

The Apostles' Creed



16 Daily Bible Readings

Written by: Toni Lindeback
January 2022

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Suggestion: What follows are two Bible readings each week for eight weeks (coinciding with a potential Bible Talk Series).

Recommended resource: J.I. Packer, *Affirming the Apostles' Creed*, Crossway

Note: Any additional Bible passages referred to in a reading is provided at the end of this booklet.

WEEK 1 Day 1 – *I believe in God*

What is the Apostles' Creed?

The Apostles were appointed by Jesus as the eyewitnesses to his life and teaching. *Creed* means belief. The Apostles' Creed is a summary of the Apostles' belief about Jesus that they recorded in the New Testament through the Holy Spirit. It is like a gospel tract that the early church put together so that unbelievers would come to faith, believers would grow in faith and the church would guard against false teaching.

Understanding and learning the Apostles' Creed will grow us in our knowledge and love of God so that we stand firm in Jesus with his church, through his Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

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.

Contemplate

1. Three times the Apostles' Creed says 'I believe'. Who does the Creed call us to believe in?

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to [the eleven disciples], "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Contemplate

2. Whose name are believers baptised into? Matthew 28:19
3. What does Jesus tell us about being a disciple? Matthew 28:19-20

Consider

The creed says 'I believe'. Many believe in a man-made god whether it be a "metal or mental" image¹. To truly believe is to accept God's revelation of himself in the Bible as *God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*. God is three persons in one – the Trinity. As Matthew says in 28:19, God has one name, not three names.

Understanding the Trinity is beyond our comprehension. But the Apostles' Creed teaches us that we experience the Trinity in our salvation which was planned by God the Father, won by God the Son and revealed to us by God the Spirit.

The creed says 'I believe', not we believe. Many people believe in an idea of God that has little impact on their lives. But

true belief is to make a *personal* commitment to be Jesus' disciple. True disciples accept and obey the Apostles' teaching about Jesus' rule and blessings, Matthew 28:20.

Humanity is divided into two groups – those who believe in God the Father, Son and Spirit as taught by the Apostles and those who don't. What do you believe?

Pray

God, as we learn the Apostles' Creed enable us to grow in our knowledge and love of you so that we stand firm in Jesus with his church through his Spirit.

Memorise

Each day we will memorise part of the Apostles' Creed. Today learn:
I believe in God,

¹ Packer, J. I.. Affirming the Apostles' Creed (p. 32). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 1 Day 2 - *God, the Father*

Apostles' Creed

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

John 5:19-24

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 14:31

³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

John 20:17

[Jesus words to Mary following his resurrection:]

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father;

but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed describes God as 'the Father'.

1. What do we learn about the relationship between God the Father and his Son in John 5:19-24 and 14:31?
2. How does Jesus' death and resurrection allow us to relate to God differently? What do we now call God? What does that mean we call Jesus? John 20:17

Consider

First and foremost, God is Jesus Christ's Father before he is our Father. God the Father's love for his Son causes him to make Jesus honoured by enabling Jesus to give life and execute judgement, John 5:20-23. The Son's love for his Father causes him to do his Father's will, even to death on the cross, so that we might become members of his family, John 5:19, 24 and 14:31.

Every person is an offspring of God the Father but not everyone is a member of God's family because we are all born sinners facing God's judgement, see Acts 17:29-31. It is only because of the love between God the Father and God the Son that we can be forgiven and reconciled to God and so be members of

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

God's family who call God our Father
and Jesus our brother, John 20:17.

The love between God the Father and his
son is the guarantee of our salvation.
Praise God that we can be certain of his
love for us because of his love for his son
Jesus. How wonderful it is that we are
brought into the love that the Father and
the Son have for each other.

Pray

God our Father we praise you that your
love for your Son Jesus overflows into
your love for us. Thank you that Jesus'
love for you means you are our Father
and Jesus is our brother.

Memorise

I believe in God, *the Father*

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 2 Day 1 - *God, Almighty*

Apostles' Creed

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

Acts 4:23-31

²³ When [Peter and John] were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed says God is Almighty.

1. How is God described in Acts 4:24?
2. What do we learn about God's sovereignty in 4:27-28?

Consider

'Almighty' means God is the all-powerful sovereign of all. God reigns over this world that he made and achieves his purposes, Acts 4:24.

God is almighty because he is not limited by imperfection. He exercises power in accordance with his perfect character and will. This means God cannot do wrong (e.g.: he cannot forgive sins without atonement), and he always keeps his promises (e.g.: he forgives those who rely on Jesus).

God is almighty because he is not limited by anything in creation, even by evil. When humankind united against Jesus, God used our very opposition to achieve his plans and purposes – God defeated evil and established Christ as King, Acts 4:27-28. We pray for boldness to preach the gospel because only God the Almighty Father can take people from Satan's kingdom and bring them under Christ's rule, Acts 4:29-31.

The truth of God's almightiness "means that neither fate, nor the stars, nor blind chance, nor man's folly, nor Satan's

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

malice controls this world; instead, a morally perfect God runs it, and none can dethrone him or thwart his purposes of love."²

Pray

Father Almighty we praise you that you achieve your good plans because you are powerful to defeat evil and give us eternal life in Christ. Give us boldness to speak the gospel because it is your power to save.

Memorise

I believe in God, the Father *Almighty*,

WEEK 2 Day 2 – *God, creator of heaven and earth*

Apostles' Creed

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

Acts 17:24-25

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ...

Revelation 4:9-11

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed says God is creator.

1. What do the above passages teach us about God the creator and what it is to live as his creatures?

² Packer, J. I.. *Affirming the Apostles' Creed* (pp.49). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Consider

Understanding that God is the creator and we are his creatures radically changes life. It means everything in life is about God, not us. God does not depend on us – he does not need anything. Rather we depend on God 'for life and breath and everything' Acts 17:24-25.

God doesn't exist by our will and for our pleasure. Rather it is by God's will that we exist. It is our pleasure and perfect purpose to serve God – to 'worship him' and 'give glory, and honour and thanks to him' for ever, Revelation 4:9-11.

We did not make ourselves. We are not our own master. God will hold us accountable for how we treat him and his good creation. We are to serve God alone and we are neither to idolise creation or undervalue it, – see Acts 17:29-31, [1 Timothy 4:1-4](#).

We serve God by gratefully using and enjoying earthly things God has made. "It is an ungodly and, indeed, inhuman super-spirituality that seeks to serve the Creator by depreciating any part of his creation."³

Pray

Father God you are worthy of all praise for you created everything. Forgive us for not worshipping you. Grow us in serving you and enjoying your good creation for your glory.

Memorise

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

³ Packer, J. I.. Affirming the Apostles' Creed (p. 57). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 3 Day 1 – *I believe in Jesus Christ*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.

Contemplate

1. Which lines in the above section of the Apostles' Creed describe how Jesus humbled himself?
2. Which lines in the above section of the Apostles' Creed describe how God raised Jesus up?

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among your-selves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven

and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Contemplate

3. What are the similarities between the Apostles' Creed and Philippians 1:7-11?

Consider

The Creed gives most of its lines to Jesus Christ. This reflects the Apostles' concern in the Bible to show that Jesus is the Christ promised by God, to save us from our sins, and bring us into relationship with God. And like the New Testament, the Creed drives home the wonder of Jesus Christ's humiliation and exaltation.

Step-by-step the Apostles' Creed shows how Jesus Christ humbled himself – *conceived and born, suffered and crucified, dead and buried, descended to the dead*. Then step-by-step the Apostles' Creed shows how Jesus Christ was exalted by God – *resurrected, ascended, heavenly ruler, judge*. Jesus, who is God, did not claim his right to be God but instead humbled himself to be the servant-man who died for our sins. God then exalted Jesus through his resurrection and ascension to receive the praise of all people as ruler and judge, Philippians 2:5-11.

The more we comprehend the depths of Jesus' humiliation and the heights of his exaltation, the more we will love him and delight in submitting to him. Only when we look at Jesus Christ will we grow in the humility necessary to love others.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Pray

God, we give thanks that Jesus Christ humbled himself so that we can be forgiven. God, we praise you for exalting Jesus so that we can bow before him. May we grow in his humility.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ,

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 3 Day 2 – *I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36-39

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and fore-knowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ...

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ... ³⁶ therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off,

everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed calls us to believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

1. Who is Jesus? Acts 2:22-36
2. How are we to respond to Jesus Christ? Acts 2:38

Consider

Jesus is the fully-man-and-fully-God King who restores us to God and rules over all, for all time.

Jesus. Jesus is the man born of Mary of Nazareth, Acts 2:22. His name means 'he will save his people from their sins' – see Matthew 1:21. Jesus the sinless man was unjustly put to death, raised by God and ascended to rule at God's right hand for our salvation, Acts 2:22-24 and 32-33.

Christ. 'Christ' is not Jesus' surname – it is his title which means God's anointed king. A king defeats enemies and rules with all authority. Jesus is the king who saves us by defeating the enemies of sin, death and evil. Jesus is the king who rules at the right hand of God over all people, for all time, Acts 2:33, 36, 38.

God's only Son. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is God who humbled himself to become man and die on a cross to redeem us.

Our Lord. Jesus is Lord of all; everyone will submit to him – see Philippians 2:11. But he is 'our' Lord in a deeply personal

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

and joyful sense when we submit our life to him, Acts 2:36, 38.

Pray

God thank you for sending Jesus to be our king to save and rule over us.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, *God's only Son,*
our Lord,

WEEK 4 Day 1 – *Jesus Christ, conceived and born*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

John 1:1-4, 14 and 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Luke 1:30-31 and 34-35

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ...

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Contemplate

1. Which verses show that Jesus is God?
2. Which verses show that Jesus is human?

Consider

The Creed introduces Jesus Christ as *God's only Son* – the second person of the Trinity. Then it says he was *conceived and born*. These words are shocking. God the Son who is not bound by time and space, lowered himself to become a created being. As John writes, Jesus is the glorious 'only Son' who 'became flesh'. Jesus 'the only God, who is at the Father's side' has made the Father 'known' by being born, John 1:1-4, 14 and 18.

Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus had been born of Mary and Joseph, he would have been born a sinner and unable to save us. But because Jesus is born by the power of the Spirit, his human nature is without sin.

Jesus is God and man for ever. He is the first in a new creation. In him, we are born again as 'new creations' united to Christ for ever – see 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Pray

God, we praise you that Jesus humbled himself and became man to make us new creations in Christ.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,*

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 4 DAY 2 – *Jesus Christ suffered*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who ...

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;

Matthew 27:1-2 and 15-26

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. ...

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they

shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. ...

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ... ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Contemplate

1. Who was responsible for Jesus' death? Consider Matthew 27:1, 24-26, 46, 50.

Consider

It is a verifiable fact that Jesus 'was crucified, died, and was buried' when Pontius Pilate was the Gentile Roman governor of God's people, the Jews, from 26-36AD. Matthew clearly explains who was responsible for Jesus' death.

Jesus suffered at the hands of humanity

– Jews and Gentiles joined together to put Jesus to death. Envious Jews put Jesus to death for saying he was the Christ, God's promised king, Matthew

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

27:18. Fearful Pilate, a gentile, 'washed his hands' and sentenced innocent Jesus to death to please the crowd who demanded Jesus' execution, Matthew 27:24.

Jesus suffered at the hands of God - he was 'forsaken by God', Matthew 27:46. In love, God gave his Son to satisfy his anger at our sin so that we can be reconciled to God – see 1 John 4:10.

Jesus willingly suffered – he 'yielded up his spirit', Matthew 27:50. Jesus' sacrifice was acceptable because in love for his Father, Jesus obeyed God's will, Matthew 26:39. On the cross, Jesus swapped places with all sinners, not just Barabbas. On the cross Jesus 'loved *me* and gave himself for *me*', Galatians 2:20.

Our sacrifices and service cannot appease the wrath of God. Only Jesus' sacrifice can satisfy God's anger and reconcile us to God. This is the heart of Christianity.

Pray

God we all deserve eternal punishment for rejecting your Son. We humbly give thanks that Jesus willingly took our place on the cross so that we can be reconciled to you. God we praise you.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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;*

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 5 DAY 1 – *Jesus Christ descended to the dead*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who ...

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

Matthew 27:51-66

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and

laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Contemplate

1. What three things were split open because of Jesus' death? Matthew 27:51-52
2. List all the groups of people who knew Jesus was dead. Matthew 27:54-66

Consider

Jesus' death and burial was a public event witnessed by all kinds of people, including his enemies and executors. It wasn't a fainting – Jesus actually died.

Being man, Jesus experienced death like we do. Jesus' body was buried and his

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

soul descended to the dead, what the bible calls 'Hades' or 'Sheol'.

Being God, Jesus changed death forever. Jesus' death split open the temple curtain, the rocks and the tombs. In other words, Jesus' death affects our relationship with God, creation and our bodies, Matthew 27:51-52.

When Jesus died the temple curtain that barred sinful people from being in the presence of the holy God was split in two. Jesus' death enables us to be reconciled to God, see [Hebrews 10:19-22](#).

When Jesus died the rocks split. Jesus' death is the guarantee that this crumbling creation will be replaced by Christ's unshakeable kingdom, see [Hebrews 12:28](#).

When Jesus died tombs were opened, and '*many bodies*' of believers who had died were raised. Jesus' death is the guarantee of our resurrection.

Jesus changes the place of the dead to paradise by his presence – see [Luke 23:43](#).

Pray

God, we praise you that Jesus has defeated death because of his perfect and acceptable sacrifice for sin. Thank you that Jesus changes our experience of death as we look forward our resurrection into your presence in your unshakeable kingdom.

Memorise

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

Extra

(1) Jesus 'descended to the dead'. 'The dead', what the bible calls Hades or Sheol, is the place where the departed go. 'The dead' is different to hell, the place of eternal punishment for those who reject God, what the bible calls Gehenna. 'Descended' does not mean going down in a spatial sense. "The language of descent is used because Hades, being the place of the disembodied, is lower in worth and dignity than is life on earth, where body and soul are together and humanity is in that sense whole." (Quote Packer)

(2) Some versions of the Creed say Jesus descended 'into hell' rather than 'to the dead'. This is because in the early church the place of the departed (*Hades, Sheol*) was also called hell. "But since the seventeenth century 'hell' has been used to signify **only** the state of final retribution for the godless, for which the New Testament name is *Gehenna*." (Quote Packer).

Quotes: Packer, J. I.. Affirming the Apostles' Creed, Crossway. Kindle Edition, Chapter 10, bold added.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 5 DAY 2 – *Jesus Christ rose from the dead*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who ...

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead

Matthew 28:1-20

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.

¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Contemplate

1. What evidence does Matthew give to show that Jesus was raised from the dead?
2. What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection? Matthew 28:16-20

Consider

It is certain that Jesus rose bodily from the dead on the third day. Jesus' tomb

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

was empty and his body was not produced, despite the efforts of Pilate, the guard and the Jewish leaders, Matthew 28:1-15. Many witnesses saw, spoke and touched the risen Jesus on many occasions over 40 days. The apostles fearfully went into hiding when Jesus died, but after they saw the resurrected Jesus, they willingly risked death for proclaiming Jesus rose from the dead, Matthew 28:7-10 and 16-20.

The significance of the resurrection is that God raised Jesus to be his eternal king with all authority, Matthew 28:18. We learn more about Jesus' kingship in the rest of the Creed.

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead we are still in our sin and under God's judgment. But Jesus did rise from the dead because his perfect life and sacrificial death satisfied God's anger at our sin. Jesus' resurrection guarantees our resurrection, see 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. Those who submit to Jesus are resurrected with him – spiritually now as we enjoy relationship with him and bodily when he returns to rule new creation with us. How can we not tell others that Jesus is God's king risen from the dead?

Pray

God, we praise you that by your mighty power you have raised Jesus from the dead to be our forever King with all authority. We praise you that by his authority Jesus has made us his disciples and guaranteed our resurrection from the dead.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose from the dead;

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 6 Day 1 – *Jesus Christ ascended and seated*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, ...

On the third day he rose from the dead, *he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;*

Acts 1:9-11

⁹... as [the apostles] were looking on, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Hebrews 10:11-12

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

1 Peter 3:21-22

... Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Hebrews 9:12 & 24

9 ¹² Christ entered once for all into the

holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ... ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Romans 8:34

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Contemplate

1. Why is Jesus able to ascend to heaven and sit at God's right hand? Hebrews 10:11-12 and 1 Peter 3:21-22
2. Why was it necessary that the resurrected Jesus ascend to heaven rather than remaining physically present with his people? Hebrews 9:12 & 24
3. What is the ascended Jesus doing? Romans 8:34

Consider

When Jesus completed everything that he needed to do on earth for our salvation, God lifted his resurrected body to heaven in the cloud of glory and seated him in the position of ruler, Hebrews 10:11-12. Jesus is installed as God's king who rules over everyone and everything forever, including his enemies, in an indestructible kingdom, 1 Peter 3:21.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Jesus' ascension to heaven is necessary for our salvation. Jesus ascended to heaven to send the Holy Spirit who brings us into relationship with Jesus, grows us in Jesus, and guarantees we will be with Jesus in his heavenly kingdom, see Acts 2:33 and Ephesians 1:13-14. The ascension assures us that we will enter God's presence because Jesus has gone there first, Hebrews 9:12 and 24. In Christ, we are spiritually in heaven now, and in the future our resurrected bodies will be in God's presence physically.

Jesus is now seated at God's right hand to intercede for us. When our sin gives Satan reason to accuse us, Jesus' intercession is always successful because God looks at Jesus who was sacrificed, not our worthiness, Romans 8:34. From his throne Jesus gives us grace to help us to resist the temptation to sin – see Hebrews 4:14-16.

"We have our own flesh in heaven - a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, His members, to Himself in heaven."
The Heidelberg Catechism

Pray

God, we praise you that Jesus is the forever king seated at your right hand. Thank you that his ascension has secured our salvation and keeps us in the faith. Help us to submit our whole lives to Jesus and seek his glory, not ours.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;

Extra

Our salvation requires not only Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, but also Jesus' ascension to God's holy place. In the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, the priest would make the sacrifice for sin on the altar and then carry it into God's presence in the holy of holiness and make intercession for the people. In the same way, following his sacrifice on the cross, Christ comes to the throne room of God to present himself and make intercession for us so that we can draw near to God. Unlike the priests in the Old Testament who remained standing and repeated their sacrifices, Jesus could be seated because his work was completed, his sacrifice was acceptable to God.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 6 Day 2 – *Jesus Christ the judge*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, ...

On the third day he rose from the dead,
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;

*from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.*

John 5:24 and 27-29

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears
my word and believes him who sent me
has eternal life. He does not come into
judgment, but has passed from death to
life.

... ²⁷ And the Father has given the Son
authority to execute judgment, because
he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at
this, for an hour is coming when all who
are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and
come out, those who have done good to
the resurrection of life, and those who
have done evil to the resurrection of
judgment.

Revelation 20:11-21:4

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and
him who was seated on it. From his
presence earth and sky fled away, and no
place was found for them. ¹² And I saw
the dead, great and small, standing
before the throne, and books were
opened. Then another book was opened,
which is the book of life. And the dead
were judged by what was written in the
books, according to what they had done.
... ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found

written in the book of life, he was thrown
into the lake of fire.

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new
earth, for the first heaven and the first
earth had passed away, and the sea was
no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven
from God, prepared as a bride adorned
for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud
voice from the throne saying, "Behold,
the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them, and they will be
his people, and God himself will be with
them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away
every tear from their eyes, and death
shall be no more, neither shall there be
mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed tells us that Jesus is
coming to judge the living and the dead.

1. Who has the authority to execute
judgement? John 5:27
2. What do we face judgement for?
John 5:24
3. What will Jesus' kingdom be like?
Revelation 21:1-4

Consider

Because Jesus has ascended to his
heavenly throne, we can be assured that
he will return to judge every person, and
to establish his new creation in all its
glory.

When Jesus first came to earth, he
humbly died on the cross for our sin.
When he returns, he will execute justice
like a warrior-king. Those who have
received God's mercy, who have put
their trust in Jesus for salvation, will

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

enjoy eternal life with Jesus. But those who have done evil, who have continued in their rejection of Jesus, will be rejected by Jesus. Be assured that Jesus will justly avenge all wrong, including the mistreatment of God's people – see Revelation 6:10.

That Jesus will return from heaven to judge the living and the dead is our great encouragement and hope. Humanity is incapable of realising the justice we all long for. We need the eternal King who secured our salvation to judge all the earth – to do away with all evil and establish his kingdom in all its glory. And what a kingdom it will be – we will be dwelling with God in holiness and without sin, evil and death.

Pray

Come, Lord Jesus, come – you are our joy and hope. We praise that you are the just judge who restores all things.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;
*from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.*

WEEK 7 Day 1 – *I believe in the Holy Spirit*

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Contemplate

Note: *Catholic* means universal – for all people in all ages.

1. From your knowledge of the Bible, how is the Holy Spirit connected to the Church, forgiveness of sins, resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

John 3:3-5 and 16

³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 16:7-11 and 14

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸
And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ...

¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Contemplate

2. What does the Spirit do? John 3:5 and 16:8
3. Why does the Spirit do what he does? John 16:14

Consider

The Spirit is called Holy because he is God – the third person of the Trinity. The Spirit's purpose is to glorify the Son, John 16:14a. The Spirit doesn't draw attention to himself but works to point people to Christ by convicting them of the gospel of Jesus, John 3:5 & 16, 16:8.

Through the Spirit we are born again, that is, we come to believe in Jesus who makes us new for eternal life in God's kingdom. This life is experienced now in his Church – the gathering of forgiven sinners who look forward to the resurrection of their bodies and everlasting life in God's presence. While we wait for Christ's return, the Spirit helps us in our battle with sin – he helps us be what he has made us to be by enabling us to grow in holiness, service

and witness, all for Christ's glory – see Galatians 6:16-23.

The sign the Holy Spirit is at work is not super-spiritual experiences but when we see people believe in Christ and serve him for his glory encouraging and growing his church. This is what it is to believe in the Holy Spirit.

Pray

God, we thank you that your Spirit convicts us of Jesus and the salvation he offers. Thank you that your Spirit is building your Church of believers made holy and ready to serve you.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 7 Day 2 – *The Holy Spirit, the Church*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

1 Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10

⁴As you come to Christ Jesus, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

...

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ephesians 2:18-22

¹⁸For through Christ Jesus we both [Jews and Gentiles] have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him

you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Contemplate

The Apostles' Creed describes the Church as –

- holy – set apart for God
 - catholic – embracing all believers regardless of race, location, time
- Note: sometimes this line in the creed reads 'holy apostolic church' – in which case 'apostolic' means – proclaiming.
- The communion of saints – believers who are united by Jesus.

1. Why is the Church holy? 1 Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10
2. Why is the Church for everyone? Ephesians 2:18-22
3. How are believers to relate to one another? Ephesians 4:1-6

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Consider

Holy – The church is holy because God made it and it belongs to him. As the Spirit unites people to Jesus, they are built into God's Church, that is, his 'holy priesthood', his 'holy nation'. 1 Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10

Catholic – The Spirit gives us access to God through Christ Jesus regardless of our background. This is indicated by the fact that by the same Spirit, both Jews and Gentiles are joined together as God's Church in Christ. The Jews were God's chosen people in the Old Testament. The Gentiles are all other races and nations in the world. Ephesians 2:18-22

Communion of saints – The Church is one united body formed by the one Spirit, one Lord Jesus, and one God and Father, and sharing the same hope and faith, Ephesians 4:4-6. This makes our relationships with each other of paramount importance, Ephesians 4:1-3.

God does not save us to be saved, God saves us to be his Church where we offer acceptable sacrifices through Jesus for his glory – namely relationships marked by humble, gentle, patient love that maintains the unity, the bond of peace, that is already ours in Jesus.

Pray

God, we praise you that through your Spirit you are building your church – your people who are made holy, united and fit to serve you in Jesus. May we love

your church as you do and keep the 'bond of peace'.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;

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 APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

WEEK 8 Day 1 – *The Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sins*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
... the forgiveness of sins

John 16:8

⁸ And when he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

1 John 1:5-2:2

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Contemplate

1. What do we learn about God and sin?
1 John 1:5

2. What do we learn about ourselves and sin? 1 John 1:8-10
3. How do those who walk in the light deal with ongoing sin? 1 John 2:1-2

Consider

God is without sin – he is light, 1 John 1:5. But every person is born a sinner and is in the darkness. We don't move from the darkness to the light by denying our sin and thinking we are good enough to be God's friend, 1 John 1:8 and 10. We only become children of the light when the Spirit convicts us that God's gospel word is true – that we are sinners in need of forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, 1 John 1:7, 9 and John 16:8. Only then do we enjoy fellowship with God and with one another as his Church, 1:6-7.

Those in the light will still sin even though they desire to obey God's commands. But we remain in the light because Jesus says, 'Father, I have paid the punishment for their sin', 1 John 2:1-3. God is 'faithful and just' – he won't exact two punishments for sin, 1 John 1:9.

We come into the light through Jesus' sacrifice for us, and we remain in the light through Jesus' intercession for us. We are sinners always in need of Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins.

Pray

God, we praise you that through your Spirit you are building your church – your people who are made holy, united

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

and fit to serve you in Jesus. May we love your church as you do and keep the 'bond of peace'.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father;
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,

WEEK 8 Day 2 – *The Holy Spirit,
resurrection and life everlasting*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
... the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:12, 20, 50-53

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ... ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

John 17:3

"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 5:24

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

Contemplate

1. Why can we be sure that our bodies will be resurrected? 1 Corinthians 15:12 and 20
2. What will our resurrected bodies be like? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
3. What is eternal life and when does it start? John 17:3, John 5:24

Consider

Now that God has changed us inwardly through our rebirth in Christ by the Spirit, we look forward to receiving a body to match. Christ's resurrection guarantees that when he returns, our bodies will be raised from the dead and dramatically changed to be like him, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 20, 51-53. In the new creation we won't be disembodied souls but will have a glorious body like Christ's body.

Furthermore, we look forward to enjoying the life we were created for – being in God's presence forever with his people. Everlasting life is more than living forever – it is knowing God, John 17:3. This is why everlasting life begins when we come into relationship with Jesus, rather than when we die, John 5:24. Our present experience of God is limited by sin and death but our certain hope is that God will dwell with us in the new creation, see Revelation 21:1-4.

The God who made us has rescued us through Christ and renewed us through his Spirit so that we are his forgiven and restored people who will be in God's presence forever. Such great news causes us to live holy lives and share the

hope of Christ while we wait for the resurrection of our bodies and life everlasting when he returns.

Pray

God, I believe in you my maker, Jesus my Saviour-King, and the Holy Spirit who brings me into your family. I thank you for the wonderful message of the Apostles that sustains us as your church as we for Jesus to return and take us home to be with your forever. Come Lord Jesus come.

Memorise

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Daily Bible Readings

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

WEEK 1 DAY 2

Acts 17:29-31 ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

WEEK 2 DAY 2

Acts 17:29-31 see Day 2 above

1 Timothy 4:1-4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

WEEK 3 DAY 2

Philippians 2:11 every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WEEK 4 DAY 1

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old

has passed away; behold, the new has come.

WEEK 4 DAY 2

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

WEEK 5 DAY 1

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

Luke 23:43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

WEEK 5 DAY 2

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

WEEK 6 DAY 1

Hebrews 4:14-16 ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Acts 2:33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Ephesians 1:13-14 ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

WEEK 7 DAY 2

Revelation 6:10 "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

WEEK 8 DAY 1

Galatians 6:16-23 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ... ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;

WEEK 8 DAY 2

Revelation 21:1-3 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.