

Graduate Sunday 2025
“A Very Important Question”
Text: Matthew 16:13-15

I. Introduction

II. “I believe in Jesus Christ...” “

1. He is Christ.
2. He is God’s only Son.
3. He is our Lord.
4. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
5. He was born of the virgin Mary.
6. He suffered under Pontious Pilate.
7. He was crucified, dead, and buried.
8. He descended into hell.
9. He arose from the dead.
10. He ascended into heaven.
11. He sits at the right hand of God.
12. He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

III. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. Mark Jones:

The correct answer to that question is, in some respects, simple enough for a child to be saved, but also complex enough to keep theologians busy for all eternity.

2. Sinclair Ferguson:

[The ancient creeds] were written by men who had thought more deeply and often suffered more grievously than we do. They spoke out of deep love for Christ and his people, concerned for a lost world. Their testimony helps us in three ways:

- 1. It protects us by setting boundaries for our thinking.*
- 2. It instructs us by helping us see biblical truth expressed in its briefest form.*
- 3. It unites us, so that everywhere in the world, Christians can share the same clear confession of who Christ is and what he has done.*

3. Burk Parsons:

This is the aim of the ancient creeds as they pertain to the person and work of Christ; namely, to help us believe, confess, and proclaim the truth about Christ from sacred Scripture – which Christ Himself authored, fulfills, defends, and proclaims... What's more, we are living in a day when we must not only affirm them but defend them against the onslaught of heretical teachings about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

4. Stephen Charnock:

That God upon a throne should be an infant in a cradle; the thundering Creator be a weeping babe and a suffering man, are such expressions of mighty power, as well as condescending love, that they astonish men upon earth, and angels in heaven.

5. David Gibson:

- Sin against an infinite God requires an infinite payment, but a finite human cannot render this to God outside of an eternal hell... We need a Savior who is more than a man. Christ's death, because of who He is as the God-man, is of infinite value and fully satisfies the righteous demands of an infinitely holy God.*
- Theologians talk about the offering of Christ's life as his active obedience, and the offering of His death as his passive obedience, and both are necessary to save us. In His death, Christ gave Himself up and received the judicial punishment for sin (passive), but He was an acceptable offering because He was a guilt-free and wholly obedient man (active), and so was worthy of taking the place of guilt-laden, thoroughly disobedient sinners.*

6. Kevin DeYoung:

- Womb to tomb, that's how quickly the Apostle's Creed covers the life of Jesus. It skips His public ministry and goes right from His birth to His death. The Creed does not make this leap to denigrate Jesus' teaching and miracles but because those who wrote the Creed, ... not to mention Peter, John, and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles, understood that the main thing about Jesus' life was his death.*
- It should be a comfort to us in our torment that there is no hell we can face greater than the one Christ endured; that there is no one better to sympathize with our hellish moments than Christ; and that there is no one else able to save us from the wrath of God than He who has faced it already.*