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THIS IS MY FAITH

An exploration of the Biblical basis of doctrines all Christendom confesses in the Apostles' Creed with special reference to problems occasioned by present-day trends in theology, science, social living, and the human situation in general.

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THE TOPICS

"I believe"

The Revealed God and "God in General"

The Act of Creation

God and Space

Modern Man and His Soul

God and World Population

God's Providence and Man's Self-Reliance

God and Government

The Incarnation: The Great Miracle

The Atonement: Heart of the Christian Gospel

The Descent into Hell: The Victorious Messiah

The Resurrection: Keystone of the Christian Faith

The Second Advent: The Last Things

Christian Vocation: Fruit of the Redemption

Proclaiming the Redemption: Christian Evangelism

The Holy Spirit is God

The Church and "Churches"

The Ministry and the Means of Grace

The Sinner's Conversion: God's Act

Cure for Guilt Complexes: Divine Forgiveness

The Hope of the Resurrection

The Life Unending

INTRODUCTION

"I believe"

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 15:1-6
Job 13:15; 19:25
Psalm 9:10; 37:5
Proverbs 3:5
Daniel 3:16-18
Jonah 3:5
Habakkuk 2:4
Matthew 14:31; 17:20; 18:6
Luke 8:13-14
John 3:14-17 6:29.44
Acts 16:30-31
Romans 1:17; 3:23-28; 5:1.20
Romans 8:31-39; 10:13.17
Galatians 2:20; 5:4
Ephesians 2:8-9
Philippians 1:6; 2:13
1 Timothy 2:4; 4:10
2 Timothy 1:12
Titus 3:5-7
Hebrews 11:1-6
James 1:18; 2:14-17
1 Peter 1:5
2 Peter 1:5-11

B. Other readings and references:

Davis, John, *Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v., "Faith," p. 228.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, s.v., "Faith," pp. 363-364.
Meyer, R. Z., *"This Faith Is Mine."*
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics.*
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, v. 1., pp. 465 ff.
Schaff, Philip, *The Creeds of Christendom*, pp. 14 ff.

C. True-False Statements:

1. Faith means trusting in the words and promises of God.
2. Faith differs in small degree from superstition.
3. Faith in Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation.
4. Even a spark of faith is enough to save a person.
5. Faith and good works justify a person.
6. A living faith reveals itself by fruits of faith.
7. Wealth is one of the fruits of faith.
8. Good works done by unbelievers are pleasing to God.
9. Faith is the product of the Holy Spirit.
10. Faith is produced and preserved by the means of grace.
11. God desires to create faith in every person.
12. Faith cannot exist in the hearts of infants.
13. Saving faith must necessarily be a conscious faith.
14. No one can be saved by someone else's faith.
15. If faith is once lost, it can never be regained.

ARTICLE I.

DIVINE CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

1. The Revealed God and "God in General"
2. The Act of Creation
3. God and Space
4. Modern Man and His Soul
5. God and World Population
6. God's Providence and Man's Self-Reliance
7. God and Government

1. THE REVEALED GOD AND "GOD IN GENERAL"

"I believe in God . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 17:1
Exodus 3:13-15
Numbers 6:22-26
Deuteronomy 6:4-5
Psalm 19:1
Psalm 90:1-2
Isaiah 6:1-3
Jeremiah 23:23-24
Matthew 4:10
Matthew 28:19
John 4:24
John 14:6-9
Acts 14:17
Romans 1:19-21
Romans 2:14-15
1 Corinthians 8:4-6
2 Corinthians 13:14

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, II, "The Nature and Attributes of God," pp. 59-77.
Concordia Triglotta, "Large Catechism," pp. 679-683.
Davis, John D., *A Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v., "Idolatry."
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "God," pp. 418-419.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of God," pp. 143-175.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v., pp. 538 ff.

C. True-False Statements:

1. God is an abstract being.
2. The existence of God is revealed in nature.
3. Man's conscience leads him to a belief in some kind of higher being.
4. The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God.
5. Allah is a Biblical name for God.
6. A remarkable attribute of God is His eternity.
7. The number of true Gods is three
8. A belief in many gods is called pantheism.
9. The worship of a false god is called atheism.
10. Monotheism is the belief that there is only one God.
11. The doctrine of the Trinity is beyond man's understanding.
12. The belief in the Triune God is a secondary doctrine.
13. The three persons of the Trinity are equal to one another.
14. God reveals Himself to man to-day in new scientific developments.
15. We can best understand God by a study of His Word.

2. THE ACT OF CREATION

"I believe in God . . . Maker . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 1:1-31
Genesis 2:1-7
Nehemiah 9:6
Job 26:7
Psalm 100:3
Proverbs 30:4
Jeremiah 10:12
John 1:1-3
Romans 1:19-20
Colossians 1:16
Hebrews 3:4
Hebrews 11:3
Revelation 4:11

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "The Doctrine of Creation," pp. 1-17.
Concordia Triglotta, "Luther's Large Catechism," pp. 679-683.
Klotz, John, *Genes, Genesis, and Evolution*, pp. 1-21; 86-119
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Creation," pp. 268-269; "Evolution," pp. 357-359.
Luther's Works, I, "Lectures on Genesis," pp. 1-73.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of Creation," pp. 179-188.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, v. 3, pp. 1521 ff.
Zimmerman, Paul, *Darwin, Creation, and Evolution*, pp. 36-166.

C. True-False Statements:

1. To create means to bring something new into existence.
2. The problem of the origins of all things cannot be solved by observation or by experience.
3. The Scriptures affirm that the universe is the result of the creative activity of the Triune God.
4. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God.
5. The events recorded in Genesis 1-3 are not actual historical happenings, but parables by means of which the author wanted to impart certain theological truths.
6. The opening chapters of the Bible are poetic fiction.
7. In view of scientific findings, Christians must discard their beliefs in the Biblical account of creation.
8. Matter co-existed with God from all eternity.
9. Many scientists believe that all matter in the universe was created at the same time.
10. The highest visible creature that God made is man.
11. All men are biologically descended from the first *homo sapiens*.
12. There is such a thing as spontaneous generation of life.
13. A satisfactory scientific solution has been found for the origin of the solar system.
14. The Bible indicates the age of the earth.
15. The universe glorifies God.

3. GOD AND SPACE

"... Maker of heaven and earth."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 1:1
Deut. 33:26
Job 26:7
Psalm 19:1
Isaiah 40:22
Jeremiah 51:15
Matthew 5:34
Matthew 18:10
Matthew 24:29-30
Acts 1:9-11
Eph. 1:20-21
Eph. 4:10
Col. 1:16
Hebrews 1:10
Hebrews 11:3

B. Other readings and references:

Davis, John D., *A Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v., "Firmament and Heaven".
Klotz, John, *Modern Science in the Christian Life.*
Klotz, John, *The Challenge of the Space Age.*

C. True-False Statements:

1. God is the Creator of the entire universe.
2. The phrase "heaven and earth" includes all visible and invisible things.
3. The universe is a synonym for the world.
4. The firmament is the vast expanse of the heavens.
5. Science asserts that life cannot exist on any other planet.
6. It is known that human beings are living on other planets.
7. The Bible declares that the only creatures that inhabit space are the angels.
8. Unidentified flying objects may be space ships launched from other planets.
9. God is interested only in the people on earth.
10. Scripture asserts that Jesus is the Savior only of the people on earth.
11. The New Testament states that Christ ascended to Mars.
12. The church should now prepare to send missionaries to Mars.
13. Traveling to other planets is tempting God.
14. Interplanetary travel will never be possible.
15. Putting astronauts into orbit in space is a violation of the will of God.

4. MODERN MAN AND HIS SOUL

Luther: "I believe that God has . . . given me my body and soul."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 2:7
Genesis 5:3
Psalm 9:17
Psalm 49:7-8
Eccl. 12:7
Isaiah 66:24
Daniel 12:2
Matthew 10:28
Mark 8:36-37
Luke 23:46
John 6:39
Acts 7:59
2 Cor. 5:8
1 Thess. 5:23
2 Tim. 4:18
Hebrews 4:12
1 Peter 1:18-19
1 Peter 3:18-19

B. Other readings and references:

Davis, John D., *A Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v. "Soul."
Little, C H., *Disputed Doctrines*, pp 83-85; 86-87.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Soul," p. 997.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The soul of man is immaterial and intangible.
2. The soul of man is irrational.
3. The soul of man is immortal.
4. Dichotomy asserts that there are two constituent parts of man.
5. Trichotomy asserts that there are three constituent parts of man.
6. The Bible sometimes uses the word soul as a synonym for a person.
7. Some scientists deny the existence of a soul.
8. According to the Bible animals, too, have a soul.
9. Each soul is a new creation of God (creationism).
10. Souls are transmitted from parent to child (traducianism).
11. Between death and the resurrection man's soul sleeps.
12. When the Bible speaks of losing one's soul, it means that the soul can be destroyed completely
13. The soul can be redeemed from destruction by good works and upright life.
14. The value of a soul is beyond calculation.
15. The cost of the redemption of the souls of men was incalculable.

5. GOD AND WORLD POPULATION

Luther: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 1:11-12; 20-21; 24-25; 26-28
Genesis 2:7; 18-25
Genesis 9:1-7
Genesis 22:15-18
Psalm 145:15-16
Jeremiah 33:22
Malachi 2:10
Matthew 6:25-33
Matthew 10:5-6
Matthew 14:15-16
Matthew 15:24
Mark 7:24-30
Luke 10:25-37
Acts 1:8
Acts 8:27-35
Acts 10:34-35
Acts 17:24-26
1 Cor. 12:12-13
James 2:1-9
1 Peter 5:7
Revelation 7:9

B. Other readings and references:

Fagley, Richard M., *The Population Explosion and Christian Responsibility.*
Klotz, John, *Modern Science in the Christian Life,* pp. 155-166.
Little, C. H., *Disputed Doctrines,* "Race Suicide," pp. 108-110.
Rehwinkel, Alfred, *Planned Parenthood,* pp. 12-15.
Schuller, David, *Contemporary Social Problems,* pp. 97-103.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The Bible states that God created only one human race.
2. Anthropologists have discovered the origins of the various races of the world.
3. Non-white people are in the majority on earth.
4. Discrimination and prejudice against people of other races is contrary to the will of God.
5. The world is seriously threatened with overpopulation.
6. The world cannot support a population of more than four billion people.
7. In overpopulated countries illiteracy runs high.
8. Overpopulation inevitably leads to war.
9. More than one-half of the world's population does not have enough to eat.
10. God's original command to replenish the earth has been carried out.
11. Scientific birth control is a necessity in the modern world.
12. The Bible forbids birth control measures.
13. God is not concerned about the life and preservation of each individual human being on earth.
14. The Christian church will be unable to look after the spiritual welfare of additional billions of people in the world.
15. The Christian church should turn the spiritual care of certain countries over to other religions.

6. GOD'S PROVIDENCE AND MAN'S SELF-RELIANCE

Luther: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures . . . and still preserves them."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 8:22
Genesis 9:1-3
Genesis 50:20
Deut. 8:3-4
1 Kings 19:1-18
Job 5:19
Psalm 20:5-7
Psalm 36:6
Psalm 37:5
Psalm 91:10-12
Psalm 145:15-16
Proverbs 3:5-6
Isaiah 54:7-8
Matthew 6:34
Matthew 10:29-30
Acts 14-17
Acts 17:26-28
2 Timothy 4:18
Hebrews 1:3
Hebrews 13:20-21
1 Peter 5:7

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, II, "The Providence of God," pp. 78-111.
Klotz, John, *Modern Science in the Christian Life*, pp. 71-77.
Mueller, J. T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of Divine Providence," pp. 189-195.

C. True-False Statements:

1. God is concerned about the well-being of each person on earth.
2. God does not preserve and protect unbelievers.
3. God guarantees to preserve His people from every evil.
4. The small affairs and details of life are unworthy of God's attention.
5. God allows evil to happen.
6. God often prevents evil from happening.
7. God often turns the evil that men commit into good.
8. When accidents, misfortunes, or reverses befall Christians, God is inflicting a penalty upon them.
9. God governs the universe through the laws that He has established.
10. God's will and the laws of nature operate independently of one another.
11. Everything that happens on earth happens because God so willed it.
12. God sometimes grants people an extension of the time of their life.
13. Man can change the plans of God.
14. Man must learn to rely upon himself rather than upon God.
15. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men.

7. GOD AND GOVERNMENT

Luther: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures . . . that He defends me against all dangers and guards and protects me from all evil."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 50:20
Job 5:19
Psalm 91:10-12
Ps. 139:7-10
Ps. 145: 15-16
Proverbs 3:6
Proverbs 14:34
Matthew 6:24-34
Matthew 17:24-27
Matthew 22:15-21
Matthew 26:52
John 6:15
Acts 5:29
Romans 13:1-7
1 Timothy 2:1-3
Titus 3:1
James 2:10
1 Peter 2:13-14
1 John 3:4

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "Civil Government," pp. 508-521.
Huegli, A. G., *Church and State.*
Little, C. H., *Disputed Doctrines*, pp. 88-90.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Church and State," p. 231.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v., "Government" *passim.*

C. True-False Statements

1. Government is an ordinance of God.
2. The Bible specifies the kind of government that a country should have.
3. God directs the government to punish evil both inside and outside a country.
4. The government should provide for all the needs of its people.
5. The government should control all business.
6. The government should not resort to force in its operations.
7. The Bible teaches the doctrine of the separation of Church and State.
8. When the laws of the State conflict with the laws of God, man's laws must take precedence.
9. Church members should not participate in politics.
10. A Christian may engage in war in defense of his country.
11. A Christian cannot be a Communist.
12. Minor violations of traffic laws are not sinful.
13. Ridicule of authorities undermines good government.
14. A nation's best asset is a powerful air force.
15. The best defense any person has against evil is faith in God.

ARTICLE II:

REDEMPTION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST — A FACT WITH FRUIT

8. The Incarnation: the Great Miracle
9. The Atonement: Heart of the Christian Gospel
10. The Descent into Hell: the Victorious Messiah
11. The Resurrection: Keystone of the Christian Faith
12. The Second Advent: the Last Things
13. Christian Vocation: Fruit of the Redemption
14. Proclaiming the Redemption: Christian Evangelism

8. THE INCARNATION: THE GREAT MIRACLE

"I believe in Jesus Christ . . . born of the Virgin Mary."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 3:15
Genesis 49:10
Deuteronomy 18:15
Isaiah 7:14
Isaiah 9:6
Matthew 1:18-25
Matthew 2:1-13
Luke 1 and 2
John 1:14
2 Corinth. 8:9
Gal. 4:4-5
Phil. 2:7
Col. 2:9
1 Timothy 3:16
Hebrews 2:14
1 John 1:7

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, II, "Office, or Work, of Christ," pp. 112-144.
Concordia Triglotta, "Large Catechism," pp. 683-687.
Fahling, Adam, *Life of Christ*.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Incarnation," p. 502.
Luther's Works, American Edition, v. 22, "Sermons on the Gospel of St. John," pp. 1-30.
Mueller, J. T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of Christ," pp. 255-318.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v., "Incarnation."

C. True-False Statements:

1. When Jesus was born, God appeared on earth in the form of a true human being.
2. Jesus became man in order to suffer and die in man's place.
3. The incarnation is a mystery beyond man's comprehension.
4. The ancient Greeks denied the incarnation of the Son of God on the contention that spirit and matter cannot mix.
5. God was the Father of Jesus.
6. Mary Magdalene was the mother of Jesus.
7. Jesus is in very truth the Son of God.
8. Jesus is in very truth the Son of Man.
9. The Scriptures teach the perpetual virginity of Mary.
10. The Lutheran Church insists that Mary had other children besides Jesus.
11. The Prophet Isaiah alluded to the Virgin Birth of the Messiah.
12. Jesus Himself never claimed that He was born of a virgin.
13. Paul the Apostle makes no reference to the Virgin Birth.
14. Denial of the Virgin Birth calls the supernatural content of Scripture into question.
15. Denial of the Virgin Birth disputes the deity of Christ.

9. THE ATONEMENT: HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL

Luther: "I believe that Jesus Christ . . . has redeemed me."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Exod. 29:38-43
Psalm 49:6-8
Isaiah 53:3-6
Matthew 20:28
Luke 19:10
John 1:29; 3:14-19
John 11:49-51
Romans 3:23-24
Romans 5:19
Romans 8:32-39
2 Cor. 5:18-21
Gal. 3:10-1
Gal. 4:4-5
Col. 1:14
2 Tim. 1:10
Titus 2:14
1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:24
1 John 1:7; 2:1-2; 4:9-10.

B. Other readings and references:

Davis, John D., *A Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v., "Atonement".
Fahling, Adam, *Life of Christ.*
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Redemption," pp. 66-67; 886.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of Christ," pp. 255-318.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, v. 3, pp. 1257 ff.

C. True-False Statements

1. The word atonement signifies the reconciliation of God and man through the mediation of Christ.
2. The word redemption means the payment of a price.
3. Man can obtain eternal redemption by the payment of the required price.
4. The atonement was foreshadowed in the Old Testament prophecies.
5. The redemption is aimed at rectifying the evils of society.
6. Man can cooperate with Christ in accomplishing his redemption.
7. Only believers in Christ will obtain eternal redemption.
8. The number of people who will obtain eternal salvation is limited to 144,000.
9. The vicarious atonement by Christ was necessary because of man's shortcomings.
10. The sacrifice of Christ at the age of 33 years was a premature interruption of His life and work.
11. Christ's redemptive act revealed how angry God was with sinful man.
12. By His sacrificial death Christ turned God's wrath away from man.
13. By His substitutionary death Christ gained salvation for all mankind.
14. A Christian can be sure of gaining eternal salvation.
15. After his death a person can have another chance to obtain salvation.

10. THE DESCENT INTO HELL: THE VICTORIOUS MESSIAH

"He descended into hell."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Psalm 16:10
Psalm 49:15
Hosea 13:14
Acts 2:25-27
Ephesians 4:8-10
Colossians 2:15
1 Peter 3:18-19; 4:6
Jude 6
Revelation 20:1-5

B. Other readings and references:

Concordia Triglotta, "Formula of Concord," pp. 827 ff .
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Descent into Hell," p. 297.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Descent of Christ into Hell," pp. 296-298.
Scharlemann, Martin, *Toward Tomorrow*, pp. 97-111.

C. True-False Statements:

1. Christ descended to the abode of the damned.
2. Christ descended to the realm of the dead.
3. The descent into hell occurred on Good Friday.
4. The descent into hell occurred on Easter Sunday.
5. The doctrine of the descent actually came from Oriental mythology.
6. The doctrine of the descent is a figurative expression picturing the anger that God inflicted upon Christ because of the sins of mankind.
7. The doctrine of the descent means that Christ died and was buried.
8. The Nicene Creed makes no reference to Christ's descent into hell.
9. The descent of Christ into hell was the last act in His State of Humiliation.
10. The descent of Christ into hell was the first act in His State of Exaltation.
11. Christ descended into hell with His soul.
12. Christ descended into hell with His glorified body.
13. Christ descended into hell to preach the Gospel to those in prison who had had no chance to hear it during their lifetimes on earth.
14. Christ descended into hell to give the condemned a second chance to accept the Gospel.
15. Christ descended into hell to proclaim Himself as the victorious Messiah.

11. THE RESURRECTION: KEYSTONE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

"The third day He rose again from the dead."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Job 19:25-27
Psalm 16:8-11
Psalm 17:15
Psalm 30:3
Psalm 41:10
Daniel 12:2
Hosea 6:2
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-8
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18
Acts 1:3; 10:40-41
Romans 1:4; 4:25
1 Corinthians 15:1-58
Phil. 2:9-11
Rev. 1:17-18

B. Other readings and references:

Arndt, William, *The Gospel according to St. Luke*, pp. 480-487.
Fahling, Adam, *Life of Christ.*
Lutheran Cyclopedia, s.v. "Resurrection," p. 570.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Resurrection of Christ," pp. 298-9.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The story of the resurrection of Christ is a myth which teaches us some important truths.
2. The story of Christ's resurrection was written years after the time of Christ to glorify a dead hero.
3. The doctrine of the resurrection of Christ is a fundamental article of faith.
4. The Old Testament makes no mention of the resurrection of Christ.
5. Jesus arose bodily from the dead on Easter Sunday.
6. Jesus was not in the tomb three full days.
7. The resurrection of Christ is the greatest miracle that He performed.
8. The resurrection of Christ demonstrates the fact that His teachings are the truth.
9. The resurrection of Christ is a pledge and a type of our own resurrection.
10. The resurrection is beyond human reason.
11. Jesus remained on earth 40 days after His resurrection.
12. The risen Lord appeared first to Peter.
13. The risen Lord had a glorified body.
14. The resurrected Christ was actually seen by many people.
15. The risen Lord will be the Judge of the world on the last day.

12. THE SECOND ADVENT: THE LAST THINGS

"From thence He shall come to judge the quick
and the dead."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Job 19:25-27
Psalm 16:11
Psalm 50:3-6
Eccl. 12:7
Isaiah 9:6-7
Isaiah 66:18.24
Daniel 7:13-14
Daniel 12:10; 14:4-8
Matthew 24:3-14
Matthew 25:31-45
Mark 13:32
Mark 16:15-16
Luke 12:47
Luke 23:43
John 3:18
John 5:22, 28-29
John 6:40
Acts 1:11; 17:31
Romans 5:12; 6:23
1 Cor. 6:2-4; 15:14-58
2 Cor. 5:10
1 Peter 3:18-19
2 Peter 3:10
Revelation 20:14; 21:1

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "The Doctrine of the Last Things," pp. 544-560.
Abiding Word, III, "The Last Things," pp. 87-130.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "The Last Things," pp. 569-571.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of the Last Things," pp. 613-644.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The world will continue to exist for an indefinite period of time.
2. The world will come to an end by an act of God.
3. The exact time of Christ's second coming is unpredictable.
4. The purpose of Christ's second coming is the establishment of His Kingdom on earth.
5. On Judgment Day all the dead will be raised.
6. On Judgment Day people will be judged on the basis of the number of their good works.
7. The ultimate destiny of Christians is eternal life in heaven.
8. Heaven is a place of endless joy.
9. The doctrine of eternal damnation is a relic of medieval theology.
10. Eternal life begins for a Christian at the time of his death.
11. Death is the separation of body and soul.
12. Scientists will some day devise a cure for death.
13. In heaven people will have glorified bodies.
14. In the hereafter people will not be able to recognize one another.
15. It is presumptious for a Christian to say he is sure of going to heaven.

13. CHRISTIAN VOCATION: FRUIT OF THE REDEMPTION

Luther: ". . . that I may be His own and live under Him
in His Kingdom and serve Him. . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 3:16-19
1 Samuel 12:24
Psalm 100:2
Proverbs 19:17
Eccl. 9:10
Luke 1:74-75
1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31
2 Cor. 5:15
Galatians 2:20
Ephesians 2:10; 4:28; 6:5-8
Colossians 3:17. 23.
Titus 2:14
Hebrews 13:16

B. Other readings and references:

Caemmerer, R. R., *The Church in the World.*
Daniel, John, *Labor, Industry, and the Church.*
Klausler, Alfred, *Christ and Your Job.*
Schuller, David, *Contemporary Social Problems,* pp. 13-18.

C. True-False Statements:

1. Every able-bodied person should engage in some useful and worthwhile occupation both in the Kingdom of God and in the kingdom of man.
2. Persons beyond 70 years of age should not be permited to hold paying jobs.
3. Women should not take jobs away from home.
4. If a person is wealthy, he does not need to do any work.
5. Through the fall of Adam and Eve, a curse has been placed upon work.
6. Work is a blessing.
7. There are some occupations in which a Christian should not engage.
8. Some vocations present hazards to a person's faith.
9. Serving as a criminal lawyer is an un-Christian vocation.
10. To work in a brewery is to engage in a godless occupation.
11. More Christians should enter the field of politics.
12. The chief factor that should influence a person in the choice of a calling is salary.
13. Ability and aptitude should help determine a person's calling.
14. All of our work should be done to the glory of God.
15. The love of Christ should motivate a person in his work.

14. PROCLAIMING THE REDEMPTION: CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM

Our Lord: "Go ye and preach the Gospel . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

2 Kings 7:3-11
Psalm 105:1-2
Psalm 145:5
Isaiah 40:11
Isaiah 55:10-11
Isaiah 61:1-3
Matthew 10:27; 24:14
Matthew 28:19
Mark 16:15
Luke 24:44-48
Acts 1:8
Acts 16:9-10
Acts 28:30-31
Romans 10:1.13-17
1 Cor. 1:18-23; 15:58
1 Cor. 16:9
2 Timothy 4:2-5
James 2:8
Revelation 5:9

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "Mission Work in the Apostolic Age and Its Lessons for To-day," pp. 442-456.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, s.v. "Evangelism," pp. 355-356, and "Missions," pp. 697-8.
Lange, Philip, *The Approach to the Unchurched.*
The Pastor at Work, "Effective Biblical Evangelism," pp. 259-274.

C. True-False Statements:

1. Evangelism and mission work are synonyms.
2. All evangelism must be motivated by a desire to make as many converts to the church as possible.
3. The purpose of evangelism is to increase the membership of the church.
4. The subject matter in evangelism is the Gospel of Christ.
5. Evangelism includes a proper emphasis upon both Law and Gospel.
6. Evangelism is the Christian's most important business on earth.
7. An important phase of mission work is the spread of Western culture.
8. The campus is one of the most important mission fields in the world.
9. The church should devote more attention to foreign missions than to home missions.
10. Christian churches should not offer their religion to heathen people who have a religion of their own.
11. Indigenous workers can do much more effective mission work than foreign missionaries.
12. Publicity is a deterrent to missions.
13. Every Christian should be a missionary for Christ.
14. Some people are not qualified to engage in personal evangelism.
15. Prayers for missions accomplish greater things than gifts to missions.

ARTICLE III:

THE HOLY SPIRIT — PERSON AND PERFORMANCE

15. The Holy Spirit is God
16. The Church and "Churches"
17. The Ministry and the Means of Grace
18. The Sinner's Conversion: God's Act
19. Cure for Guilt Complexes: Divine Forgiveness
20. The Hope of the Resurrection
21. The Life Unending

15. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

"I believe in the Holy Ghost"

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 1:2
2 Samuel 23:2
Psalm 33:6
Psalm 139:7-10
Isaiah 6:3
Joel 2:28
Matthew 1:20; 3:16:28:19
Mark 3:28-29
Luke 1:35; 4:18
John 14:26; 16:13
Acts 2:1-4; 5-3-4; 7:51; 10:44
Romans 15:13
1 Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 6:11; 12:3
2 Cor. 13:14
Gal. 5:22-23
Titus 3:5
Hebr. 9:14
2 Peter 1:21

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "The Person of the Holy Ghost," pp. 39-57.
Abiding Word, III, "Sanctification," pp. 275-298.
Concordia Triglotta, "Large Catechism," pp. 687-697.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, s.v. "Holy Ghost," p. 480.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of Sanctification," pp. 384-435.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v. "Holy Spirit"

C. True-False Statements:

1. The Holy Spirit is an abstract, but divine force.
2. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Holy Trinity.
3. Another name for the Holy Spirit is Immanuel.
4. The Apostles' Creed states that the Holy Ghost "proceeds from the Father and the Son.
5. One of the divine attributes of the Holy Spirit is immobility.
6. Whitsunday is the festival observed in honor of the Holy Spirit.
7. The main work of the Holy Spirit is called sanctification.
8. The Holy Spirit creates faith in man by means of the Word.
9. The Holy Spirit desires to bring all people to the Christian faith.
10. Man can resist the efforts of the Holy Spirit to bring him to faith.
11. The sin against the Holy Spirit is persistent and willful unbelief.
12. The Holy Spirit was bestowed upon man for the first time on the day of Pentecost.
13. The Holy Spirit is not mentioned in the Old Testament.
14. We may assume from the story of the baptism of Jesus that the Holy Spirit has actually the body of a dove.
15. The Holy Spirit was the person of the Trinity that inspired the writers of the Holy Scriptures.

16. THE CHURCH AND "CHURCHES"

"I believe in the Holy Christian Church . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 28:16-17
Judges 20:18
1 Kings 8:39
Psalm 26:6-8
Eccles. 5:1
Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 7:13-14; 10:32-33; 13:24-26
Matthew 16:18-19; 22:15-21; 28:19-20
Luke 17:20-21
John 8:46-47
Acts 2:42; 5:14; 6:1-6; 15:6
Romans 10:13-17; 16:17
1 Cor. 1:2; 3:11; 14:34; 14:40
Galatians 1:8
Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:10-12; 5:25-27
1 Timothy 2:11-12; 3:2-5; 6:3-5
2 Timothy 2:19
Hebrews 10:25
1 Peter 2:9
1 John 5:3
Revelation 1:4; 21:3

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "The Holy Christian Church," pp. 267-289.
Abiding Word, III, "The Doctrine of the Church," pp. 287-341.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, s.v. "Church," pp. 223-225.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of the Christian Church," pp. 541-562.
Schuller, David, *Contemporary Social Problems*, pp. 1-12.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The church is an institution established by God Himself.
2. The head of the church on earth is the Pope.
3. The universal church consists of all believers in Christ.
4. Church membership is compulsory.
5. Anything actually related to the preaching of the Gospel is the business of the church.
6. Christians may be found in all churches where the Gospel of Christ is in use.
7. It makes no difference which church a person joins and attends.
8. It is from the state that the church receives its commission to function.
9. The universal priesthood of the believers is limited to male members.
10. Synods are voluntary unions of churches which enable them to carry on the work of the Lord more effectively.
11. The church cannot make religious rules which go beyond the powers granted to it by the Bible.
12. Church and state should not interfere in each other's business.
13. Excommunication is no longer practised in the church.
14. The true church on earth is the one that believes and teaches the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible.
15. Unionism is religious work permitted by the Bible.

17. THE MINISTRY AND THE MEANS OF GRACE

Luther: "The Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 17:8
Exodus 12:21-28; 19:3-6
Deut. 7:6
Joel 2:28
Matthew 10:14-15; 23:37; 26:26-28
John 17:20
Acts 2:28; 7:51; 10:43; 15:11; 20:28; 22:16
Romans 1:16; 4:11 10:17
1 Cor. 4:1.15; 14:34
2 Cor. 2:10; 5:19-21; 12:9
Galatians 3:10; 5:4
Ephesians 2:20; 4:10-12
Philippians 4:6
1 Timothy 2:11-12
Titus 2:12-13; 3:5-7
Hebrews 4:16; 12:15.28
1 Peter 1:23; 2:2.9
2 Peter 2:1; 3:18
Revelation 5:10

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "The Lutheran Pastor," pp. 389-409.
Abiding Word, II, "The Means of Grace," pp. 322-346.
Abiding Word, I, "The Office of the Keys," pp. 342-365.
Abiding Word, II, "The Office of the Public Ministry," pp. 474-492.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Ministerial Office," pp. 682-683.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "The Doctrine of the Christian Ministry," pp. 563-584.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v. "Means of Grace."

C. True-False Statements:

1. The ministry is a divine institution established by God Himself.
2. The call into the ministry is sent by God through a Christian congregation.
3. A congregation delegates the public administration of its powers to a minister or to ministers.
4. The minister is the highest ruling power in the church.
5. The official acts of ministers, performed in the name of God and of the congregation, are valid in the sight of God.
6. The efficacy of the ministry depends upon the personal faith of the minister
7. Ordination is a church custom based upon Scripture.
8. Scripture approves the ordination of women into the holy ministry.
9. Baptism and Holy Communion are means of grace by which God conveys His love to man.
10. God conveys His saving grace to mankind only through the appointed means of grace: the Gospel and the Sacraments.
11. Confirmation is one of the sacraments of the Lutheran church.
12. Prayer is a means of grace.
13. God ordained the means of grace to prove His love and mercy toward man.
14. In the Old Testament there were three means of grace: the Word, circumcision, and the Passover meal.
15. No one can be saved without the grace of God.

18. THE SINNER'S CONVERSION: GOD'S ACT

Luther: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ . . ."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Psalm 51:10
Jeremiah 3:12; 13:23; 31:18
Joel 2:12 ff
Matthew 3:8; 12:31-32; 14:31; 23:37
Luke 7:30; 8:13
John 3:5-7; 6:44
Acts 2:37-41; 7:51; 9:1-6; 10:44; 11:21
Romans 3:20; 10:17
1 Cor. 214; 3:9; 4:15
2 Cor. 5:17
Galatians 5:4; 5:22-23
Ephesians 2:8-10
Philippians 2:13
2 Thess. 2:13-14
2 Timothy 1:9
Titus 3:5-7
Hebrews 12:1
James 1:18
1 Peter 1:23
2 Peter 3:9.18

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "Conversion," pp. 168-187.
Concordia Triglotta, "Formula of Concord," Thor. Decl., II.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Conversion," pp. 258-260.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "Conversion," pp. 336-366.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v. "Conversion."

C. True-False Statements:

1. Conversion, in its common sense, means a turning away from bad habits.
2. Conversion, in a religious sense, means a change from unbelief to belief.
3. A synonym for conversion is consecration.
4. Conversion is brought about by the Holy Spirit without any operation or co-operation on the part of man himself.
5. Synergism is the doctrine that in regeneration there is cooperation of divine grace and human activity.
6. Natural man can, under certain circumstances, convert himself to the Christian faith.
7. The Holy Spirit performs His gracious work upon man through definitely appointed means of grace.
8. The Holy Spirit desires to convert certain select persons to the Christian faith.
9. The process of conversion is a gradual one
10. A person does not need to "experience" the moment of his conversion, or be able to remember the exact date.
11. A fall from faith after conversion is not possible.
12. A person cannot be re-converted after a fall from faith.
13. After his conversion to the Christian faith a person can cooperate with God.
14. A converted person no longer sins.
15. A converted person will produce fruits of faith.

19. CURE FOR GUILT COMPLEXES: DIVINE FORGIVENESS

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

A. Read these Bible passages:

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 19:12
Psalm 103:2-3
Psalm 130:1-4
Proverbs 28:13
Matthew 6:14-15; 9:1-8; 18:21-35; 26:26-28
Luke 15:21; 18:13; 24:47
Acts 10:43; 22:16
Romans 3:22-24 6:1
2 Cor. 5:19
Ephesians 1:7
1 John 1:7-9; 2:2
Revelation 1:5-6

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I. "Forgiveness of Sins," pp. 146-167.
Abiding Word, II, "The Doctrine of Justification," pp. 235-257.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Forgiveness," pp. 381-382.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v. "Forgiveness."

C. True-False Statements:

1. The doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is the central doctrine of the Christian religion.
2. Most people need forgiveness of sins.
3. Man will eventually find a solution for the problem of sin.
4. Forgiveness of sins has been won for all people by the sacrifice of Christ.
5. A Christian may obtain forgiveness of sins through the performance of good works.
6. Forgiveness of sins is offered to all people in the Gospel.
7. Forgiveness of sins is obtained only by penitent believers in Christ.
8. Human repentance is a prerequisite to divine forgiveness.
9. There are certain sins that God will not forgive.
10. The unpardonable sin is the sin of adultery.
11. It is presumptuous for a Christian to think he can be sure God will freely forgive him his sins.
12. Liberty from sin promotes license to sin.
13. The doctrine of the forgiveness of sins is an effective source of consolation to a Christian.
14. God's forgiveness should lead a person to be forgiving to others.
15. Jesus said Christians should forgive others up to 70 x 7 times.

20. THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

"I believe . . . in the resurrection of the body."

A. Read these Bible passages:

1 Kings 17:21-22
2 Kings 13:21
Job 19:25-27
Psalm 16:10-11
Psalm 49:15
Daniel 12:2
Matthew 16:21; 22:23.31; 27:52
Luke 7:15; 8:55; 24:42-43
John 2:19-22; 5:28-29; 11:25-26; 14:19
Acts 10:40-41; 17:31-32; 20:9-12
Romans 4:25; 8:11
1 Cor. 15:14-17; 51:58
Ephesians 1:19-23
Revelation 1:17-18

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "Certainty of Salvation," pp. 221-246.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Resurrection," p. 570.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, pp. 625-630.

C. True-False Statements:

1. The resurrection consists in the restoration of the body to life and in the reunion of body and soul.
2. The resurrection of the body is not taught in the Old Testament.
3. The resurrection of the dead is beyond human reason.
4. The resurrection of the dead will precede Judgment Day.
5. Only believers in Christ will be resurrected.
6. The dead in Christ will be the first to rise.
7. The resurrected body of the believer will have no defects or faults.
8. The resurrected body will be glorified, that is, will have new qualities suited to the new life.
9. After the resurrection believers will be able to recognize one another.
10. Between death and the resurrection the souls of the godly are in a state of suspension.
11. There are four places to which a person may go after his resurrection.
12. The Pharisees refused to believe in a resurrection.
13. The doctrine of the resurrection is a fundamental article of faith.
14. The resurrection of Jesus is a pledge of our resurrection.
15. The doctrine of the resurrection is a source of comfort to a Christian.

21. THE LIFE UNENDING

"I believe . . . in the life everlasting."

A. Read these Bible passages:

Deuteronomy 33:27
Psalm 16:11; 23:6; 90:1-2
Psalm 139:23-24
Jeremiah 31:3
Matthew 24:13; 25:46
Mark 10:29-30
Luke 23:43
John 3:14-17; 3:36; 5:24; 6:47
John 11:20-27
Romans 6:23; 8:18
Galatians 6:8
1 Thess. 5:9-10
Hebrews 5:8-9
1 John 3:2
Revelation 14:13

B. Other readings and references:

Abiding Word, I, "Eternal Life," pp. 561-582.
Lutheran Cyclopedia, "Hereafter," pp. 457-461; "Eternal Life," p. 346.
Mueller, John T., *Christian Dogmatics*, "Eternal Salvation," pp. 639-644.
Plass, E. M., *What Luther Says*, s.v. "Heaven."

C. True-False Statements:

1. The belief in the hereafter is no longer taught in the church
2. The belief in the hereafter is a basic article of faith.
3. Reliable information about the hereafter may be found in the Koran.
4. Life in the hereafter will last 10,000 years.
5. Life in the hereafter will last until God terminates it.
6. The number of places in the hereafter is three.
7. The ultimate destiny of non-Christians is annihilation.
8. Entrance into heaven may be gained by good conduct.
9. Entrance into heaven may be gained by faith and good works.
10. Heaven is limited to 144,000 persons.
11. A synonym for heaven is Sheol.
12. Heaven will be a place of complete joy.
13. Eternal life begins for a Christian at the time of his entrance into heaven.
14. Eternal life begins for a Christian at the time he becomes a Christian.
15. A Christian can be sure of going to heaven.

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