



March 14, 2017
The Apostles' Creed 1.2

[Read Psalm 146](#)

“In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with the necessities and nourishment for this bodily life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil.” (Luther’s meaning to the Apostles’ Creed, *Small Catechism*).

In discussions of the catechisms, an alert student will read this part of Luther’s explanation and protest, “But that can’t be right! God may provide what I need, but God hasn’t provided what everyone needs! Worse yet, God has not protected me or anyone else from ‘all evil.’ Did Luther live a pain-free, trouble-free life?”

One has only to read a short biography of Luther to get an answer to the last question. Luther struggled with depression. He was persecuted by the church and by civil authorities. He battled with theological opponents and was disappointed by theological allies. He suffered numerous health difficulties and often felt close to death. He lost one daughter as an infant and another in her early teen years. Luther was well acquainted with the trials of this life.

The fact that some people don’t have enough of the basics of life may not be God’s problem at all. Indeed, there is enough to feed people if the goods of this life are distributed with some justice and equity. But that doesn’t answer the really important question.

Sometimes people think that really important question is, “Does God exist?” In fact, the really important question is, “Is God good? Does God want what is good for me, for you, and for all of Creation?” A god who exists and wants evil for Creation is not god at all. Instead, that’s how we describe Satan.

In *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis portrays Screwtape as speaking for the Devil and all his minions. In this fictional account, Screwtape is a senior tempter who is mentoring Wormwood, his apprentice and a junior devil. Screwtape describes the difference between God and Satan.

“We want cattle who can finally become food,” the Senior Tempter tells Wormwood, “He [that is, God] wants servants who can finally become sons. We want to suck in, He wants to give out. We are empty and would be filed; He is full and flows over.”

In our confession of faith, we confess that God is indeed good and faithful. We know that because of how God’s love is poured out for us through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we trust that in the end, we will be protected from all evil when we are raised to the New Life which is ours forever in Jesus.

Let’s pray. Dear God, send your Holy Spirit into my heart today to know that You are good and faithful, that you provide me with all I need and guard me in the midst of every evil. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Do something: Visit, call or write a note to someone who is enduring some struggles and might think that God is not very good or faithful.

Pastor Lowell Hennigs
Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N Broadway
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503-0499
www.emanuelcb.org