

March 12 | Sunday

Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

Read Colossians 1:15-20



13 | Mon – I believe in Jesus Christ... | Read Luke 9:18-21

Although many people in the world believe in God, and other religions do acknowledge that Jesus was a real person, Christians believe that he was God's Son and our Lord. Jesus or *Yeshua* is translated as "deliverer" or "savior". This might be a good time to ask - what do you believe about Jesus? *Why* do you believe what you do? What *difference* does it make in your day-to-day life?

14 | Tue – Conceived and born... | Read Galatians 4:4, Hebrew 2:14-18 and 4:14-16

This is the part of Jesus' life we celebrate at Christmas. Christians believe that Jesus' birth was not ordinary, that the Holy Spirit caused a virgin young woman to bear a child. What is the significance of this belief that Jesus, the Son of God, lived as a human being? In difficult times, are you tempted to distrust God because...well, how does He know what it is like for us to struggle here on earth? What do these verses in Hebrews say to you?

15 | Wed – Crucified, died, buried... | Read John 10:17-18 and 13:19

Jesus told his disciples several times that he would be killed. Eyewitnesses gave the details of his death and burial. On the surface, it seems unjust that an innocent man was convicted on false testimony and condemned to death. Yet, Christians believe that Jesus' death was not meaningless, that he intentionally, and out of love, gave his life to atone for the sins of the world. If you believe this, does it change how you see yourself?

16 | Thu – Resurrected on the third day... | Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 and 12-20

Christianity is the only world religion that claims its leader came back to life, on the third day after his death, that he was seen by many witnesses, and that he is still alive today. But what if that were not true? What if Jesus lived, did miracles, taught us the right way to live and then died but did not rise again? What difference would that make? Check out what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. What do you think?

17 | Fri – Ascended into heaven... | Read Matt. 28:16-20, Acts 1:4-9

According to the gospels, Jesus' disciples saw him literally ascend into heaven after giving them final instructions and a promise that he would be with them. Imagine their feelings of sadness that he was going. Was it tempered with joy because he promised to be with them always? What important tasks are you being asked to do? How does knowing that Jesus promised to be with you affect your perspective?

18 | Sat – And will come again to... | Read John 14:1-3, Acts 1:10-11, Rev. 20:11-13

What a great hope Christians have in believing that Jesus will return! It makes hard days more bearable and gives endurance when answers are in short supply. If you believe that Jesus will come back to get you in the future, how does that impact your life now? Does it help you deal with things that don't make sense? Not only will Jesus return for you, but you will also be held accountable for your life. Does this affect how you will choose to spend your time and resources today?