



## NEVER LOSE SIGHT

by Doy Moyer

Arrogance and haughtiness do not appeal to God's people. Rather, humility and love do, for this is what characterizes our Lord; this is the way of the cross. We must not applaud the conceit and selfish ambition of those in powerful positions lest we find ourselves bowing to the idols that are the fruit of such arrogance and power.

When Daniel came face to face with the arrogance and power of Nebuchadnezzar, he was respectful, but he declared the truth that there was a kingdom much greater than anything Nebuchadnezzar could imagine. When Daniel's three friends faced the idol that came from Nebuchadnezzar's selfish ambition, they would not bow down. They chose the path of ridicule and suffering over the ease of kowtowing to the one who thought of himself as the greatest ruler ever. Only God would exalt the humble.

It doesn't matter how much Nebuchadnezzar did for Babylon: "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" Babylon may have "great," and Nebuchadnezzar may have been powerful, but his arrogance brought him down and marked him as God's enemy. He was still accountable to the God of gods, and he had to be brought low to recognize this. It has ever been so.

Christians are never to lend support to evil, and they are not puppets for the arrogant and powerful. The conceited rulers, no matter what they accomplish, are still enemies of the cross of Christ—and this contrast is vital to understand for Christians trying to maneuver through a fallen world. For these enemies,

*"Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself"* (Phil 3:19-21).

Never lose sight of our ultimate allegiance.

## ON CREEDS

by Don Hooton

"Creed," from the Latin *credo*, is "a brief, authoritative doctrinal formula, intended to define at certain points what is held by a congregation, a synod, or a church to be true and essential, and exclude what is held to be false belief" (Webster's).

Philip Schaff (*Creeds of Christendom*, 1: 4), says, "A creed may cover the whole ground of Christian doctrine and practice, or contain only such points as are deemed fundamental and sufficient, or as have been disputed. It may be

*declarative, or interrogative in form."*

In the *Campbell-Rice Debate on Creeds* (773, 778), Rice said that "A creed is intended to be a public declaration of the great doctrines and truths which we, as a body, understand the Bible to teach. It is not a substitute for the Bible, nor an addition to it." And "It is a standard of ministerial qualifications, as well as of the qualifications of other church officers." He goes on, "Presbyterians have deemed it wise to draw up an outline of the doctrines and truths they understand the Scriptures to teach, and to require all who seek the office of the ministry at their hands, to state distinctly whether they so understand them."

In the Apostles' Creed (*Symbolum Apostolorum*) used in Western churches, both Catholic and Protestant, reflects traditions affirmed *officially* by the entire Church in the Nicene Creed. Even the Athanasian Creed, addressing the orthodoxy of the Trinity in its first release and in its second, the incarnation and the two-natures doctrine of Jesus, has been posted on a Christian Reformed Church website that concludes, "one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully."

Today, many think creeds are synonymous with false doctrines. Yet, instead, they were not collections of false teachings but were instigated **to identify what should be called false**. Creeds think they unify belief by dividing out those who would not agree. Instead, they are the opposite of Jesus' plea. The question is not should we write out a list of what "I believes" but rather, what value will the ultimately serve to lasting fellowship.

According to historian Philip Schaff, the "Apostles' Creed" was inserted in a letter from Marcellus of Ancyra (AD 341) "with a view to prove his orthodoxy" (*Creeds of Christendom*, Vol. 2:48).

Moses E. Lard said, "Aside even from anything a human creed may contain, we condemn it..." "The degrees of approximation to truth are not the point. The thing itself is an apostasy" (Lard's Quarterly, Vol. 1, p. 600).

Alexander Campbell says, "I object to all human creeds as terms of communion. They are a source of division" (*Christian Baptist*, II, 44).

Well-meaning people create such questions often to ascertain another's orthodoxy unaware of how it ultimately leads to creedalism. Yet, history has shown that when men decide the standards to determine orthodoxy, they become practitioners of the very thing they oppose—practicing what the Bible has not authorized. While holding there is "one faith" (Jude 3) and "testing the spirits whether they are from God" (1John 4:1), we should abandon checklists of orthodoxy that in essence become creeds in purpose—if not in reality—in deed.

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Dehbrenda Preuss' dad, Bill Harrison, is in Oakbend Hospital in Sugarland (Oakbend County) with a lack of nutritional intake. He is a regular room and gaining strength to go home for more treatments.
- Jamie Yancy's cousin, Grey McKellar, who is like a brother, had a heart attack and had stint placed Sunday. In Conroe ICU with a lot of damage and a large clot being addressed with Heparin drip. Prayers needed.
- Rommie Back is scheduled for a second opinion video conference this upcoming Monday with a doctor at Methodist (Houston) for a bypass surgery option.
- ECONOMIC CHALLENGES. There are still some of our church family who have had pay-cuts, furloughs and job loss. Please let the Elders know. There are many who are ready to help.
- See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

## GATHERINGS UPDATE

- Sunday Worship Assemblies Worship In-Person Worship In-Person (8:30 or 10:00 am) and LiveStream, August 23 rd .
- Reserved seating is for members, those who regularly attend with us and their guests. Reserved seating is repeated week to week based on the recent Sunday's assignments. Let us know if you 1) will be out of town, 2) are changing your time slot (from last Sunday) or, 3) if you will have more than your family. If you will not be present on Sunday, PLEASE let us HEAR FROM YOU that you will not keep your regular reservation and when you will need seating again for the 8:30 or 10:00 am service. If you would like to mail your contribution, send to 1500 Wellman Road, Shenandoah, TX 77384.
- Beginning September 6, we will adjust the seating arrangements. Seating will change from reserved for specific people to reserved for a maximum number on a first come-first seated basis. In other words, pews will be marked with a maximum seating (and a chart will be emailed to you as well as posted in

the members only area in the website) and is available for whoever arrives first. No seat will be assigned to a specific family after August.

- UPDATE on Mid-Week Bible Classes: Beginning in September, weekly Bible classes that meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will resume *with the same recommendations for safe gatherings*. What this means:
  - The Tuesday class will meet in the auditorium, self-seated and in recommended spacings.
  - The Wednesday Night Bible Class for the Adults will meet in the auditorium, self-seated and in recommended spacings.
  - The Classes for children and young people will meet in their rooms, adjusted to enhance social distanced seating as well as sanitized regularly. The decision was made primarily because some schools are resuming in-class instruction. We will, however, watch carefully to keep safety as our top protocol

## VIRTUAL SCHEDULE (through August):

- Sunday Worship | LiveStream on Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Kids BIBLE CLASS MATERIAL is available for pickup the hallway outside of classroom #1
- Sunday Class | Songs Outside the Psalter | LiveStream on Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Class | 11:9: The Psalm of the Word | LiveStream on Wednesdays, 6:00 pm.
- High School Classes (ages 13-18) | Available via ZOOM.

## FALL BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

- **ADULT CLASS** | *FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers)* | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium (distanced seating) and LiveStreamed with access on our website and YouTube Channel.
- **WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK MEETING**
  - **ADULT CLASS** | *BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS* | Auditorium with access on our website and our YouTube Channel

- **YOUTH CLASSES** | Continuing Curriculum from the Fall | in classrooms
- **MONTHLY** | *"Building Strong Families"* | contact the elders for more info. Those who have attended in the past, please let us know if you prefer ZOOM only or InPerson meeting beginning in September.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- 2:52 Kids Class [2-12] | (TBA)
- TEENS STUDY [13-18] | (TBA)
- YOUNG ADULTS | (ZOOM study TBA)
- TEEN DEVO [12-18] | (TBA)
- ADULT STUDY [30/40] | (TBA)
- BARNABAS GROUP | See Leo Betancourt
- MEETING with Daniel Broadwell | 9/21-23 new date. For those who notice the different date and had scheduled work or travel around the previously advertised date for an earlier week, I apologize for the confusion.
- WOMEN'S DAY with Carmen Betton | 10/10

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- **Week Thirty-Three** (beginning 8/23)
  - Read Psalm 33, 83, 133
  - Memorize Psalm 133:1-3
- **Signup for weekly reminders at** <https://www.remind.com/join/weeklymemo>

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
High School ZOOM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	<b>11</b>	n/a	<b>6</b>
Sunday Worship AM	<b>95</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>82</b>
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	n/a	<b>16</b>	n/a	<b>20</b>
Youth Lectures	Total	<b>728</b>	avg per speaker	<b>62</b>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE	8:30 AM   Aug 30	10:00 AM   Aug 30	Contact Information
<i>Communion Preparation</i>	G/L Chapman	G/L Chapman	<b>Elders</b>
<i>Sound Booth</i>	C. Latson	C. Latson	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
<i>Foyer 1/Greeting</i>	C. Preuss	D. Osteen	George Chapman 281.298.1303
<i>Foyer 2/Usher</i>	S. Dargan	C. Ford	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
<i>Song Leading</i>	L. Betancourt	K. Arrants	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
<i>1st Prayer</i>	G. Hodges	B. Cleek	<b>Deacons</b>
<i>Scripture Reading</i>	J. Beigle—2 Peter 1:1-8	N. Shows—Acts 11:1-18	John Beighle 806.367.3389
<i>Communion</i>	M. Harvey	A. Stilts	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
<i>Bread</i>	n/a	n/a	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
<i>Fruit of Vine</i>	n/a	n/a	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
<i>Contribution</i>	n/a	n/a	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
<i>Assist</i>	n/a	n/a	<b>Evangelists</b>
<i>Assist</i>	n/a	n/a	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
<i>Preaching</i>	D. Hooton	D. Hooton	<b>Website</b>
<i>2nd Prayer</i>	C. Chapman	P. Harshman	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
<i>Announcements</i>	B. Blankenship	A. Suarez	<b>Office Phone</b>
<i>InterService Clean—Foyer /Bath</i>	N/T Davis	J/M Chegin	281.367.2099
<i>InterService Clean—Auditorium</i>	A/S Bohanan	N/C Shows	<b>Church Email</b>
<i>DOORS Open @8   Lockup @11:30</i>	D. Hooton	M Chandler	Woodlandchurchofchrist@gmail.com