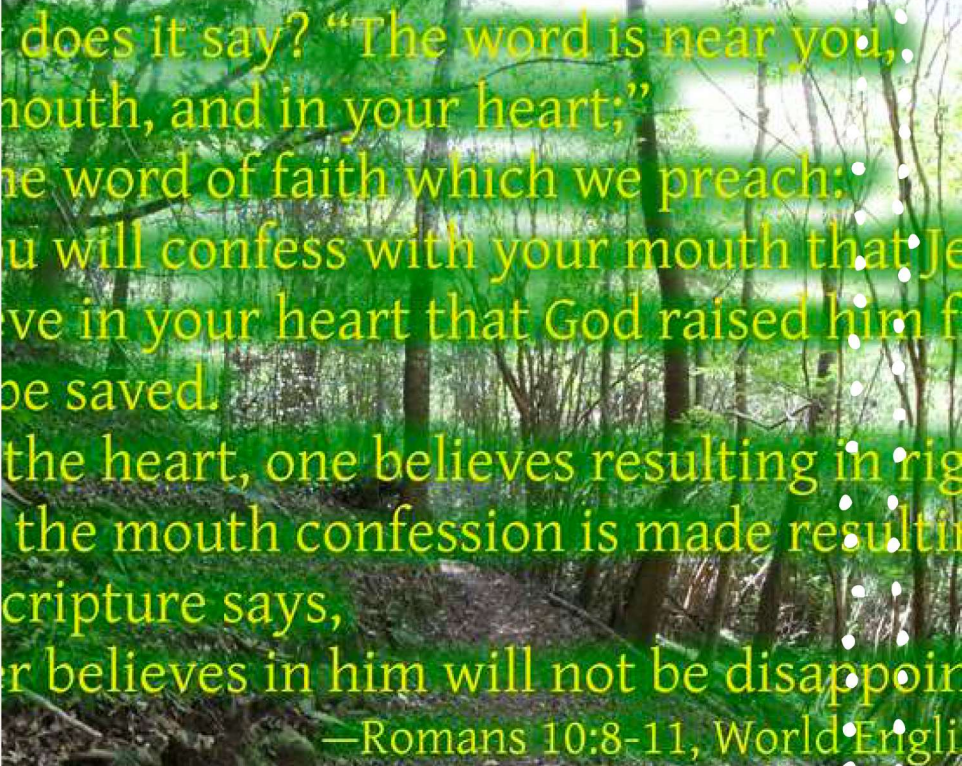




*I Believe
A Study of the Apostles' Creed*

Romans 10:8-13

. **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."



... does it say? "The word is near you,
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... ve in your heart that God raised him f
... be saved.
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—Romans 10:8-11, World English

I BELIEVE...

A STUDY OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

LESSON 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. I believe...
2. What's A Creed and Why Do It?
3. The Apostle's Creed



Introduction

I believe...

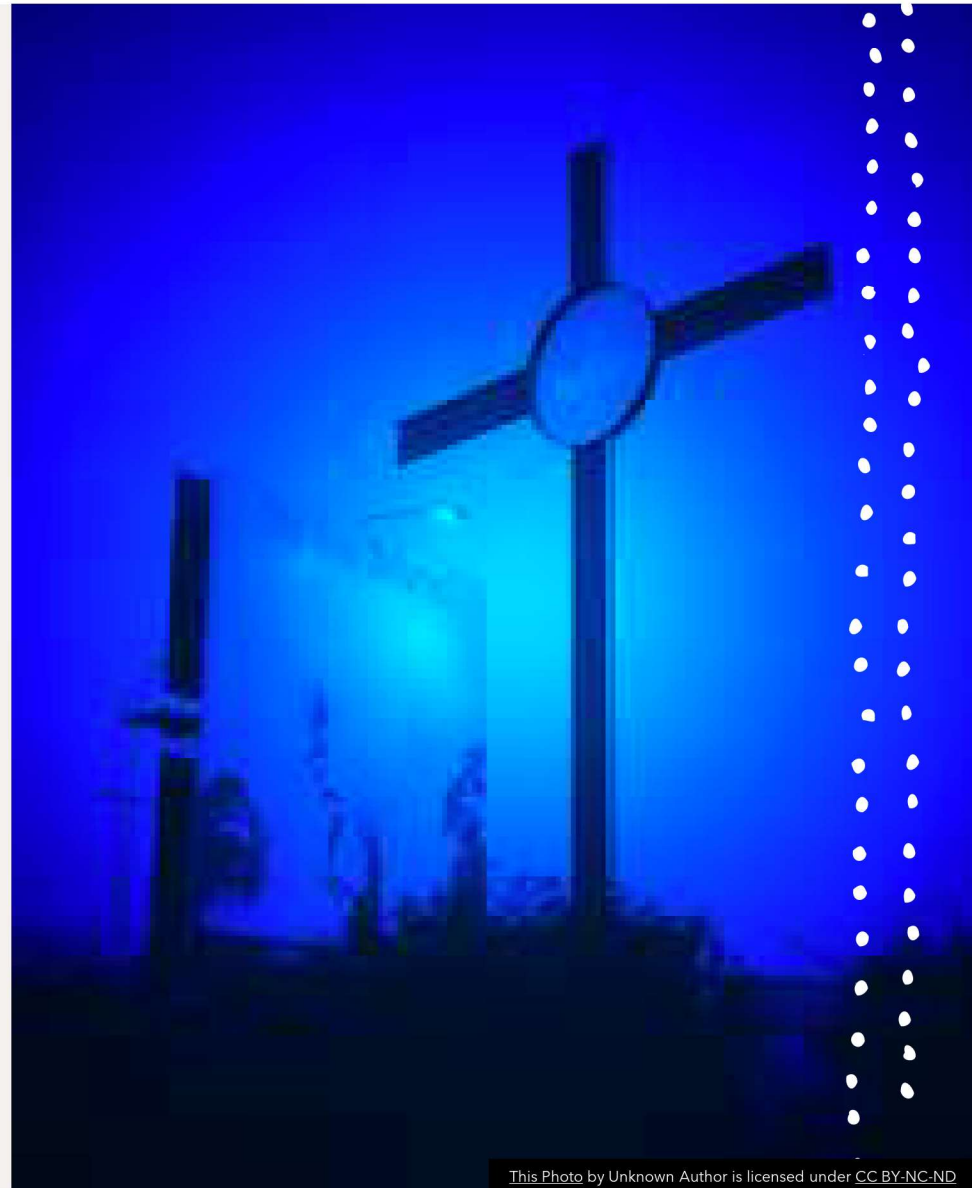
What is your “go-to” response when asked what do you believe about God?

Jesus?

The Holy Spirit?

The Bible?

What can we expect because of our salvation or from being saved?





Introduction

- Questions regarding the tenets of our faith can be answered in our statement or affirmation of faith, known as the Apostle's Creed.
- The Apostles' Creed - as a whole—cannot be found within the Holy Scriptures
- Each aspect is confirmed in the Word of God.
- We will explore some of the pieces that comprise the whole so that as we are able to understand "what we believe.



What's a Creed and Why Do We Need it?

1. A Creed is an authoritative, formulated systems of chief articles of Christian belief, such as the Apostle's Creed, the [Nicene Creed](#) or the [Athanasian Creed](#).
2. Any system, codification, doctrine, or formula of religious belief

Why do we need to have a creed?

A Creed synthesizes facets of one's belief into a solid, confirmed, and acceptable statement that supports and encourages a believer's understanding of doctrine.

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Traditional use of this creed includes these words: *He descended into hell
** universal

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence 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 life everlasting. Amen.



The Apostles' Creed

- Statement of faith Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches.
- Per tradition, composed by 12 Apostles, but developed from early questioning of baptism candidates.
- *"Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty?"* and so forth through the major Christian beliefs.
- Stated affirmatively, these statements became a creed; such creeds were known as baptismal creeds.
- Final form in the late sixth or early seventh century gradually it replaced other baptismal creeds
- Acknowledged as the official statement of faith of the entire Catholic church.
- All creedal Protestant churches accept the Apostles' Creed and use it in worship, but some (e.g., the United Methodist Church) delete "He descended to the dead."



The Apostles' Creed

- Ecumenical statement of faith
- Unifies not only various Protestant denominations, but also the Catholic and Protestant faith.
- Substantiates what we believe that is common to our faith.
- Substantiates tenets that support what we stand on as believers
- Confirms that although there may be differences in how we exercise faith, essentially, we believe the same principles that unite us as believers in our Savior Jesus Christ.
- Creeds appear to have become popular because of the Christian belief that people must confess/profess their beliefs with their mouths to be saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED HAS BEEN CALLED...



- A. A STATEMENT OF GOSPEL TRUTHS
- B. THE SPIRITUAL SEAL
- C. WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD HOLD AS TRUE
- D. A CONDENSE THEOLOGICAL SYSTEM THAT REFLECTS WHAT IS RIGHT FOR A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST TO BELIEVE.



Two Varying Contexts

- The Roman Catholic and Orthodox versions both refer to believing in a “catholic Church,”
- Protestants use an uncapitalized “church.”
- The lower-case version is an emphasis on the broader or more **universal nature of the entire church** due to a perception that capitalizing “Church” emphasizes the *specific Roman portion of the church*.
- The word “catholic” actually means “universal,” so some church bodies reflect that word in their versions of the Apostles’ Creed to avoid the controversy within their contexts.

Two Varying Contexts

Another controversy deals with the teaching that Jesus “descended into Hell” or “descended to the dead.”

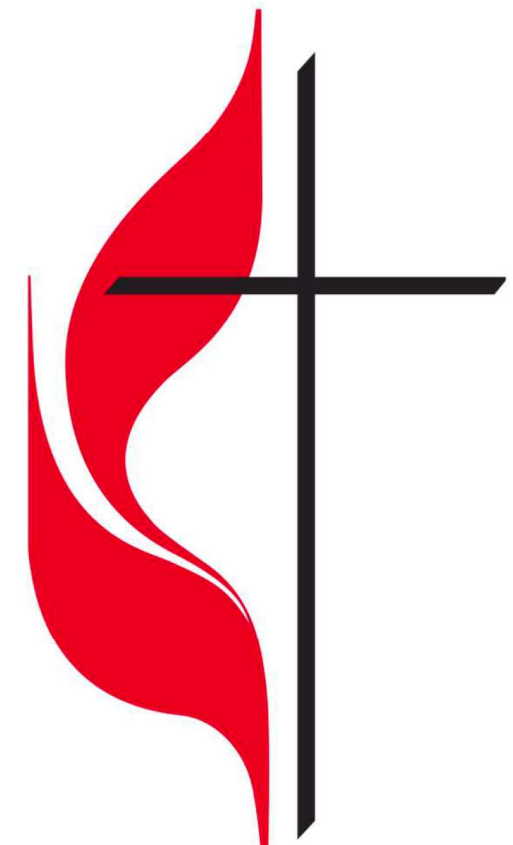
As an example, the United Methodist Church has a version of the creed that removes this teaching, but John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, always included it when recounting it in his writings.

The Apostles’ Creed has normally included this statement

It is a reference to the Apostle Peter’s teaching that between the death and resurrection events, Jesus descended to the dead and preached the message of deliverance to the prior dead

(1 Peter 3:18-20) (1 Peter 4:6).

Some claim that this teaching is not **validated enough in the scriptures**, and so they exclude the statement from their version of the creed.



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Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament^[a] shows ^[b]His handiwork.

² Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.

³ *There is* no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their ^[c]line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.

In them He has set a ^[d]tabernacle for the sun,
⁵ Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

⁶ Its rising *is* from one end of heaven,
And its circuit to the other end;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect, ^[e]converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the ^[f]honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them *there is* great reward.



Psalm 19

And in keeping them *there is* great reward.

12 Who can understand *his* errors?

Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

13 Keep back Your servant also

from presumptuous *sins*;

Let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

And I shall be innocent of ^[g]great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my ^[h]strength and my Redeemer.

