

## CURRENT SERIES

### Belief

Since the earliest days of the church, followers of Jesus have united around a common belief. The Apostles' Creed is our oldest statement of faith and one that unites Christians all across the world. As we begin 2018, we're unpacking what this means for us and how we can share that with others.

## MESSAGE NOTES

### The Promise of What's Ahead

Romans 8:11, 22-25; Revelation 21:1-7 | Pastor Matthew Starner

Everyone believes \_\_\_\_\_ about the afterlife.

How does our modern world deal with death?

- We make it part of the “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- We \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Death is an \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 15:54b-55 ESV:** “Death is swallowed up in victory.”<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Jesus' victory was the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Popular Christianity has zeroed in on Heaven as the

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Revelation 6:9-11 NLT:** When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.<sup>10</sup> They shouted to the Lord and said, “O

Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.

Heaven is great, but it's not \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is exactly what we're waiting and hoping for!

**Revelation 21:1-4 NLT:** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Because this life isn't all there is, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ too great, no \_\_\_\_\_ too intense, and no \_\_\_\_\_ too immense to distract us from what lies ahead in Jesus.

# TALK IT OVER

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These discussion questions can help you take today's sermon and help you apply it to your life or find your next steps. Use these questions with your family, with friends, or in your own personal devotion time.

1. Pastor talked about a couple of ways our modern culture deals with death (making it “just a part of life” or sanitizing/befriending it). How have you experienced these realities? Have you seen our culture approach it any other ways?
2. Read Revelation 21:4. J.R.R. Tolkien paraphrased this verse as “the day everything sad will come untrue.” What does that suggest about what our future will be like with God?
3. Christians often fixate on “heaven,” but as Pastor explained, that’s a “false summit” (one that only looks like the final summit, but in reality is not). How can we help others see the ultimate summit, the New Creation, as the *real* final destination that we’re looking forward to?
4. What has caused you mourning, crying, and pain recently? What does it mean to you that this will pass away?

# THIS WEEK IN THE BIBLE

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Take today's message beyond Sunday and into the rest of your week. Read and reflect on these verses alone, with your family, or with a friend. Talk about how they apply to your life today or what God might be teaching you through His Word.

<b>Sunday</b>	Revelation 21:1-7
<b>Monday</b>	1 Corinthians 15:52
<b>Tuesday</b>	John 11:25
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 6:40
<b>Thursday</b>	Romans 8:11
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 26:19
<b>Saturday</b>	Job 19:25-26

# ONLINE NOTES

You can also take notes and engage with the message using the **YouVersion Bible** app. With **YouVersion Events** you can follow along with the message, take notes, read related Bible verses, ask questions, and more.