

**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



**Multi-Language Publications**

*Bringing the Written Word to the World*

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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**

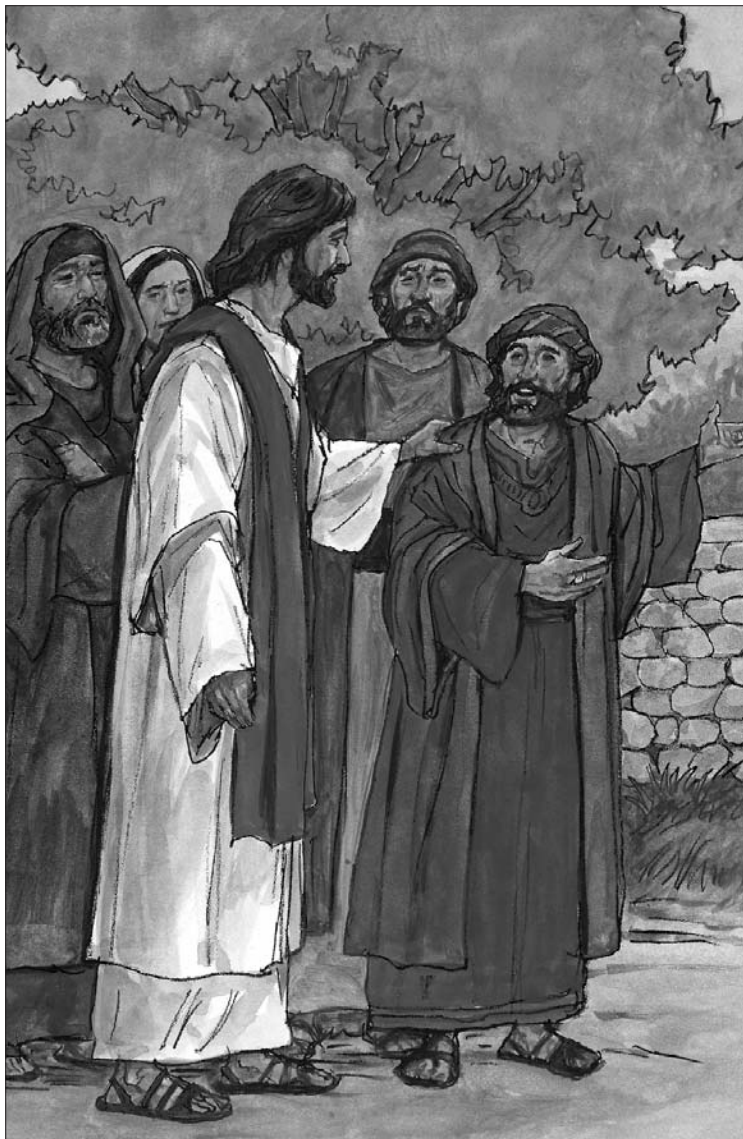
This book will help you learn some exciting things about God. Each chapter begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (\*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of the chapter there is a test. The 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 6)

The word creed does not only refer to your beliefs. It can also refer to a written statement of what you believe. That writing could also be called a creed.

The Apostles' Creed is such a writing. Christians have many beliefs about God. You could call those beliefs their creed. But we also have some written statements of our Christian beliefs. They are also called creeds. 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 8)

We know what a creed is. It is a written statement of what we believe. Who, then, are these 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.



Answers for page 5: 1. I believe; 2. believe; 3. difference.

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 about 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 10)

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. We state that belief with the Apostles' Creed.

This creed is very important for Christians. There are two reasons the Apostle's Creed is very important. The first reason is it is helpful to have this short statement of our beliefs in



Answers for page 6: 4. statement; 5. creed; 6. Apostles' Creed.

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 have 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 that 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 together 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.



Answers for pages 7-8: 7. sent; 8. message; 9. twelve; 10. God.

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 just 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. He 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. This makes it very important to Christians. There are two reasons the Apostles' Creed is very important. 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 for pages 10-11: 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. 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. In one place, 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. The only reason they knew there was only one God was because God told them so 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 20)

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 of him. Yet, in other places, 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 is Jesus Christ. Again and again we read of Jesus calling God his Father. Yet the Bible

also speaks of him 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 people, 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 God as being one, and yet at other times as being \_\_\_\_\_ in number.

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 22)

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?

How can the Bible speak of God as one and three at the same time? The Bible is the Word of God. Who would know better than God would what he is like? 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 just have to take God's Word for it that this is what he is like.



Answers for pages 17-18: 1. many; 2. Bible; 3. people.

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 is does not give us a reason not to believe in 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. We say that God is triune to say that God is one God and also three persons. We do not refer to him as 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 and one.

11. There is one \_\_\_\_\_ who is also three \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 24)

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 is more important or more divine than any other person in God.



Answers for pages 19-20: 4. three; 5. Father; 6. Son; 7. Spirit.

Only once was there a time that one person was less great than the others. That was when God the Son came to earth as a plain human being. He himself spoke of how during that time the Father was greater than he was. But after he had risen from the dead, he took back his full equality with the Father and Holy Spirit. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).

All three persons are equal. But we think of each person as being more connected with one activity. 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. Only when God the Son became a plain \_\_\_\_\_ was he less than the other two persons.

15. After he had risen from the dead he took back his full \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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)



Answers for pages 21-22: 8. Word; 9. understand; 10. triune; 11. God, persons.

## ***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 being three. We read of 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 have to understand something to believe it. God's Word says this is what he is like, and so we believe it. God would not lie about himself.

We use the word triune to describe the fact that God is one God and three persons. We also refer to this triune God as the Trinity to describe the same thing. Each person is equally divine and powerful and wise and fair and loving. One of them is not more divine than another. Only during the time the Son

was on earth as a plain human being did he speak of himself as being less than the Father. But after he had risen from the dead, he was equal again.

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 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.



Answers for pages 23-24: 12. equal; 13. eternal; 14. human being; 15. equality; 16. Father; 17. Son; 18. faith.

3. Yet this one God is described also as being three: 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 and one God.

7. The three persons are \_\_\_\_\_ to each other in power, wisdom, fairness and love.

8. Only when he was a plain human being was the \_\_\_\_\_ less than the Father and the Holy Spirit.

9. After he had risen from the \_\_\_\_\_, he was once again their equal.

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 turn to writing. 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:

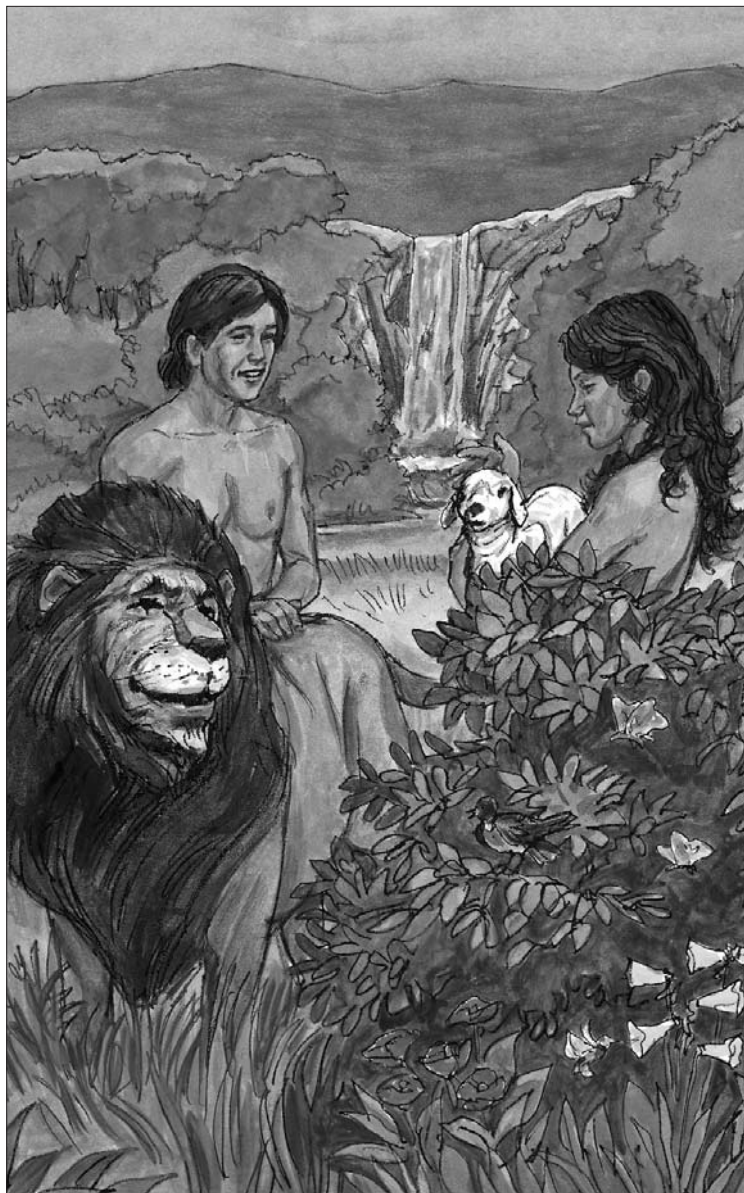
- \* tell how and when God created all things;
- \* tell how he still takes care of them; and
- \* tell what ruined his creation.

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

These are the first words of the First Article. With them we say that the Father is 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



*God created everything on earth.*

have to start with something if we are to create. For example, an artist has to start with a piece of paper or a canvas to paint on. 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, "And 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. 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 his \_\_\_\_\_.

4. God created all things in \_\_\_\_\_ days.

5. On the seventh day he \_\_\_\_\_.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 34)

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 explosion at the beginning of it. 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 this happens: 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 other witnesses of the beginning of the world. There was only



God. His Word, the Bible, is his testimony about what happened. It was human beings who 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 37)



*God gave Adam and Eve many blessings.*

Of course, we are most interested in how God made human beings. He formed the first man, Adam, 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 for him. He told the man and his wife they were to be rulers over the earth.

God made all things. When he was finished, though, 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



Answers for page 35: 6. Evolution; 7. accident; 8. exploded; 9. build; 10. God; 11. witness.

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 40)

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 were the first sinners. God

had given them the whole world. 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 has not created 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 our sins. He has promised to come back one day. Then this sin-filled earth will be destroyed. God will then 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 42)

### ***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



Answers for page 38: 12. dust; 13. rib; 14. rulers; 15. preserve.

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 the world, and that someone was God. It also says God was the only witness of how things began. So his Word must be true.

God the Father also preserves all things. He makes the sun to shine and the rain to 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.

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 destroy this world of death and decay and build a new world, a perfect one. In that world 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.



Answers for pages 39-40: 16. thanks; 17. sin; 18. fruit;  
19. death, decay; 20. heaven, earth; 21. forever.

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 to 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 our sins.

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

Probably you would be sure he came 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. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

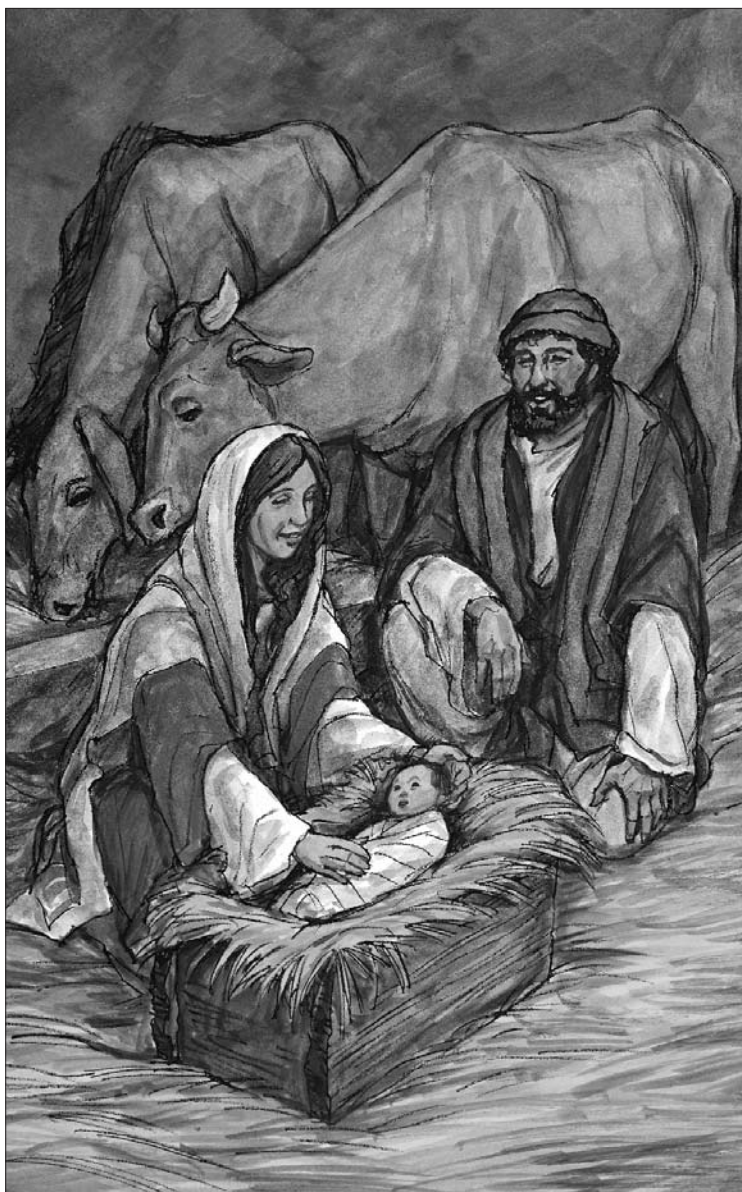
- \* tell how God the Son became a human being;
- \* tell how he beat sin, death and the devil for us; and
- \* tell what he will do for us now and in the future.

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

These are the first words of the Second Article. With them, we say we believe some pretty amazing things. We believe that a Jewish carpenter who lived about 2,000 years ago was, and is, God the Son.

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

So the Son is equally divine with his Father. We say he is God's only begotten Son. Begotten is a word that means a natural son, not an adopted one. This means the Father did not create the Son. In this way, you could call everyone God created a son or daughter. But it means something different when we speak of God the Son. He is God's only begotten Son, and is, like his Father, without beginning.



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

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

2. The Father did not \_\_\_\_\_ before the Son.

3. We say he is God's only \_\_\_\_\_ Son, meaning he was not created.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)

To be a human being usually means being sinful. We inherit our sinfulness from our fathers and mothers. When God the Son became a human being, he was not going to be a sinful one. So he became one in a different way. No human father was involved. God the Holy Spirit (he is written about in the next chapter) performed a miracle.

We say the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus. We know about how babies are made. It was different with Jesus. The Holy Spirit placed him into the womb of a girl named Mary.

She 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 his birthday every Christmas.

4. God the Son became a \_\_\_\_\_ being like us.

5. He was not going to be 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 52)



Answers for page 49: 1. eternal; 2. exist; 3. begotten.

***"... 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 now 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 what all the evil or bad things people had done. This happened when he was crucified.

The Apostles' Creed mentions Pontius Pilate. Pilate was the governor of the place where Jesus lived. He was the man who condemned Jesus to be nailed to a cross. His name is not mentioned because we blame him for Jesus' death. It was our fault Jesus had to die. He died for our sins. But Pilate is mentioned for a different and more important reason.

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 get to find out whether you did enough good deeds. That is what these false religions teach. You cannot know whether you have saved yourself until the end of your life. Then it is too late to do anything about it.

But the Bible tells us we can know whether 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..."**



Answers for page 50: 4. human; 5. sinful; 6. conceived;  
7. Mary.

***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 for our \_\_\_\_\_.

9. He did this when he was nailed to a \_\_\_\_\_.

10. The governor who sentenced Him was \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Other religions teach that you cannot know 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 54)

***"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). His mission of suffering our punishment was over.

So why did he have to go to hell? When sinful human beings die and go to hell, it is to suffer punishment. The devil keeps them captive there forever. But when Jesus went to hell, it was not as a prisoner of the devil. It was as the conqueror of the devil.

The devil thought that anyone who entered hell would never leave. In hell, Satan was king. He ruled everyone there. 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. His people would never have to come there for their sins.



Answers for page 53: 8. sins; 9. cross; 10. Pontius Pilate; 11. die; 12. Pontius Pilate.

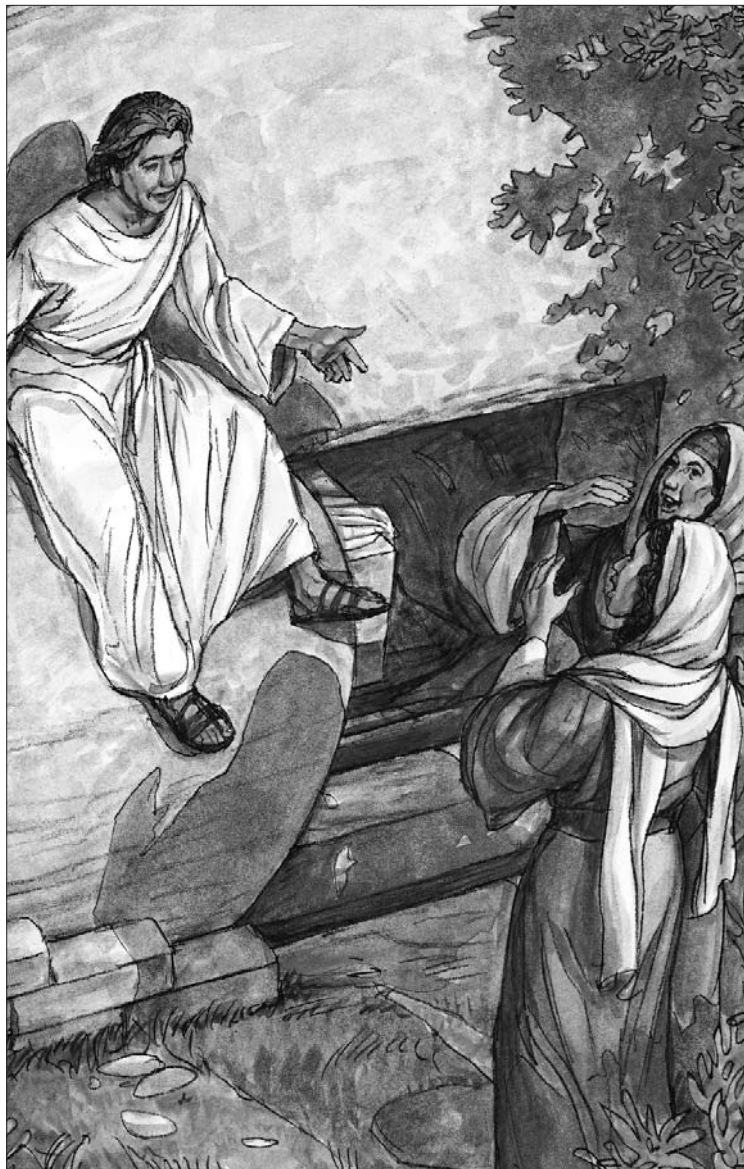
Then Jesus did something that no one had ever done before. No one has ever done it since. No one will ever do it again. He left hell. He turned around and left the place that no one can leave. In fact, the Bible says he is like a person who holds the keys to hell. It is not the devil who rules there now. Jesus has destroyed the devil's power.

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 57)



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

***"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. 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.

Second, his rising proves he paid for all our sins. Death is the punishment he suffered for the sins of the world. But when he no longer had to suffer death, Jesus proved all sins were paid for. When he died, he said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He meant that he had paid for all sins by suffering and dying. When Jesus had paid for all sins, he was allowed to leave the grave.



Answers for page 55: 13. suffer; 14. beaten (or defeated); 15. keys.

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 also will live" (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 61)

***"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 rose into the sky until a cloud covered him from their sight. We call this the Ascension (a word which basically 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 plain man on earth, he did not make full use of his divine powers and rights. Every now and then he would use his divine power, when he did miracles to heal and help people. But for the most part, he lived like any other man. He completed his mission of dying for our sins. Then he returned to heaven and again made full use of his divine powers and rights.

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



*Jesus arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.*

started studying about Jesus and what he did for you if you had not been given this book?

Jesus does something more for us now that he is at God the Father's right hand. We still sin every day. Every time we do, he prays for us. He prays for our forgiveness because he already has died for all our sins. The Father hears Jesus and forgives us.

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.



Answers for page 58: 16. Easter; 17. Son, God; 18. sins; 19. graves.

24. He also asks the \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive us our sins.

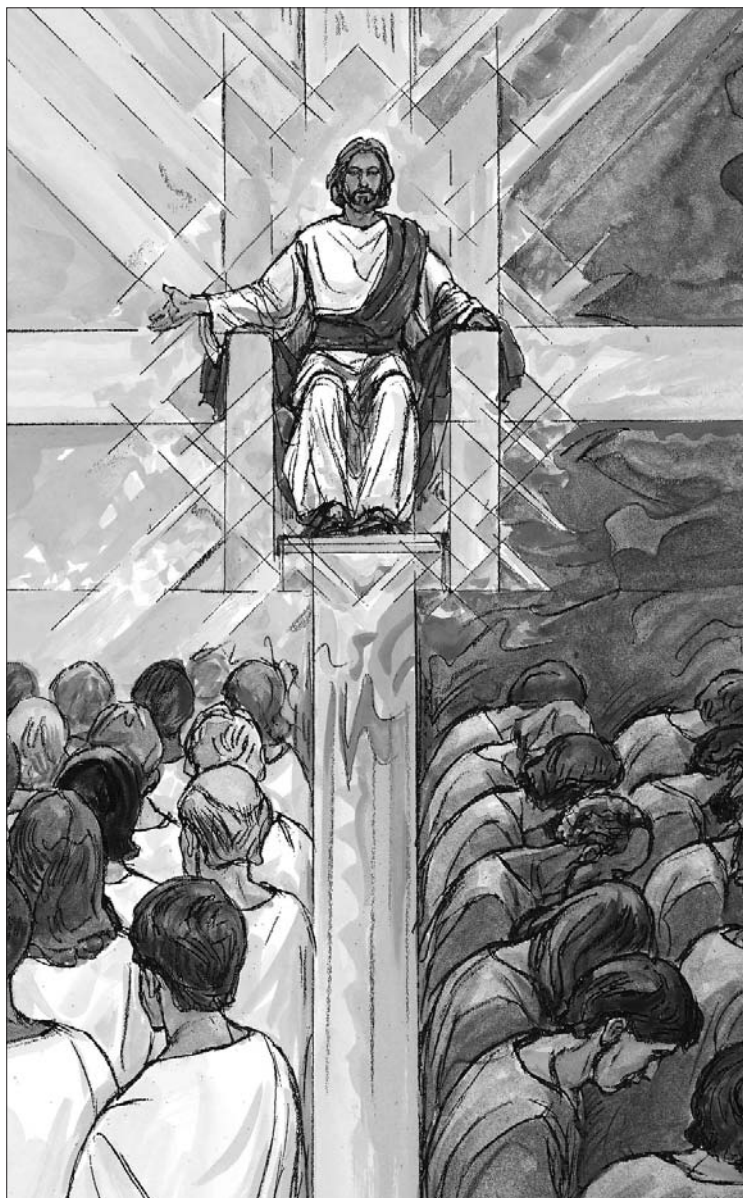
(Check your answers on the bottom of page 64)

***"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. Every human being 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



*Jesus separates the believers from the unbelievers.*

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: 42-44). So we should be ready at all times.

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 like Christians. Then we will be ready, even if he returns when we least expect him.



Answers for pages 61-62: 20. forty; 21. full; 22. divine; 23. rules; 24. Father.

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 only begotten Son to distinguish him from all the people God has created.

He became a human being. He did not have a human father, since, in that way, he would have inherited sin. He was conceived by a miracle of the Holy Spirit. A virgin named Mary was his mother.

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, 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



Answers for page 65: 25. judge; 26. evidence; 27. devil; 28. God; 29. ready.

Day. After forty days, he ascended into heaven. There 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 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 like Christians.

### ***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 father.

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 whether or not 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.

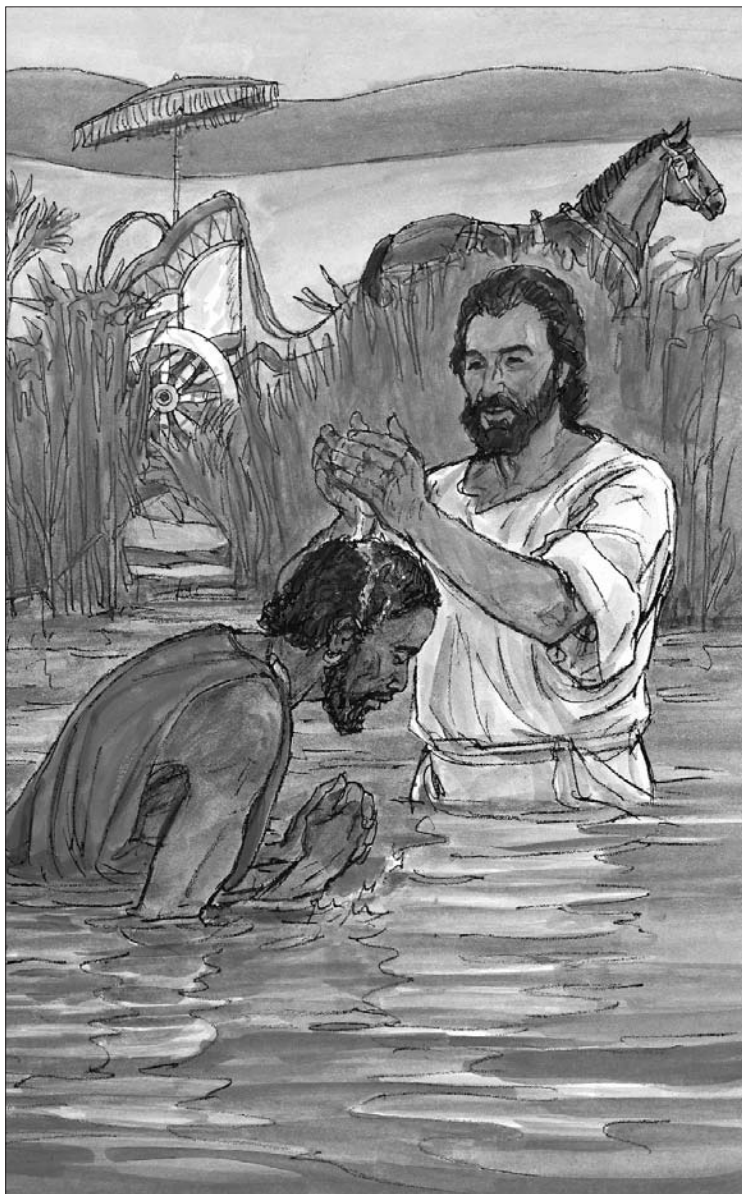
16. He will come again to judge the living and the \_\_\_\_\_.

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 because, if we do, 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 about how 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 some day.

This is not surprising. The fact is, much of what the Bible says is hard to believe. It is hard to believe 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 one man's death could pay for everyone's sins. But the Bible says, "And 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 76)

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 just 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 perform 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. In this way, the Holy Spirit reminds us how Jesus' body was nailed to the cross, and how his blood was shed. It is in that way Jesus won forgiveness for our sins. At the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit convinces



us that his forgiveness was won 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 80)

***"(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 in the faith. 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. There are all kinds of churches in the world. They are gatherings of people who believe the same things about God. There are so many of them 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 make up 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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 humanly set-up churches because there are many \_\_\_\_\_ about God and His Word.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 82)

***"(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



Answers for pages 77-78: 4. tools; 5. gospel; 6. Bible; 7. sacraments; 8. baptism; 9. triune God; 10. adoption; 11. Supper; 12. Communion or Holy Communion.



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

back and not to hold it against you, you would say he has forgiven you.

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 just die for believers? Or did he die for everyone's



Answers for page 80: 13. believers; 14. God; 15. tools; 16. disagreements.

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. There is no one whose punishment Jesus did not suffer. 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

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(Check your answers on the bottom of page 86)

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, then 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 do us any good 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 won is good for 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 do us no good.



Answers for pages 83-84: 17. Forgiveness; 18. perfect; 19. Jesus; 20. world; 21. world.

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

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 88)

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

The last things we mention in the Apostles' Creed have to do with 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 destroy this world and make 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 destroy this world and make a new one, a \_\_\_\_\_ one.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 90)



Answers for pages 86-87: 22. forgiven; 23. believe; 24. believe; 25. believe.

## ***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 Lord's Supper proves to us that he shed his blood 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 humanly set-up 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 they believe it or not, their sins are all forgiven. However, if they do not believe their sins are forgiven, this will do them no good. They will not be at peace with God. But when



the Holy Spirit makes you a believer, then you are at peace with God. Then the forgiveness Jesus won becomes your own.

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.

### ***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)

<b>accident</b>	a happening by chance
<b>activities</b>	the things someone does
<b>adoption</b>	the act of taking someone's child and making him or her your own legally
<b>Apostle</b>	1. someone who is sent out 2. one of the men Jesus sent out with his message
<b>arrival</b>	to reach a person or place
<b>article</b>	one of the three parts of the Apostles Creed
<b>artist</b>	a person who paints or draws pictures
<b>ascension</b>	going up
<b>avoid</b>	to stay away from someone or something
<b>begotten</b>	a natural son, not an adopted one
<b>bind</b>	to tie something together
<b>canvas</b>	a kind of cloth
<b>complex</b>	complicated, made up of many working parts

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

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

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

<b>savior</b>	someone who saves or rescues you
<b>swear</b>	to take an oath that what you say is true
<b>task</b>	some work that needs to be done
<b>testimony</b>	a person's statement about what happened
<b>Theory of Evolution</b>	the idea that the universe came into being and developed all by itself
<b>Trinity</b>	a name for God which refers to him being one God yet three Persons
<b>triune</b>	three and yet one
<b>universe</b>	all of space and what is found in it
<b>unusual</b>	something that is not common or ordinary
<b>vague</b>	not clearly understood
<b>verdict</b>	a decision of a jury in court
<b>virgin</b>	someone who has never had sex
<b>womb</b>	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 26-28)**

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. destroy; 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 91-93)**

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 get any good out of 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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