



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Second Chief Part: The Gospel

The Explanation of the First Article

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
 that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all I need to support this body and life;
 that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

We should work at this article daily, and impress it on ourselves. We should remind ourselves of it by means of every good thing we see or experience. Whenever we escape from disaster or danger, we ought to remember that it is God who gives and does all these things. He does all this for us so that we may look into His fatherly heart and sense how boundlessly He loves us. In this way the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, and to use all such good things to honor and praise God. We have most briefly presented the meaning of this article. It is as much as ordinary people at first need to learn concerning what we have received from God and what we owe Him in return. It offers splendid insight, but more than that, a precious treasure. For here we see how the Father has given Himself to us, together with all creatures, and has most richly provided for us in this life. We see that He has overwhelmed us with unspeakable, eternal treasures by His Son and the Holy Spirit, as we shall hear. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, II, 23-24.**

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE – Genesis 3:15, 20-24

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel ... Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ – therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”



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A VERSE TO REMEMBER

When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law; that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts. – **Galatians 4:4-6**

The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise – Benjamin West, oil on canvas, 1791