

The Rule of Faith: Being Human in God's World

Affirmation 5 - Hope

Various Scriptures



1. The introduction to the message included a quote from C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity, *"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."* What's your perspective on why people have "largely ceased to think of the other world"?
2. Take a look at 2 Peter 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 1:20 again and talk about how we both believe the promises of God and often act like we don't.
3. In Revelation 1:5b-8 we have the promise of Christ's coming, and for those of us who believe, we acknowledge that this is the only thing that will truly satisfy us. In Lewis' words, this is "the most probable explanation" for all of our longings; namely that we were "made for another world." In what way do you see unbelievers in your life trying to fill that longing in other ways?
4. Think about your first moments in eternity. You've just died and passed into "heaven." What will those first moments be like? What will you do?
5. Holiness and service are the natural by-products of genuine faith. It is not a stretch to say that any professing Christian who is unconcerned with holiness and has no heart to serve (build up and reach out) has no claim to be saved. If this is true for you, what might need to change in your life to get to a better place?
6. What of "life's worst" might you be facing right now that you could use prayer from your fellow Life Group members to help you get a glimpse of Eden, as Tolkien suggested?
7. We wrote two creeds that match the five affirmations in *The Rule of Faith*. Recite one or the other before you break for prayer.

The Rule of Faith Creed

Short Form

We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Creator and sustainer of all things,
who speaks with final and sufficient authority
through the inspired Scriptures.

We believe God made humanity in his image,
male and female, with dignity, value, and purpose,
to know him, reflect him, and live under his loving rule.

We grieve the reality of our ruin,
knowing we are in crisis.
Born in sin, corrupted in heart,
and separated from God,
unable to save ourselves.

We believe Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God,
took on human flesh, lived in perfect obedience,
died as our substitute, bearing the wrath our sin deserved,
and that by grace alone, through faith alone may we be forgiven.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ
Because he rose, we have power
Because he reigns, we have victory
Because he renews, we have life
Because he lives in us, we are on mission.
Restored to reflect the image of Christ
and sent to live for the glory of God.

We believe Jesus will come again in power and glory.
Until that day, we rest in the sure and certain hope of his return.
Confident in every promise,
committed to holiness and service,
and encouraged through this life's worst.

This is the rule of faith:
our hope in life and death,
our confidence in a world of chaos,
and our foundation for true human flourishing.

Amen.

The Rule of Faith Creed

Long Form

We believe in God Almighty,
Three-in-one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Creator of heaven and earth,
Sustainer of all things he has made.
Glorious, holy, and perfect in all he is and does.

We believe the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God.
Breathed out by him, true and trustworthy,
essential for knowing who he is and living life for his glory in his world.
We acknowledge its standard of truth,
accept what it says about itself,

see Christ revealed on every page,
apply its wisdom to every part of life,
teach it to others,
and cherish its very words.

We believe that to be truly human is to reflect the image of God.
We were created with dignity, purpose, and value,
designed to know God, walk in his ways, and live for his glory.
We believe that our sin broke that image, and we grieve our ruin.
Sin entered the world through our rebellion,
corrupting our hearts, distorting our desires,
and separating us from the God who made us.
We are not what we were meant to be,
but by God's grace, we can be made new.

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God,
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin,
and entered our world as truly God and truly man.
He lived a sinless life, experienced our suffering,
and came to redeem us from sin and death.

We believe we are in crisis.
Not just broken, but guilty;
not merely wounded, but sinful;
without hope apart from the mercy of God.
We confess our sin and look to Jesus as our perfect substitute,
who bore our grief and carried our shame.
He died in our place, satisfying the righteous wrath of God.
There is no other way, his cross is the only hope for our salvation.

We believe in the victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.
On the third day he rose from the grave,
by the will of the Father,
in the power of the Spirit,
and by his own divine authority.
Because he rose, we have power.
Because he reigns, we are victorious.
Because he renews, we are made new.
Because he lives in us, we are sent on mission.

We believe in the sure and certain hope of Jesus' return.
We are confident that every promise of God will be fulfilled.
We anticipate the day when we will see him face to face.
Until that day, we commit to holiness and service,
and take heart in every trial, because our hope is secure in him.
Together we await the day when he will return in glory,
make all things new and bring his kingdom to fullness.

This is the rule of faith:
our hope in life and death,
our confidence in a world of chaos,
and our foundation for true human flourishing.

Amen.

Series: The Rule of Faith: Being human in God's World

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Message: Affirmation 5: Hope

Harvest Bible Chapel

Text: Various Scriptures

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Regula Fidei, The Rule of Faith, is a set of established beliefs that clarify what it means to be in Christ.

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

If I live by the rule of faith, I rest in the sure and certain hope of Jesus' coming...

...confident that every promise of God will be kept (Acts 1:6-11)

2 Peter 1:4a

2 Corinthians 1:20

Acts 1:6-11

...anticipating the moment I will see him face-to-face (Revelation 1:5b-8)

Ecclesiastes 3:11

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Revelation 1:5b-8

1 Corinthians 13:12

...committed to holiness and service in the meantime (Titus 2:11-14)

...and encouraged through this life's worst (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We all long for Eden, and we are constantly glimpsing it...our whole nature is still soaked with the sense of exile.

J. R. R. Tolkien

SERIES RESOURCES

Crisis

- [Saved From What?](#) – R.C. Sproul
- [The Secular Creed](#) – Rebecca McLaughlin
- [Deeper](#) – Dane Ortlund

Humanity

- [Why God Makes Sense in a World that Doesn't](#) – Gavin Ortlund
- [The Christian View of Man](#) – J. Gresham Machen
- [Man as the Image of God](#) – An Essay by Richard Phillips

Authority

- [Sola Scriptura - The Protestant Position on the Bible](#)
- [Taking God At His Word: Why the Bible Is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and What That Means for You and Me](#) – Kevin DeYoung

Life

- [Honest Evangelism](#) – Rico Tice
- [Holier Than Thou](#) – Jackie Hill Perry
- [The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction](#) – Sinclair Ferguson
- [Is Easter Unbelievable?](#) – Rebecca McLaughlin
- [The Case for Christ](#) – Lee Strobel

Hope

- [Mere Christianity](#) - C. S. Lewis
- [Forty days of Hope](#) - Paul Tripp
- [Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy](#) - Mark Vroegop
- [Hope in Times of Fear](#) - Tim Keller
- [Incomparable](#) - Andrew Wilson
- [The Happy Christian](#) - David Murray