

Creed

What You Believe Matters

Week 7 | Creed | December 6

Key Focus: Eternal Life

Opening Up:

How has your view of eternal life changed since childhood?

In C.S. Lewis' Narnia there was a time when it was always winter and never Christmas. In what ways does Christmas point us to the redeemed and remade new heavens and new earth?

Read the Apostles' Creed.

Reference: Revelation 21:1-8

Discuss:

1. In Revelation 21 we see the end of our story. How does knowing the end of the story affect how you write the middle of your story?
2. Sally Lloyd-Jones says that when Jesus is "making all things new" he is making "sad things come untrue." What sad things are being confronted by the renewing work of Jesus? (in the Church, City, World) What sad things need to be "untrue"?
3. How does Revelation 21 help us to live without fear?
4. In Romans 12:21 we see the Christians don't need to shy away from evil. Christians confront evil and overcome it with good. What good ought Christians to be doing?
5. Nate said on Sunday, "Fueled by hate, terrorists sacrifice themselves to hurt; fueled by love, Christians sacrifice themselves to heal." What is Christianity's view of self-sacrifice?
6. In 1 Peter 4:7-9 we see that we see how Christians are supposed to live in the world in-between. The end of times is here and it is not yet. Jesus' renewal work is happening right now (21:5) and it is not yet complete. Peter says, you should love and show hospitality. How does knowing the end of the story help you to better love?
7. Peter says in 1 Peter 4:7 that we should have mental clarity because of the end of times, and he says that the mental clarity would change our prayer life. Think about this. Five thousand years from now none of your stuff will be around; however, every soul will be some where. How should that truth change how you pray?
8. If you know the the new heavens and new earth are for real and if you know not everyone goes there (21:8) and if you know God saves by faith and not by works, what should be the focus of your prayers?
9. Pray.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places