

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary:
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead and buried:
He descended into hell:
The third day he rose again 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 Ghost:
The (universal) holy catholic church:
The communion of saints:
The forgiveness of sins:
The resurrection of the body:
And the life everlasting.
Amen

“I believe in...The resurrection of the body”

1. This line is important because (1) it refutes an ancient but still present heresy

-An ancient error (and one that is not gone) taught that the flesh (the physical body) was _____, a tomb, something that the soul was always seeking to escape from. This error (which was a form of Gnosticism) was seen even in the days of the apostles (1 John 4:2) and was brought into Christianity from ancient pagan religions.

-Creation, the physical world, is not an evil that God is going to forever _____. In fact, the Scriptures teach that the created world is going to be restored to a state of perfection as it was before the Fall. God created the physical world and declared it to be good and, in the end, the physical world will be restored not forever removed.

-Part of the physical world that God created that was good was man's _____ body. The Scriptures teach that death does not signify the eternal end of the body, but our bodies will be raised. The eternal state will be enjoyed with both body and soul again united.

2. This line is important because (2) death is an enemy that must and will be defeated

-The Bible does not present death as something pleasant and desirable. Being with the Lord is desirable and this is what Paul refers to when he says, “to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21-23). Death is part of the _____. Death is the “unnatural” ripping away of the soul from the body. Death is tearing apart what God had joined together.

-“Scripture sees death-life's one certainty-not as a friend but as a _____. When my body and soul separate, I shall only be a shadow of what I see. My body is part of me, the apparatus of my self-expression; without it, all my power to make things, do things, and relate to my fellows is gone.” (Packer, 137)

-Throughout the Scriptures we are shown people dying. Death is always the _____ over man. No matter how men strive, no matter how men exercise, no matter how men ignore it, the truth is this, death will come for you.

-Writing on Genesis 5 Henry Law (1797-1884) said, “This chapter celebrates the victories of DEATH. The conqueror unfolds his banner over a prostrate world. The chieftains of the elder age pass in review. DEATH meets them. They bow before him. Except Enoch, they all fall slain. DEATH plies his sting, and they cannot escape. Reader! seek profit from this deathful page. The same destroyer still has like power. He tracks your steps. His eye rests on you. His dart is poised. He soon will overtake. His chilly hand will bear you away. Your life will cease. You will be numbered with the dead. The grave will cover you. You will moulder in the dust...Others will take your place. Your name will fade. The sun will rise, as before. Nature will still put on her blithesome robe. The birds will sing. The earth will bear her fruits. Man will go forth to toil—to pleasure and to sin. Your absence will make no lasting void. All will go on, as though you had never lived.”

-The Scriptures speak of death as an _____ (1 Corinthians 15:26). Oh, how evil Satan is that he knew death would come to man but thought so little of and was filled with such hatred for man that he wanted him to be slave to death. It is truly an enemy an enemy that men are held in bondage to by fear. (Hebrews 2:15)

-With such a foul fiend on the loose, with such a powerful destroyer set against us, what can man do...can man ever be rescued and delivered from such a ruthless enemy?

-This is a very important question-one that is of utmost importance-since it is a question that all of us must know the answer to. This question has plagued man from the beginning. And we see this question plaguing man throughout the pages of Scripture. But the Scriptures are not _____. In the pages of Scripture we find a group of women struggling with this very question going to a grave 2000 years ago only to be startled out of their grief-stricken stupor by a heavenly being who declares of Jesus, “He is not here He has risen.” Death had been defeated!

-There were others in Scripture who were brought back from the dead. However, this was the first time that death had been utterly _____. Death no longer had a claim on Jesus of Nazareth. He was raised and glorified.

-There is _____ who stands over Death, and His Name is Christ Jesus the Lord and all authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Him and He must reign until all things are brought under His feet-including Death. (1 Corinthians 15:25-26 & Revelation 20:14)

-There is a Victor and death _____ be defeated or else Christ would not be the Conqueror who goes forth Conquering (Rev. 19)

3. This line is important because (3) in it is tied our hope

-Paul summarized His preaching as being about the _____ of the resurrection (Acts 23:6, 24:14-15, 26:6-8).

-The hope of our redemption is not simply in the salvation of our souls but tied in is the hope of being like Christ-in a glorified resurrected body (this is the doctrine of _____).

-“Glorification has in view the destruction of death itself. It is to dishonor Christ and to undermine the nature of the Christian hope to substitute the blessedness upon which believers enter at death for the glory that is to be revealed when “this corruptible will put on incorruption and this mortal put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:54)...We who have the firstfruits of the Spirit ‘groan within ourselves,’ the apostle reminds us, ‘waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body’ (Rom. 8:23). That is glorification. It is the complete and final redemption of the whole person when in the integrity of body and spirit the people of God will be conformed to the body of Christ’s glory. God is not the God of the dead but of the living and therefore nothing short of _____ to the full enjoyment of God can constitute the glory to which the living God will lead His redeemed.” -John Murray, “Redemption Accomplished and Applied”, pg. 175