

Study Aids
Discussion items
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 94 – The Doctrine of Christ

In summary, Lutherans distinguish two aspects of this doctrine: the Person of Christ, and the Work of Christ.

In regards to the first point, we speak of the Personal Union, that Jesus is True God and True Man, and that in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. We neither separate nor mix the two natures, but say that the divine and human natures are inseparably united in the one person. We also speak of the State of Humiliation and the State of Exaltation, but only in their relevance to Christ’s redemptive work.

In regards to the second point, we emphasize the work of Christ, and teach that a knowledge of the history of Christ is meaningless unless the purpose of His life, death, and resurrection are immediately added. We hold that Jesus lived and died to gain the forgiveness of sin, a doctrine that each individual Christian must lay hold of in faith. We teach the work of Christ under the threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. More importantly, we hold that His work is absolutely complete, and requires no complement in any respect.

What does Luther say?

In his Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther states:

It was necessary for our Savior to be true man –

1. That He might take our place under the Law (Gal. 4:4-5)
2. That He might be able to suffer and die in our stead (Heb. 2:14)

It was necessary for our Savior to be true God –

1. That His fulfilling of the Law might be sufficient for all men (Rom. 5:19)
2. That His life and death might be a sufficient ransom for our redemption (Mark 10:45)
3. That He might be able to overcome death and the devil for us (1 Cor. 15:57, 2 Tim. 1:10)

What do you say? Do you agree with the above? Why, or why not?