

Monday: A Summary of the Truth

By Kurt Selles

Scripture Reading — Jude 1-4, 17-21

I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.



Some people object to creeds in the church, saying, “I believe in God, but I only accept the truth of the Bible.” Though the Apostle’s Creed isn’t printed in the Bible, it faithfully summarizes the Bible’s teaching.

Jude’s short letter reveals the need for a summary of the truth. In his day there was an urgent need to defend the truth about Jesus

Christ. In some ways like us today, people in the first century faced a swirling clash of ideas and claims about truth and religion, and it was easy to be misled by false teachings. Jude, an early church leader who was also a brother of Jesus, saw that false teaching threatened to mislead the church. He urged believers to hold on to the truth entrusted to them.

God the Holy Spirit, using the eyewitness accounts of Jesus’ apostles, forged the truth that we find in the New Testament. Then, from the days of the early church through the next few centuries, leaders and teachers summarized the main points of that truth as they taught new believers who were preparing for baptism. And by around the fourth century, a general statement emerged that has become known as the Apostles’ Creed.

Our grasp of God’s truth can still be threatened today. When we say the Apostles’ Creed, we are reciting God’s eternal truth to help us stand firm in our faith in Christ, and we do so with believers down through the centuries and around the world.

Lord, may your eternal truth shape us today as we share it with the world. Amen.

Tuesday: A Living Hope

By Douglas MacLeod

SCRIPTURE READING — 1 PETER 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. . . .

These words of Peter remind me of the need for training and practice in all kinds of sports, music programs, drama, dance, and more. Athletes, musicians, actors, dancers, and others all practice and train so that when the time comes to play or perform, they are ready.

Peter's advice is sort of like a pep talk to early Christians in the Roman Empire. He writes to encourage them to give praise to God and to focus on all the good things God has promised in Christ. "In his great mercy," God has given "new birth into a living hope" through Jesus' resurrection—and this includes "an inheritance that can never . . . fade." Peter knew that some believers in Christ were facing hardships and persecution because of their faith, so he wanted to remind them of these reasons to praise God.



My first reaction to spiritual trouble might be to complain, curse the world, or even question God's care. Peter's regimen is to exercise our worship muscles and to offer praise to God—to stay in spiritual shape. In other words, hard times require training, and we can train best by praising God for all he has done to save us.

Here is a spiritual tip: In light of Easter and the resurrection, practice praising God now so that when tougher times come, you will be prepared to do what you need to do!

Source: <https://todaydevotional.com/>

Wednesday: Breaking the Barrier

By Douglas MacLeod

SCRIPTURE READING — 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.



Barriers such as walls, fences, and locked doors can serve to protect us. Or, on the other hand, they can also exclude us or keep us out. Maybe you know what it feels like to be “locked out.” We can be locked out of a room, prevented from access to education or career advancement, or banned from a social group. Being locked out can be hurtful.

When people sinned, that broke their relationship with God, creating a huge barrier that could not be crossed. So instead of being able to enjoy life forever with God, they were cut off. Sin brought struggle, toil, sorrow, disease, and death. Through Adam, the first man representing the whole human race, sin and death came into the world, and no one could break through the barrier.

So God sent his Son, Jesus, to become human and to live among us without sin. He succeeded where Adam had failed, and Jesus gave his own life to pay the debt of all our sin. By doing this, he broke through the barrier of death for us, and by his resurrection he opened for us the path to new life. Because of Jesus, we can now have full life with God forever.

When we feel hopeless and left out of God’s love, and when we realize we cannot gain eternal life because our sin is a barrier separating us from God, Jesus breaks through that barrier and changes everything.

Thank you, Jesus, for opening to us the pathway to life today and forever. Amen.

Source: <https://todaydevotional.com/>

Thursday: A Hopeful Curiosity

By Douglas MacLeod

SCRIPTURE READING — ACTS 17:24-32



When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

In our reading today from Acts 17, the apostle Paul was preaching in Athens, Greece, about Jesus and

the resurrection. Paul told the people that he could tell they were very religious because there were statues and shrines and temples to gods in every part of the city. There was even “an altar with this inscription: ‘to an unknown god’” (Acts 17:16-23). So Paul used that idea to tell his listeners about God the Father and Jesus the Son, whom the people of Athens did not know yet.

In this way Paul shared the good news that God, who created everything, now calls on people everywhere to repent of their sin, because he sent his Son, Jesus, to pay the price for all our sin. Jesus gave up his life on a cross for our sake even though he had committed no sin. And then God proved his power over sin and death by raising Jesus from the dead.

Though Paul’s words were dismissed by some of the people who heard him, others were curious and wanted to hear more.

The gospel can be sneered at—or, with a hopeful curiosity, we can ask to hear more about the wonderful things God has done for us by raising Jesus from the dead.

Lord of life, though we do not understand everything about the resurrection, give us a hopeful curiosity about all that it means for us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Source: <https://todaydevotional.com/>

Friday: You Are Who God Says You Are

By Douglas MacLeod

SCRIPTURE READING — 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-6:2

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! . . . Now is the day of salvation.

A Christian magazine invited readers to summarize the gospel in seven words or less. People sent in lots of good suggestions, and here is one I remember: “We are who God says we are.”

I like that because it means I am not defined by social or cultural categories—such as education, age, finances, sexual identity, political view, body image, Facebook likes, busyness, or even how I feel about myself on a given day. This is true for each one of us. It means we are not defined in terms of what others say we are—or even first of all by categories that we might choose. Instead, we are who God—our Creator and Father who raised Jesus from the dead—says we are.

As believers in Christ, we are part of a new creation. We are all beloved, forgiven, and blessed children of God. We are reconciled to God, who calls us to share this message with others. God calls us to be like ambassadors, who represent their nation as they live in another nation. We are called to represent God’s new creation as we work with God to bring his love into this world.

We are who God says we are. Since Christ has risen, a new creation has come, and all who believe in him are a part of it. And in God’s strength we can share this life-giving news with everyone, saying, “Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”



Lord, thank you for making us a new creation in Christ. Help us to share this good news for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Source: <https://todaydevotional.com/>