



Hold Fast To Faith | Part 3

2 Corinthians 13:5-14

Message by Rev. Dr. Nathan Weaver

Hold Fast to the Faith: Part 3 - June 2023

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. 7 But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. 8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. 10 For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

Today we are digging into part III of a sermon series through the Nicene Creed.

The Creed "does" a few things for Christians. It provides the very basic definition of what one must believe in order to be a Christian. It gives a boundary around the faith. It also gives a way to promote true unity in an incredibly diverse body of Christ. Our calling is not to be uniform--where we all look, think, and act identically-- but rather we are called to be united. My favorite analogy for unity comes from music. Uniformity is like a melody--where we all sing the exact same pitches. Unity is more like harmony where various pitches work together to create a beautiful song. The Nicene Creed gives us a common song for us to sing in our own ways.

Previously we have covered:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven.

This week the sermon covers:

[He] was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

Questions:

1. How can Christians be united when they have such diverse backgrounds, opinions, and experiences?
2. Why are the virgin birth and resurrection essential beliefs?
3. Why is Pontus Pilate referenced in the Nicene Creed?
4. What is Jesus doing now that he has ascended into heaven?



