The Saviour

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His blood shed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

We believe… in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ = The anointed one (The Messiah).

From the moment sin entered the world, Scripture points forward to a Redeemer.

In the Garden of Eden God says to the serpent.

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." GEN 3:15

c.f. GEN 22:18; 2 SAMUEL 7:16

The Messiah is the one who would redeem and deliver his people. He is the one prophesied by Isaiah who would be "*pierced for our transgressions*". (ISAIAH 53:5)

There are over 300 messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, including that He would be born in Bethlehem, including that He would be born of a virgin (mathematically impossible) all fulfilled in Jesus.

A. The Message of the Messiah

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.

The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' LUKE 4:18-21

1. To proclaim good news to the poor. V18

To the spiritually poor.

"You are blessed…when you reach into your spiritual pockets, and you turn them inside out and all you've got are little lint balls. You will never be happy in life until you realise you're spiritually busted and you need God in your life." MIKE BREAUX

It's good news to mankind who can never save themselves.

2. To heal the broken hearted. V18

It's a word that means all your strength has been shattered.

"The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." PSALM 34:18

All the king's horses and all the king's men. Couldn't put humpty together again.

Jesus is the restorer of my soul. c.f. PS 23

Have you ever had your heart broken by grief or betrayal or bad news?

What hope does Jesus give to the broken hearted?

3. To proclaim freedom for the prisoners. V18

Freedom from fear, from addictions.

If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. JOHN 8:34-36

What is man's biggest fear?

4. Recovery of sight to the blind v18

Jesus literally restored the sight of the blind. Further Jesus came to restore our spiritual sight and reveal the love of the Father.

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see." JOHN NEWTON

Do you know anyone who is spiritually blind?

What hope does this verse bring?

Is there anything we can do to help the blind can see?

5. To set the oppressed free v19

"to set at liberty those who are bruised." KJV

"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. PSALM 9:9

6. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. v19

"There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus…" ROMANS 8:1

Our debts were paid in full and we were set free when Jesus our Lord died upon the cross.

This is the Good News of Jesus the Christ = the anointed one = the Messiah.

B. We believe… in His Virgin Birth.

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." GEN 3:15

In Hebrew thought the seed is always associated with the male.

Lineage is always traced through the father. Every genealogy in Scripture follows the male line – except this one. God tells the serpent "her seed".

This is not how the Hebrews spoke. If Moses (who wrote Genesis) wanted to describe ordinary human reproduction, he would have said Adam's seed not Eve's.

Indeed, Paul says "*God sent His Son, born of a woman. GALATIANS 4:4.* Note what's missing. He did not say "*born of man".*

Luke tells us that the angel appeared to Mary that the child she will bear will not be because of a human relationship with Joseph, the child will be conceived of the Holy Spirit.

1) **Why couldn't Joseph (by the seed of a man) conceive Jesus?**

Because if he had have been, he would have inherited the fallen condition of humanity.

In Christianity we have the doctrine of original sin.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Romans 5:12

When babies are born you don't have to teach them to do wrong, you have to teach them right. Their very nature is to do wrong.

Man is not inherently good, he is inherently bad.

But because Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit, He does not inherit the fallen condition of humanity He is sinless. Without blemish and He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Had you previously realised why the virgin birth is so critical to the Gospel?

C. **We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If Jesus is not fully God, we have no salvation, ultimately, we have no Christianity. Only one who is infinite God could bear the full penalty for all the sins of the world for those who believe in him. WAYNE GRUDEM

Only God can save. It is impossible for man to save himself.

JONAH 2:9 says *"Salvation comes from the Lord"* and the whole context is that salvation is dependent of God and God alone.

Man cannot save himself, he's not good enough, only God is.

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. COLOSSIANS 2:9

D. We believe…. in His authoritative teaching.

If Jesus is God, God cannot lie, *(NUMBERS 23:19)* so everything Jesus says must be true. *(JOHN 14:6)F*

E. We believe…. in His real and complete humanity.

Not half God, half man. 100% God, 100% man.

Why is it important to understand Jesus as fully man?

i) Jesus had to be a man to be our representative. He died as man for man.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. ROMANS 5:19

There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and he gave himself to rescue all of us. 1 TIM 2:5 CEV

ii) It means He understands human frailty

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. HEBREWS 4:15

iii) He is able to help with understanding.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. HEBREWS 4:16

"help" = support to hold us together to prevent us from breaking apart

"time" = exactly at the right time.

Why can we approach God's throne with confidence?

"mercy", "grace", "help", "time" are important words. Use a Strongs' Concordance or dictionary (available online) to help you meditate on these words. Then approach the throne of grace and find help for your need.