



Biblical Basis of the Apostles' Creed

February 16

CONTEXT: Christians have always been a people who readily declare what they believe. We see early creeds in the New Testament itself (e.g. Phil 2; 1 Ti 3:15). C.H. Spurgeon once said, "It seems to me that when properly analysed most of the protests are not against creeds, but against truth, for every man who believes anything must have a creed, whether he write it down and print it or no..."¹

- Truth= God's reality, what is real
- Believe= Greek for 'have faith or trust' (244x in the NT)
- Creed= Latin for 'I believe'
- Confession= To agree with something
- Statement of Faith= To state what you believe

In an effort to disciple believers and combat heresy early Christian congregations developed short and concise creeds to help members, who usually were illiterate, memorize some of the fundamentals of the Faith. What became the Apostles' Creed was one such statement. It stresses the Trinity and also the divinity and manhood of Jesus against the backdrop of various heresies. Creeds do not have an authority equal to the Bible; they state what we believe about the Bible. In the next three studies we'll be studying the *biblical* basis of the Apostles Creed.

Challenge: Christians have memorized this creed for centuries, might you memorize the Apostles Creed?

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Ps 73:24-25)

- What is a job description?
- Why can "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever" be fairly said to be our job description?
- What does it mean to glorify? To Enjoy?
- What are ways in which we can do this?
- What should I do if this isn't the case?

READ: The Apostles' Creed (over)

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever heard of the Apostles Creed? If so, how, and if not, why?
2. What do you think of Spurgeon's quote?
3. **In a world that often doesn't know what it believes (or believes lies) why is it satisfying to declare what you believe...?**
4. *The first line of the Apostles' Creed deals with God the Father.*
5. I believe- Ro 10:9; Jn 14:1
 - a. How is belief both in something and someone?
6. In God- Deut 6:4; Isa 44:6
 - a. **How is belief in God so basic yet so novel?**
7. The Father-Isa 63:16; Mt 6:9
 - a. *The first member of the Trinity. What does it mean that God is Father and how unique is this to Christianity?*
8. Almighty- Gen 17:1; Rev 4:8
 - a. **Why do you think, of all the attributes of God, do you think this one is emphasized?**
9. Creator- Job 4:17; Isa 54:5
 - a. What part did Jesus and the Holy Spirit play in Creation? (Heb 1:2 and Gen 1:2)
 - b. Why is it foundational to the story of the Bible and the Gospel that we begin by affirming this?
 - c. **How does this belief stand apart in today's culture?**
10. Heaven and earth- Gen 1:1; Jer 51:15
 - a. What is meant by heaven and earth? Why include both?
 - b. Why is it important we also affirm the visible and invisible? (Eph 6)

NEXT TIME: Feb 23rd- Exploring the Biblical basis of the Apostles' Creed, pt. II.

¹ Sermon No. 984, "The Church as she should be," n.d., c. 1871. *The Complete Works of C.H. Spurgeon*, vol. 17. (Delmarva Publications, 2014).

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead;
And on the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,
from thence He shall 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.