



Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

A Life Purchased by God

Introduction

Join in saying the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayer

Faith Aflame

Christian stewardship begins in the loving heart of God.

What makes us stewards of God? There are three answers. The second answer: God has made us His very own (reclaimed us) by the redemptive work of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The deepest foundation of stewardship is the fact that God acted in Christ Jesus to redeem the world (and that includes you and me). Freedom is what we have because of the suffering and death of Jesus—freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil.



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord God, You alone are the source of every gift, of the vast array of our universe, and of the mystery of each human life. We praise You and we thank You for Your great power and Your tender, faithful Love.

Everything we are and everything we have is Your gift, and we thank You for the Greatest Gift of all, Your Son, Jesus Christ and the salvation He gives.

Fill our hearts with Christ's truth and with His love, that we may glorify Your Holy Name and serve one another.

In the Name of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.
Amen.

Why do we need God's intervention? (Check out Romans 7:14)

Go back to Romans 6:14. What are we under because of Christ?

What does that mean to you? (Your everyday life, how you relate to others, etc.)

In Holy Baptism we become members of God's family. As a member of this family we are involved in the family business. What is that business?

- John 3:16
- Luke 19:10

For what purpose did God chose us?

- John 15:16

What is the intention of Christ's death according to 2 Corinthians 5:15?

When asked why Christ died many will respond, "to save me." Evaluate that answer in the light of John 15:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:15.

We are made new in Christ—for what purpose according to Ephesians 2:10?

What response to God's mercy do we find in Romans 12:1?

Read through Romans 6:3-13. In verse 11 it says "count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." What do you suppose it means to be "alive to God?" (Check the context.)

Reflecting on God's great love in Christ, the hymn writer says,

*Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

As you discuss what the hymn writer means, consider one way that you can offer to God, in response to His love, your soul, your life, your all. Be specific and share it with the members of your group. (They will ask you about it the next time you meet.)

Closing Prayer

Adoration...
Confession...
Thanksgiving...
Supplication....

Praise...
Remember...
Ask...
Yield...



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