

I. Text from the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in....the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

1. The Creed closes by focusing on the glories of the Gospel

i. Our Present Reality: The Forgiveness of Sins

ii. Our Future Hope: Resurrected Bodies & Life Eternal

II. Our Present Reality (Lk. 23:39-43)

1. *Jesus' Prayer for Forgiveness pierces right through this hardened criminal and he receives it.*

2. *We see 5 marks of genuine conversion*

i. A Healthy and Holy Fear of God (40)

ii. Confession of Sinfulness (40-41a)

iii. Recognition of Jesus' Righteousness (41)

iv. Acknowledgement of Jesus' Lordship

v. Pleads for Jesus' Forgiveness (42)

3. *Jesus' Stunning Promise—"You're going to be with me today in Paradise."*

i. This man has been reconciled to the Lord.

ii. His destiny has been decisively changed.

iii. What has he done to earn this? Nothing.

4. *If you're a Believer, consider you present reality*

i. Completely Forgiven.

ii. Completely Reconciled

III. Our Future Hope (1 Cor. 35-43; Rev. 21:1-8; 22-22:1-7)

1. *Resurrected Bodies. Our bodies will be...*

- i. Powerful. No fatigue or weakness.
- ii. Imperishable: Won't get sick, or injured, we won't age or die.
- iii. Spiritual: Fully oriented to and filled with the Holy Spirit
- iv. Glorious: Morally without sin, physically without weakness and intellectually without falsehood or error.

2. *Life Everlasting. Our Life will be...*

- i. What was lost in Adam will be finally and fully restored.
- ii. We will dwel in harmony once again with the Lord, with the Creation and with each other!

IV. Once the glories of the Gospel captures your heart, it does three things for you.

1. *It Enables You to Live Humbly.*

- i. You've been saved not by your good works, but Christ's.
- ii. This frees you of religious pride and enables you to rest in His mercy and to live humbly with others.

2. *It Enables You to Live Confidently.*

- i. The thing you fear the most—death—is the one thing you'll never experience.
- ii. You'll take a breath and wake up in the presence of the Lord

3. *It Enables You to Live Purposefully.*

- i. We're reminded that those who trust Christ will receive resurrected bodies and live with God, while those who die without knowing Christ will receive eternal punishment and separation from God.

- ii. Therefore, our lives and relationships are incredibly important. And our goal is to live redemptively and purposefully in service to the Lord.