



## **Tying off Loose Ends**

### **Why do we associate the Serpent in Genesis 3 with Satan?**

#### **Scripture interprets Scripture**

- a. Numbers 21- the fiery serpents and the bronze serpent
- b. Psalm 91:13; 140:3
- c. Luke 10:19
- d. Rom 16:20
- e. Rev 12:9; 20:2 (Isaiah 27:1)
- f. The serpent openly lies (Gen. 3:4) and Satan is the Father of lies (John 8:44-45)

### **The Doctrine of Original Sin**

#### **Scripture**

Genesis 6:5; 8:21

Psalm 51:5

Romans 5:12; 6:12-13

Galatians 5:19-21

#### **The Lutheran Confessions**

+ Augsburg Confession- Article II- Original Sin-

“Our churches teach that since the fall of Adam [Romans 5:12], all who are naturally born are with sin [Psalm 51:5], that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with the inclination to sin, called concupiscence. Concupiscence is a disease and original vice that is truly sin. It damns and brings eternal death on those who are not born anew through Baptism and the Holy Spirit [John 3:5].”

+ The Apology of the Augsburg Confession- Article II- Original Sin-

“The knowledge of original sin is absolutely necessary. The magnitude of Christ’s grace cannot be understood unless our diseases are recognized. Christ says in Matthew 9:12 and Mark 2:17, “Those who are well have no need of a physician.” The entire notion that a person is righteous is mere hypocrisy before God. We must acknowledge that our heart is, by nature, destitute of fear, love, and confidence in God. (Paragraph 33)”

+ The Smalcald Articles- Part 3- Article I- Original Sin-

“Here we must confess, as Paul says in Romans 5:12, that sin originated from one man, Adam. By his disobedience, all people were made sinners and became subject to death and the devil. This is called original or the chief sin...

“This hereditary sin is such a deep corruption of nature that no reason can understand it. Rather, it must be believed from the revelation of Scripture. (See Psalm 51:5; Romans 6:12-13; Exodus 33:3; Genesis 3:7-19.) Therefore, it is nothing but error and blindness that the scholastic doctors have taught in regard to this article... These [the false teachings] and many similar ideas have arisen from lack of understanding and ignorance, both about sin and about Christ, our Savior. They are truly heathen teachings that we can not endure. **For if such teaching were true, then Christ has died in vain.** A human being would have no defect or sin for which He would have died. Or He would have died only for the body, not for the soul, since the soul is sound, and only the body is subject to death.”

+ Formula of Concord- Article I- Original Sin- addresses a historical controversy over the relationship between mankind’s human nature and original. Conclusion: Original sin is a deep-seeded, inherited infection of our whole being, but should not be confused with our human nature itself (that is, they are not synonymous). Why does it matter? Because Jesus Christ took on himself the FULL human nature, yet was without sin.

- The difference between “Original Sin” and “Actual Sin” and why it matters!

## The Bondage of the Will

The Horizontal Will (our will before men) is free- example: we can choose from a menu  
The Vertical Will (our will before God) is bound- example: on our own, we can only choose sin

### Scripture

Genesis 6:5; 8:21  
Jeremiah 17:9  
John 15:5  
Romans 7:14, 22-23; 8:7  
1 Corinthians 2:14  
2 Corinthians 3:5  
Ephesians 2:5; 5:8  
Acts 16:14  
Colossians 2:13-14  
Philippians 2:13  
Galatians 5:17

### The Lutheran Confessions

Formula of Concord- Article II- Free Will

Luther's Small Catechism, The Apostles' Creed, Third Article-

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead and will give eternal life to me and to all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true."

### Common objections to the bound will:

"If God gives us the Law, we must have some capacity to keep it." Why is this erroneous?

"In Deuteronomy 30, Moses says, 'Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.'" How would we respond to this objection?

"Well, if we're bound to sin and can't choose salvation, and it's God who has to work salvation in us, why doesn't He work salvation in everyone?" How would you respond to such a claim?

LSB # 608- Lord, to You I Make Confession

1. Lord, to You I make confession:  
I have sinned and gone astray,  
I have multiplied transgression,  
Chosen for myself my way.  
Led by You to see my errors,  
Lord, I tremble at Your terrors.

2. Yet, though conscience' voice appal me,  
Father, I will seek Your face;  
Though Your child I dare not call me,  
Yet receive me in Your grace.  
Do not for my sins forsake me;  
Let Your wrath not overtake me.

3. For Your Son has suffered for me,  
Giv'n Himself to rescue me,  
Died to save me and restore me,  
Reconciled and set me free.  
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish  
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

4. Lord, on You I cast my burden-  
Sink it in the deepest sea!  
Let me know your gracious pardon,  
Cleanse me from iniquity.  
Let Your Spirit leave me never;  
Make me only Yours forever.