

Apostles' Creed Series: Clearing Your Conscience
Sermon Notes, February 26, 2017
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"I believe in . . . Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who . . . suffered . . . was crucified, dead and buried, descended into hell"

In Past Weeks – WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE

- The suffering, crucifixion and death of Jesus, God's only Son, seems at first to make no sense (why would God choose to die? 1 Corinthians 1:23)
 - But the writings of the prophet Isaiah (especially Is.52:13-53:12) becomes the primary lens through which the death of Jesus was understood by his first followers as *a death with a purpose: a death for us.*
1. Christ's death on the cross reveals **who God is**
 - *Amazing Love* (2 Corinthians 5:14)
 - *Holy and Just* (Habakkuk 1:13)
 2. Christ's death on the cross reveals **who we are**
 - *glorious* (made in God's image. Genesis 1:26)
 - *rebels* (ignoring or disobeying God's will. Isaiah 53:6)
 - *worthy of death* (alienation from God. Isaiah 59:2)
 3. Christ's death on the cross is **where the Love and Justice of God meet for us**
 - Problem: Sin must be judged (or God will send the message that moral accountability really doesn't matter to him)
 - Problem: If our sin is judged, we're in trouble -- all will be condemned to eternal death!
 - Solution: In love and justice, God bears our rightful judgment instead of us, in our place, in the death of Jesus.

This Week – WHAT WE MUST DO (Hebrews 10:11-25)

If the message of the Cross is at the heart of God's purpose, we must respond to this truth

1. By entering into a **covenant contract** with God, just as God has entered into a covenant contract with us (Heb.10:16)
2. By allowing the message of the cross to re-shape our **confidence and consciences** individually (Heb.10:19-23)
3. By **creating and participating in a community** that grows more like the Jesus revealed in the cross (Heb.10:24-25)

Questions

1. Where is the "cross" in your faith? -- on a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high)
2. Can you remember and share a time when you came to see more clearly than before, that Jesus died both for you (in love), and instead of you (as your atonement)?
3. How would Christian faith be different without the cross?
4. How does the cross help you see who GOD is?
5. How does the cross help you see who YOU are?
6. How does the cross help you see how you are to live your life as a follower of Christ?
 - a. How does it affect your commitment to Christ?
 - i. both within you, and in your life with others?
 - b. How does it affect your Conscience and Confidence?
 - i. Is your conscience under-active or over-active?
 - c. How does it affect your commitment to Christian Community? What can Christian do in and ain from community that they cannot do or gain alone?
7. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; 2:1-5. The Apostle Paul writes:**

18For ***the message about the cross*** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.
22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but ***we proclaim Christ crucified***, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, ***Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***
2:1-5 2When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2For ***I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*** 3And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

In what ways is the message of the cross (1) foolishness?
(2) Wisdom? (3) Power? (see 2 Cor. 2:19)