

# Back to the Basics

The Apostles' Creed: 2<sup>nd</sup> Article

**And 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.**

What does this mean? *I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,*

*Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,*

*that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,*

*just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity.*

*This is most certainly true. Amen.*

The Second Article concerns Redemption, and its focus is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This tells us who Jesus is (the Person of Christ) and what He does (the Work of Christ). In this meditation, we will focus on the name and nature of Jesus. Next week, we will turn our attention to His work.

## The Name of the Son of God

### Jesus

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him: “[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (**Matthew 1:21**). “Jesus” is the Greek version of the Hebrew “Joshua” or “Yeshua”, which means “the Lord saves.” Joseph was told to name the boy who would be born the Son of God and Son of Mary “Jesus” because He was God coming to save His people from their sins. What’s in a name? “Jesus” is the only name that can save: *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)*. The Lord saves and He is the only One who can save.

### Christ

The title Christ (Greek) or Messiah (Hebrew) means “the Anointed.” This speaks to the offices of Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King. Prophets, priests, and kings were all anointed to serve as a symbol of the anointing of the Holy Spirit needed to perform their duties. Christ is anointed by the Spirit to His holy offices (See **Acts 10:36-38**).

## The Two Natures of Christ

Jesus Christ is “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.” This is a divine miracle and a mystery we cannot fathom. But we accept it on faith because

the Bible says it is so. We know that Jesus is true God because He has divine names. Thomas calls Him *"My lord and my God!"* (**John 20:28**). He also has divine attributes. He is:

1. Eternal (**John 1:1-2**)
2. Unchangeable (**Hebrews 13:8**)
3. Almighty [Omnipotent] (**Matthew 28:18**)
4. All-knowing [Omniscient] (**John 21:17**)
5. Present everywhere [Omnipresent] (**Matthew 28:20**)

Jesus does divine works, things only God can do. He:

1. Forgives (**Matthew 9:6**)
2. Created (**John 1:3**)
3. Will judge (**John 5:27**)
4. Preserves (**Hebrews 1:3**)

Jesus receives honor and glory (**John 5:22-23**).

We know He is true man because the Scriptures:

1. Clearly call Him man (**1 Timothy 2:5**)
2. Say that He has a human body and soul (**Luke 24:39**)
3. Speak of His human but sinless feelings and actions. He:
  - a. Was hungry (**Matthew 4:2**)
  - b. Wept (**John 11:35**)
  - c. Said, "I thirst" (**John 19:28**)

The union of these two natures began at birth (incarnation) and will continue forever. It was necessary for Him to be true God and true man to be our Savior. As man, He was able to live under the Law as we must and fulfill it for us (**Galatians 4:4-5**). This is called His active obedience. He was also able to die for our guilt because we failed to keep the Law (**Colossians 1:22**). This is His passive obedience. As God, His fulfilling the Law, life, suffering, and death are sufficient ransom for all people (**Psalms 49:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19**). As God, He was also able to overcome death and the devil for us (**Hebrews 2:14**).

Next week, we will pick up here with the work of Christ (His offices and the humiliation and exaltation).