

THIS I BELIEVE

INTRODUCTION

As we welcome each other back into our DGroup, we are excited to start off this new season with the new sermon and study series, **THIS I BELIEVE**. We will journey through the basic teachings of Christianity based on the ancient document, *Apostle's Creed*. The Apostles' Creed is worth knowing today perhaps more than ever. In a time when our relentless individualism suggests that each person should arrive at his or her own conclusions about Scripture, the creed gives us a historically proven way to study scripture. The creed is, in many ways, a distillation of scripture; each of the statements within the creed may not represent a particular chapter and verse, but each statement is rooted in a recurring truth within Scripture as a whole. Further, the creed helps us to identify the core beliefs of the Christian faith, giving all Christian denominations a common reference point. In a world that so desperately needs the Gospel, churches of every kind need to find ways to rally together, finding unity in what is essential, and offering charity in all else; the creed helps us to identify what is essential.

The Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. 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.

DISCUSSION

- Have you learned anything new about the Apostle's Creed from this sermon?
- What topic in the creed are you most looking forward to discuss?
- Do you think the creeds still have a role to play in your personal life and the life of the church?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:6-12.
 1. What did you learn about the importance of knowing what and who you believe?
 2. The creed centers on the person of Jesus. Why do you think does Jesus take much of the Creed's content?
 3. How can this Creed help you live an effective Christian life in these modern times? Describe what our society is like and why is having a strong foundation faith crucial to your existence?
 4. What is the connection between knowing your beliefs and fanning faith into flame?

PRAYER TIME

- Pray for greater personal desire to grow deeper in your knowledge about what you believe and a greater love for Jesus.
- Pray for someone this week whom you can invite to church so they can know whom you know.
- Pray for those whose faith has grown cold to be set on fire for God again.
- Pray for our Church that each of us will be driven, effective in reaching our community for Christ.