

TALK IT OVER

The Apostle's Creed is deep and there's a lot to process. How is that going for everyone? What are things you're wrestling with? (We want to shepherd our few really well. Hold people accountable to what God is calling them to but do so out of love.)

Read the Apostles Creed together (Found on 3r page & we are focusing in today on the second sentence) and then Colossians 1 (Passage is on 2nd page. This is a letter to the early church, from Paul, in Colossae. Chapter 1 speaks to the supremacy of Jesus the Messiah). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (Pastor Brad read a quote talking about Jesus being the centerpiece of Christianity. Have you ever thought of it like that? Does that change anything for you? Why/Why not? Which of the 4 words struck you the most? Identity/Ancestry/Prophecy/Supremacy? Have you ever heard teaching on these before? What about the odds of one person fulfilling a prophecy? What do these say to you about God? About Jesus?)
- What did you learn about people? (Pastor Brad read a quote from theologian Charles Spurgeon about the impossibility of us understanding the infinite God. The quote ends with- "if we could understand Him, then He would not be divine." What are your thoughts on that? Which of the 4 words do you have the most trouble with and why? What do you think most people struggle with- in relation to the 4 words? Why do you think that is? Why are people so quick to say "Jesus was a good teacher but he wasn't God"? What do you think of the argument of C.S. Lewis saying Jesus is a liar, lunatic or lord?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (Have you surrendered to the 4 words in your life? Which ones are you holding back from? Why is that? Which ones have you accepted as truth?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (Who you say Jesus is, is the load bearing wall in your personal faith. What steps do you need to take personally? What are you wrestling with? Are you ready to be disciple or to start discipling others?)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read John 19. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read. Ask if anyone is interested in our Child Dedication service on March 29th.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

² We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters^[a] in Christ.

May God our Father give you grace and peace.

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-

worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.^[b] ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,^[c] ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom^[d] and forgave our sins.

Christ Is Supreme

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,^[e]

¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead.^[f]

So he is first in everything.

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,

²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

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²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Paul's Work for the Church

²⁴ I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.

²⁵ God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. ²⁶ This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. ²⁷ For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

²⁸ So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect^[g] in their relationship to Christ. ²⁹ That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

Apostles 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 the dead.

On 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.**