

Life Group Notes

Sunday 23rd April 2023

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Title: The Apostles' Creed: And He will come to judge the living and the dead

Passage: -

We continued in our sermon series looking at the Apostles Creed by looking at the final piece about Jesus.

He will come... Jesus is coming again, (Matt 16v27, Matt 25v31, John 14v3, 1 Thess 4:14 & 16). Not as a spiritual entity but as a person, not as a feeling or an experience but physically. His coming will be sudden – yes there are signs but we will not know when exactly it will be. Although there is lots of debate around the time and circumstances of his return, the truth we can all hold onto is that he is coming. We cannot delay it, even though our lives may be going very well, nor can we bring it any quicker even if we long for it with all our heart. But the day is coming, and it will be sweet release to everyone who is found in him.

To judge... He is coming to judge. There is no confusion in the bible as to who the judge on the final day will be – it is Jesus. Jesus himself said this is the case in John 5 v 22-23 & 26-29 and the apostles were also expecting this to be the case Peter in Acts 10 v 42 and Paul writing to Timothy (2 Tim 4v1). His judgment will be for unbelievers and unbelievers, and it will be sobering for all. Jesus talks about a moment of separating the sheep and the goats. They are separated to receive a different judgement. The sheep will be the believers – they will be judged according to their works after salvation. The judgment will not be about salvation that is sorted, but it will be about rewards. For unbelievers, the goats, their judgment will determine the severity of their punishment based on what they did in this life.

Judgment is necessary as God's holiness demands it. All sin from all time will be dealt with! We don't have to carry around other people's sin against us in unforgiveness, we can forgive knowing that one day justice will come. We don't have to fear that moment of judgment. There will be no surprises, we are forgiven. We will not be shamed – there will be no big screen reveal of our sins. Yes, the books will be opened but we are in the book of life as followers of Jesus.

The living and the dead... Jesus is coming to judge all peoples of all times in all places. It will be a total judgment. We cannot take the day off or go sick. No one escapes the judgment, All will be judged. Both those who have died and those who are alive. In order for the absolute shalom of God to reign, all sin needs to be dealt with and all sinners punished.

Friends, Jesus is our greatest prize, our greatest treasure. This will be a great moment of hope for all those who are in Christ. Nothing can compare to that moment.

Suggested Questions:

1. What did you hear on Sunday that was new for you or a good reminder?
2. How does this part of the creed cause us to have hope?
3. What does this part of the creed tell us about God?
4. How can our understanding of these truths help us in our local mission?