

The Christian's Creed By Rufus R. Clifford

If you were to ask a Christian for a copy of the "creed" or "book of rules" of the church of Christ, he could only offer you a copy of the New Testament. The only written creed the church that Christ built (Matt. 16:18) has ever had is the New Testament. It was given by inspiration of God, and is sufficient to furnish the man of God unto all good works (1Tim. 3:16-17). It meets the needs of the whole world (Mark 16:15). This is the only message we are authorized to use in the conversion of sinners (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus taught that the word of God is enduring and that by it we shall all be judged (Luke 21:33; John 12:48). The authority of Christ, as expressed in the New Testament, is the only safe guide for the church. It is sinful for the church to submit to any other authority. The Gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). James says it is able to save (James 1:21). Paul writes that it did save the Corinthians (1Cor. 15:1-2). The curse of God rests upon the man who preaches another Gospel or dares to add to or subtract from it (Gal. 1:8; Rev. 11:18-19).

In spite of the plain Bible teaching above, we find good, religious people subscribing to human creeds. Even those who subscribe to man-made creeds will not claim for them any saving power. They are but the products of human opinion and stand as barriers to the unity of religious people. Man-made creeds are based upon two wicked assumptions: (1) The New Testament is not sufficient to meet the needs and govern the people of God, (2) This supposed insufficiency can be remedied by weak, fallible, erring man. Without such assumptions there is no excuse for the making of any human creed.

Human creeds are objectionable for a number of reasons.

- 1) They are not inspired of God.
- 2) They do not meet the needs of the whole world.
- 3) They are not perfect.
- 4) They must be revised every few years.
- 5) We will not be judged by them.
- 6) They set aside and make void the word of God.
- 7) They teach many things contrary to the New Testament.
- 8) They keep people divided on the question of religion. -- Via Bible Basics

Caging the Lion

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.' This He said, signifying by what death He would die." (John 12:31-33) "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb. 2:14-15)

While on a trip to the zoo one day, a boy and his father saw a huge lion. The lion was prowling around his enclosure and letting out chilling roars. The boy became very frightened and screamed in terror, but his father remained calm and unafraid. Why? The

boy was frightened because he saw only the lion, while the father was unafraid because he saw the cage enclosing the lion.

Satan walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. However, through the work of Christ, he has his limitations. A way of escape will always be provided for those who seek it (1Cor. 10:13).

Don't Ever Give Up!

By Eddie J. Caskey

Perhaps you have started some project or job, or started toward some goal, only to go part way and then give up. Why did you quit? Was it that the task was too hard? Maybe it was too costly. Maybe you did not believe it would yield the desired results. People give up for a variety of reasons. Let us notice a few reasons why people quit on God.

Some people are like Demas, who quit on God because they love the present world (2Tim. 4:10). It may be that Demas simply lost interest in pursuing godliness, or maybe he was afraid for his life, but whatever the reason, he quit. Notice Jesus' warnings in the parable of the sower: "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" (Luke 4:18-19). John tells us that we are not to love the world or the things in it (John 2:15-17). These temporary things will drive out the love of God. Be on guard against the weeds of this life choking out the true message of Jesus Christ in your life.

Some others quit because of the sins of others. The great prophet, Elijah, fled to the mountains and felt alone after the showdown with the prophets of Baal (1Kings 18-19). He believed he was the only one left that was faithfully serving God. He wanted to give up, until God reminded him that there were 7,000 others who had not bowed their knee to Baal. God then tells Elijah, essentially, to get back to work. Let us not give in to the devil's temptation to drown ourselves in self-pity, but rather immerse ourselves in the work of the Lord.

Still others will give up because of their own sins. We remember vividly the scene in the garden of Gethsemane, when Judas Iscariot leads a well-armed multitude to arrest Jesus and lead Him to His eventual death (Luke 22). The ultimate betrayal of the traitor's kiss has burned itself into our imaginations. The effect on Judas was even more devastating. After trying unsuccessfully to return the "blood money", he hangs himself (Matt. 27:1-5). No matter how great our sin may be, let us never quit on God. Paul points out that some in Corinth were formerly fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners, yet God washed, sanctified, and justified them (1Cor. 6:9-11).

Though there may be times when others have quit on us, let us never give up on God. There was a time when Paul rejected John Mark (Acts 15:38), considering him unprofitable to the service of the Lord. Later, however, John Mark is Paul's first choice to help him (2Tim. 4:11). Don't you ever give up! You can be of service in the Lord's Kingdom.

A Moments Wisdom

A lie is a coward's way of trying to get out of trouble.
Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn.
It is twice as hard to crush a half truth as it is to crush a whole lie.
Some people are like wheelbarrows -- always needing to be pushed and easily upset.