

The Apostles' Creed?

by Wayne Goff

For those of you who don't know it, **LifeWay Bookstore** is a branch of the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 1, I received an e-mail from "LifeWay Groups Ministry" which stated "We Believe . . . The Apostles' Creed was born from the apostles' teachings. The scriptural truths contained in the creed enable us to build our Christian lives on good theology, with the knowledge that our faith is rooted in truth and a rich history." From there the e-mail suggested a group study of the Apostles' Creed using video sessions from Matt Chandler.

This should be disturbing to honest Baptists who desire to stay true to God's Word and it alone for one's faith and practice. However, Baptists have had a "creed" in addition to God's Word for decades! Many Baptists do not know this.

Notice that the statement referenced above said, "We believe the Apostles' Creed was born from the apostles' teachings..." Well, does it contain **more** than the New Testament? If so, then it contains too much because the "Apostles' Creed" has not been proven to be the inspired Word of God! Does it contain **less** than the New Testament? If so, then it does not contain enough and should be rejected. And if it contains **exactly** what the New Testament teaches, then it is unnecessary because we already have the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). You cannot improve on perfection.

The Warning!

Here is the warning that we should consider. When a church, a college, a religious hierarchy, a bookstore, or anyone else begins to suggest that something *other than God's Word* contains the authoritative message which we should follow, then they are attempting to lead us into apostasy.

This is true because the New Testament does not contain everything which these proponents need to promote their cause! Therefore they attempt to build up confidence in something other than God's Word. So beware and reject all such efforts, dear readers!

The Apostles' Creed is from unknown sources. ***Creeds of the Churches***, 3rd edition, edited by John H. Leith, says of the Apostles' Creed:

"The Apostles' Creed, according to legend, was composed by the Apostles on the tenth day after the Ascension under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The legend no doubt added prestige to the creed, but it was effectively exposed as legendary by Lorenzo Villa and subsequent scholars.... The ancestry of the Apostles' Creed can be traced to a creed that developed at Rome about the end of the second century..." (p. 22).

The faith once for all delivered to the saints was completed around the end of the first century. Therefore the Apostles' Creed is not from the apostles, nor is it the inspired Word of God.

Biblical Warnings!

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18-19).

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