

BELIEVE

Coming to Judge

Romans 2:1-6

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the tenth in our Apostles' Creed Series for the beginning of 2020 and The Lenten Season. It is also the last phrase (Coming to Judge the Quick and the dead) of the Second Movement of the Creed, the Jesus Section. I talked in my sermon last Sunday that most of the Second Movement has verbs in the past tense--conceived, born, suffered, crucified, dead, buried, descended, & ascended. Last week we looked at a phrase in the present tense, "and sitteth (sits) on the right hand of God." However, today, we look to the future—"from thence he shall come to judge the quick (living) and the dead."

1. What, in the last few weeks of your Creed Study, has surprised you, challenged you, or comforted you?
2. Growing up, did your church or your family talk about the final judgment of God? What did they say? Did those words and ideas scare you or give you hope and peace of a final just end?
3. Read Ps. 10:13-15 and Ps. 37: 1-2 & 12-13. When do we especially want judgment and Justice?
4. Read Romans 2:1-16. In verses 1-5, why does Paul say we have no excuse? Do we all judge or only a few of us?
5. In verses 6-11, what are the deeds that lead to life eternal and what are the deeds which lead to wrath and fury? Can we be saved by works/deeds or are we saved by faith in Jesus Christ? How does Eph. 2:1-10 help answer this complicated question? Note: According to Paul in Ephesians 2:10, we do works after we are saved, not in order to be saved. Does that make sense?
6. In verses 12-16, Paul seems to say that both Jew and Gentile are sinners and worthy of God's judgment? Why have the Jews failed? Why have the Gentiles? Is there any hope? Read Romans 3:23-26.
7. I ended my sermon with a quote from the Heidelberg Catechism and a story about a college exam where a student brought in an expert on the subject of the test to stand on a piece of paper. I said, "Our hope is in Jesus Christ, who is both savior and judge—at the same time." Why is that combination so important in your mind? Do you trust Him? Do you have faith in Him and His death for your sins? If you have put that decision off, why wait?

