

# CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 22

"Affirming the Creed,  
Affirming the Scripture"

26 July 2020

## Introduction: The same old story?

- We are at times prone to seasons of dryness in our spiritual lives. Perhaps we start to think that we have simply heard it all before and we find biblical teaching redundant or boring.
- The communion of saints is a gift to us because it rescues us from thinking our lives are primarily about us and reminds us that we are all a part of a greater story that God is unfolding in the world.

1 Cor. 12:27—Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Key Point:** Although secondary authorities are of great value in teaching the faith and guarding against error, any authority that they possess must be derived from \_\_\_\_\_, the ultimate authority for Christian faith and practice.

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY  
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,  
AND IN JESUS CHRIST  
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,  
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,  
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE DEAD  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE  
FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THERE HE SHALL 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.

## On Secondary Authorities

### Their Legitimacy and Value

2 Tim. 3:10-11a—<sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings...

2 Tim. 3:14—But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it...

- They inform our \_\_\_\_\_ (What are we to \_\_\_\_\_?)
- They inform our \_\_\_\_\_ (How are we to \_\_\_\_\_?)

### Their Limitations

#### 1. Creeds are often general where Scripture is specific.

⇒ Substitutionary \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor. 5:21—For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thess. 4:16-17—<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

#### 2. There are often significant doctrines which are not addressed by the creeds.

⇒ The Christian \_\_\_\_\_

Gal. 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 1:27—So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

**Key Point:** Recognizing both their value and limitations, we do well to make use of secondary authorities in order that we might be disciplined by Christ within the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints.

## Our Primary Authority

2 Tim. 3:15-17—<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

### Important Considerations

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (3:15)

⇒ Scripture shows us both our need and God's provision in order that we will trust Christ for \_\_\_\_\_!

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (3:16a)

⇒ Since Scripture comes from God Himself, it bears His \_\_\_\_\_!

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (3:16b-17)

⇒ Having led us to Christ, Scripture also equips us to live as His \_\_\_\_\_!

## Concluding Thoughts

### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of those who have gone before us are of great value for our faith and practice.

“Acknowledging the [secondary] authority of the creeds means that, on the one hand, we confess them precisely because they are accurate summaries of Scripture. On the other hand, it also means that [secondary] creedal authority is a communal and ecclesial balance that acts as a check against any of our mistaken, individual interpretations. Understanding creedal authority this way is thus an exercise in seeing how the creeds ask us to return to Scripture rather than depart from it. At minimum, it says to the interpreter who questions a creedal phrase, ‘search the scriptures again, and do so with the communion of the saints.’”

—Matthew Y. Emerson, *He Descended to the Dead: An Evangelical Theology of Holy Saturday*

### 2. It is to Scripture, however, that we must look as our final \_\_\_\_\_ for what we as Christians are to believe and how we are to live.

1 Pet. 1:16-21—<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.