The Apostles Creed

Romans 10:5-13

We just recited the Apostles Creed. This text is not in the Bible, and no, it was not written by the disciples, even though it carries their name - the APOSTLE's Creed. The present text of the Creed is similar to the baptismal creed used in the Roman Church in the 3rd and 4th centuries. It reached its final form in the early 7th century, and it replaced other baptismal creeds. All Protestant churches accept the Apostles’ Creed and use it in worship as we did today.

The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe." So what we declare in this creed, is actually what we believe, and it is important to note. Unlike in other situations, like dealing with social, business or political issues, where you can say things that you actually do not believe, with the Apostle's Creed you say what you believe, and you believe in your heart. Apostle Paul in Romans 10:9 said: "If you declare with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." The Apostles Creed therefore is the declaration of our faith. We declare with our mouth what we believe in our heart.

Faith, dear friends, has to do with our hearts, and not with our minds. When you rely on your mind, much of what the Bibles tells might not be reasonable. Does it for example make sense when Jesus says, "if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will be able to move mountains?" It does not. But with faith in your heart, yes, you will be able to move mountains of sin, hate, evil, hardships and even death from your shoulders. Does it make sense that Jesus died and was buried, but in three days He rose from the dead? Not when you think with your mind. But if you believe in your heart, you will know that Jesus was resurrected, He lives and He will return. And when He returns with His glory, both the living and the dead will be judged and those who are found righteous (with faith) will enjoy everlasting life in heaven.

Faith is in our hearts, and that is where it should be. Only for things in your heart you can say "I believe." As for things in your mind you can say "I know". The Apostle's Creed is not about things we know, but it is about things we believe. Almost everyone knows there is God, but only those who believe in Him, they are saved. With this truth in our heart let us then once again recite and say:

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.*

Amen.