

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

“And the life everlasting. Amen”

1. Life everlasting is the goal of our salvation

-The Creed, here, is not simply talking about never ending life but specifically has in mind the glorious _____ of the children of God. Packer writes, “When the Creed speaks of ‘the life everlasting,’ it means not just endless existence (demons and lost souls have that), but the final joy into which Jesus entered and which He promised and prayed that His followers would one day share.” (pg. 146) The life everlasting is the wonderful inheritance that is in-store for all of those who are united to Christ.

-This is a fitting end to the Creed since this is also the end of our salvation. All of the elements of our salvation are leading us to this end-life everlasting. God had this end in-mind from the very beginning. This is what we were ultimately _____ unto.

-When answering the question of “What are the elect chosen unto?” Thomas Boston wrote, “They are chosen to be partakers of everlasting life. Hence the scripture speaks of some being ‘ordained to eternal life,’ Acts xiii. 48. and of ‘appointing them to obtain salvation,’ 1 Thess. v. 9. God appoints some to be rich, great, and honorable, some to be low and mean in the world; and others to be in a middle station, objects neither of envy nor contempt; but electing love appoints those on whom it falls to be saved from sin, and all the ruins of the fall; its great view is to eternal glory in heaven. To this they were _____ before they had a being.”-Thomas Boston, “*Of Election to Everlasting Life*”

-The Christian hope has this “end” in focus. The hope of the believer is not simply that they will be raised from the dead (the Creed could not stop there) but that they are raised to the _____ of life with God forevermore (as a whole person-body and soul).

2. The joy of life everlasting

- What will life everlasting be like? When answering this question according to Scripture we have little information to go on. We know that it will be an existence filled with _____. This joy will flow from being with the Lord, His people, and being freed from the disappointments and evils of life.

-The theme of joy rings out in the answer to question 58 of the Heidelberg Catechism which asks, "What comfort do you receive from the article 'life everlasting?'" Answer: "That, inasmuch as I now feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, I shall after this life possess complete _____, such as eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, therein to praise God forever."

"We cannot visualize heaven's life, and the wise man will not try. Instead he will dwell on the _____ of heaven, which is that there the redeemed find all their heart's desire-joy with their Lord, joy with His people, and joy in the end of all frustration and distress and the supply of all wants." (Packer, 148)

-Life everlasting will be filled with joy because we will be with the Lord. "Being with Jesus is the essence of heaven; it is what the life everlasting is all about." (Packer, 146) When all sin is finally removed from us (body and soul) then we will truly love the Lord rightly and such full love will _____ to full joy.

-Life everlasting will be filled with joy because we will be with God's people. Sin no longer will corrupt our relationships. We will not be envious, rude, unloving, unkind, forgetful, etc. Everything that now hinders and damages our communion together will be gone. On this side of death none of us have ever or will ever experience a perfect relationship with another person. In glory all of our relationships will be _____. In glory we will be filled with joy not only because we are together but also just as we are filled with joy that we are with the Lord so we will equally be filled with joy that others are experiencing the presence of the Lord.

-Quote from Anselm

-Life everlasting will be filled with joy because all that now hinders our joy will be gone. There will be no pain, sin, destruction, etc. The former things will have _____ and the effects and consequences of the curse will be no more.

"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. 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.' And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'"

Revelation 21:3-5