even among believers. The people in Paul's day were no different as they contemplated what might happen after death. They feared that those who died prior to Jesus' return would miss out on the Eternal Age He would establish. Paul assured them at His second coming or Advent, Christ will raise all the dead to participate in the life to come (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Concerning the Last Day, the Scriptures teach:

- A. Jesus will reappear to declare an end to history as we know it, and to usher in eternity (Matthew 24:27, Luke 21:27, Acts 1:11, 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 1:7).
- B. Christ will return to judge the world, not to set up an earthly government (Matthew 25:31-46, John 12:48, John 18:36, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3).

- C. Only God the _____ knows *when* this will take place (Matthew 24:44, Matthew 25:1-13, Mark 13:32, Acts 17:31).
- D. Before Christ returns, there will be increasing persecution and turmoil for the Church and the world (Matthew 24:7, Matthew 24:22, 1 Timothy 4:1).
- E. The return of Christ is a source of hope and joy for the Christian (Luke 21:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 9:28, Revelation 22:20).

15. The Bible is very clear that there will be no second chances for those who die without knowing the Lord. There will also be no second chances for those who do not believe when Christ returns. In some circles, it is said:

- There is a waiting area before heaven where you can work off your sins (purgatory).
- Certain Christians will be taken up to heaven early before He returns in glory (secret rapture) – those who are left behind will have another opportunity to come to faith.

Although there are various views and argumentations behind the above concepts, the Scriptures are clear that there will be no second chances for those who reject Jesus when the end comes. Considering some of the Scriptures you have studied, what are some of the problems with the two above views?

16. We do not know when the end will come. The Bible says that it will come like a thief in the night, and only those who stay vigilant in their faith in Christ will be ready (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6). Our job is not to exhaust ourselves in futility trying to determine the time and date only the Father knows. Rather, our job is simply to be ready, alert, and watchful for Christ's return. The best way we can do this is to grow in His grace and share His message with the lost _____. For those who still serve and cling to themselves in unbelief, it will be too late. Considering the time is short, how should you live?