

BEING CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN:

Faith and Salvation



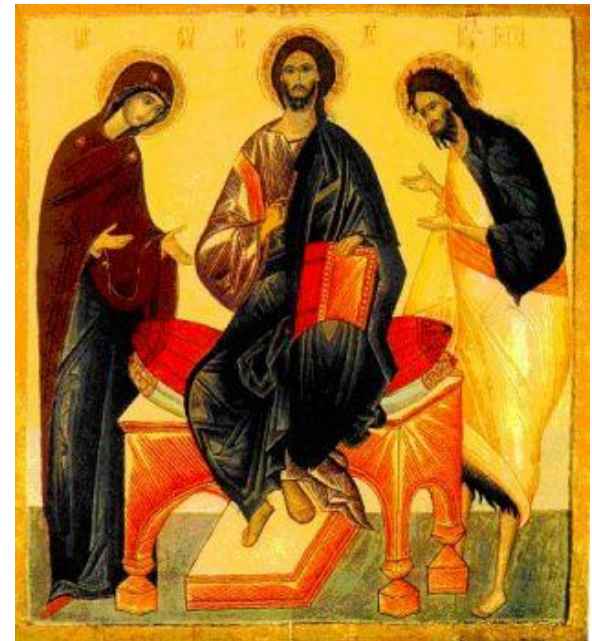
Part 1a:

**Transmission of Authoritative Doctrine
and
Apostolic Confessions of Faith**

The Transmission of Authoritative Doctrine

The historicity and authenticity of the Bible text is not a problem among Christians today. Catholic Christians affirm that **the Bible is an historical document** and that **the text we possess today is authentic.**

It is apparent from the content of **the Bible as an historical document** that matters of importance were transmitted among the early Christians.



Jude 3

Beloved, although I was making every effort to write to you about **our common salvation**, I now feel a need to write to encourage you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all **handed down to the holy ones**.

Jude 20

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in **your most holy faith**; pray in the holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:13

Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in **the faith** and love that are in Christ Jesus.

FIRST CENTURY TIMELINE

2 Timothy

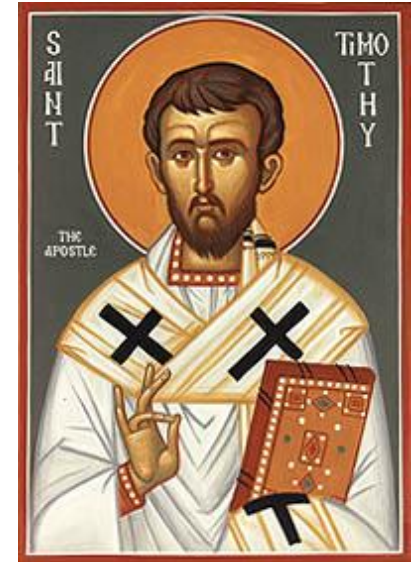
Jude

BC AD

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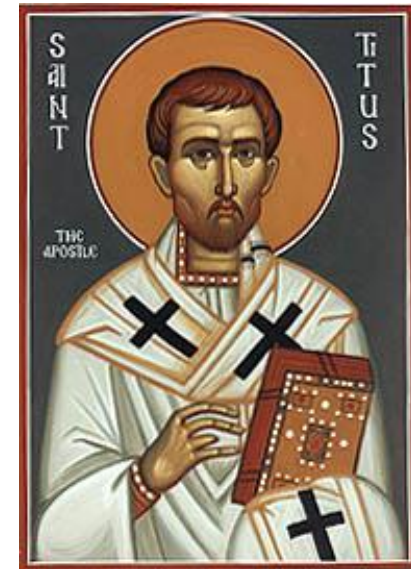
2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when people will not tolerate **sound doctrine** but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers.



Titus 1:9

...holding fast to **the true message** as taught so that he will be able both to exhort with **sound doctrine** and to refute opponents.



1 Timothy 6:20

... guard **what has been entrusted to you.**

1 Timothy
Titus

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

2 Timothy 1:14

Guard **this rich trust** with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us.

1 Timothy 4:6

If you will give these instructions to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the **words of the faith and of the sound teaching** you have followed.

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore ... reflect on Jesus, the apostle and high priest of **our confession**,

Hebrews 4:14

... let us hold fast to **our confession**.

Hebrews

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold unwaveringly to **our confession** that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

Philippians 2:15-16

...that you may be blameless and innocent ... as you **hold on to the word of life.**

Acts 5:20

Go ... and tell the people **everything about this life.**

1 John 2:24

Let **what you heard** from the beginning remain in you. If **what you heard** from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father.

Hebrews

Philippians

Acts of the Apostles

1 John

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

2 Thessalonians 2:15

Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to **the traditions that you were taught**, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours.

Romans 6:17

But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to **the pattern of teaching** to which you were entrusted.

1 Corinthians 11:23

For I received from the Lord **what I also handed on to you** .

Romans
2 Thessalonians 1 Corinthians

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

1 Corinthians 15:3

For **I handed on to you** as of first importance what I also received ...

Paul declares specifically what it is he preaches. It is a “gospel” (the Greek *euaggelion*, means “good news”).

Galatians 2:2

I went up in accord with a revelation, and I presented to them **the gospel that I preach** to the Gentiles ...

Romans 2:16

... on the day when, **according to my gospel**, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ.

1 Corinthians
Galatians
Romans

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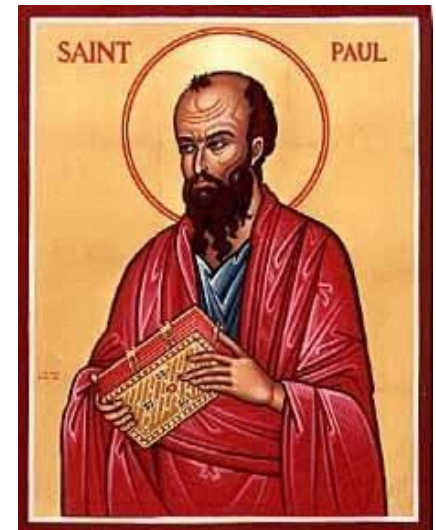
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Romans 16:25

Now to him who can strengthen you, according to **my gospel** and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery** kept secret for long ages .

1 Corinthians 15:1

Now I am reminding you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you indeed received and in which you also stand.



1 Corinthians Romans

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

For Paul, the content of the preaching is Jesus Christ.

Romans 16:25

Now to him who can strengthen you, according to **my gospel and the proclamation** of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages

1 Corinthians 1:21

For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of **the proclamation** to save those who have faith.

1 Corinthians Romans

BC AD



10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

Paul also writes of the fruit of the tradition which he preaches ... “faith.”

Colossians 2:7

... rooted in him and built upon him and established in **the faith** as you were taught ...

Galatians 1:23

They (the people of Syria and Cilicia) only kept hearing that “the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching **the faith** he once tried to destroy.”

Ephesians 4:5

There is one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism;

Galatians Colossians
Ephesians

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

Paul finally writes of the content of the doctrine, the tradition he preaches – the “word of God” or “the word of the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, **receiving the word** in great affliction, with joy from the holy Spirit,

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Finally, brothers, pray for us, so that **the word of the Lord** may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you,

1 Corinthians 14:36

Did **the word of God** go forth from you? Or has it come to you alone?

1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians 1 Corinthians

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

Galatians 6:6

One who is being **instructed in the word** should share all good things with his instructor.

Philippians 1:14

... the majority of the brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever **to proclaim the word** fearlessly.

Galatians Philipians

BC AD

10 5 1 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 100

Apostolic Confessions of Faith

Following the process of the apostolic preaching and the response of faith, the writers of the New Testament expressed the essential belief elements of that faith in **confessions of faith** for the early Church.

1 Corinthians 12:3

And no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9

For, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Philippians 2:11

... every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 2:6

So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him,

1 John 2:22

Who is the liar? Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ.

1 John 4:15

Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

Mark 8:29

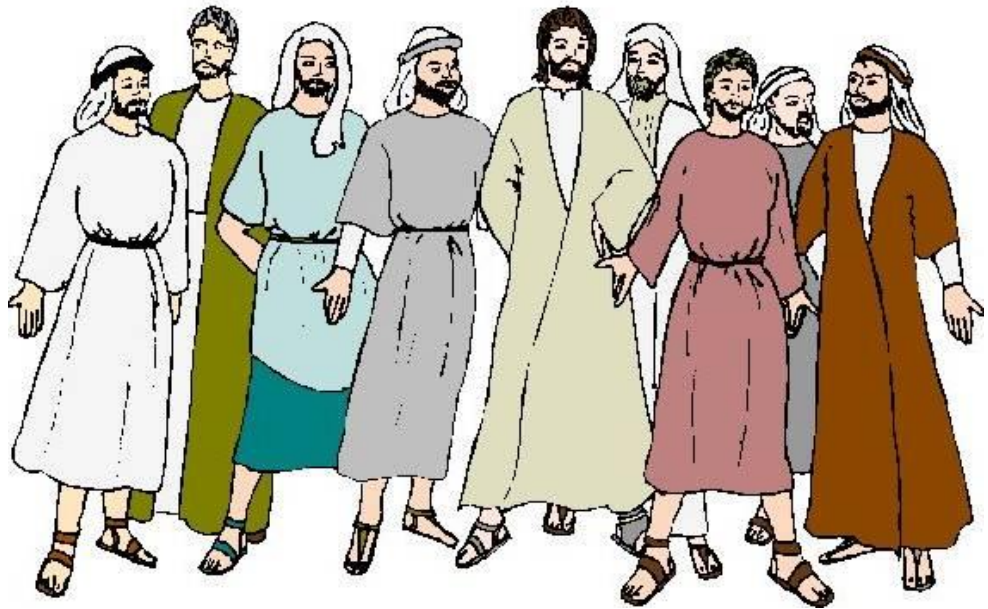
“But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.”

1 John 5:5

Who is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Hebrews 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.



In other New Testament writings, increasingly **more detailed confessions of faith** are found.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures;

that he was buried;

that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures;

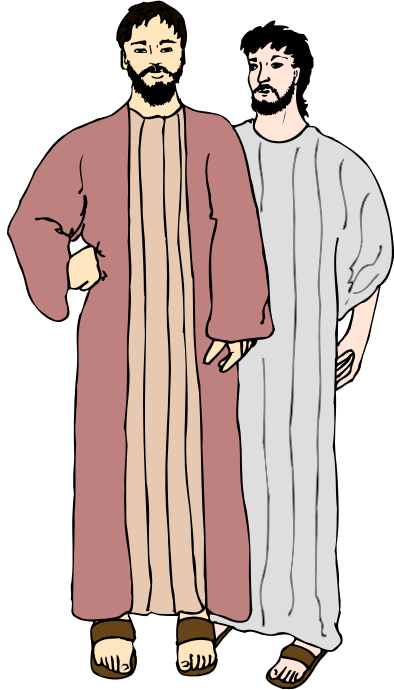
that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, ...

After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Romans 1:3-5

The gospel about his Son,
descended from David according to the flesh, but
established as Son of God in power according to
the spirit of holiness through resurrection
from the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received
the grace of apostleship.



1 Peter 3:18-22

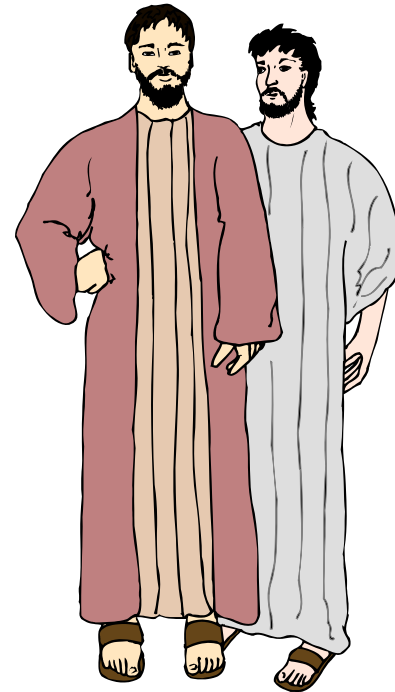
For Christ also suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit.
In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,
... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.



1 Timothy 3:16

Who was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed to the Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.



Post-Apostolic Confessions of Faith

Ultimately, the Apostolic and post-Apostolic Church developed finished statements of Christian beliefs known as “creeds.”

The Apostles Creed

This creed was not composed by the Apostles as it might be assumed by the title. The creed has a legitimate claim to its title insofar as all articles are found in theological formulas current around 100 AD, between the Apostolic Period and the beginning of the Post-Apostolic Period:

Elements found in the Interrogatory Creed of Hippolytus (c. 215 AD);

Do you believe in God the Father All Governing?

Do you believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God, Who was begotten by the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary, Who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and died (and was buried) and rose the third day living from the dead, and ascended into the heavens, and sat down on the right hand of the Father, and will come to judge the living and the dead?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, in the holy Church and in the resurrection of the body?

Elements found in the Creed of Marcellus (340 AD);

I believe in God, All Governing; And in Christ Jesus His only begotten Son, our Lord, Who was begotten of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, Who was crucified under Pontius Pilate and buried, Who rose from the dead on the third day, ascending to the heavens and taking His seat at the Father's right hand, whence He shall come to judge both the living and the dead;

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, life everlasting.



Elements found in the Creed of Rufinus (c. 404 AD);

I believe in God the Father almighty, invisible and impassable;
And in Christ Jesus, His only Son, our Lord, Who was born
by the Holy Spirit from Mary the Virgin, crucified under
Pontius Pilate and buried. He descended to hell. On the third
day He rose again from the dead, He ascended to heaven,
there He sits at the Father's right hand and from whence
He will come to judge both living and dead;
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of this flesh.



The present text of the Apostles Creed is dated c. 700 AD

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.



The Nicene Creed

The development of this creed began with the ecumenical Council of Nicea, 325. The creed was principally written in opposition to the heretic, Arius, who taught that Jesus was a creature made by God not wholly equal to the Father.

The Creed in its final form was a product of the Council of Constantinople, 381.



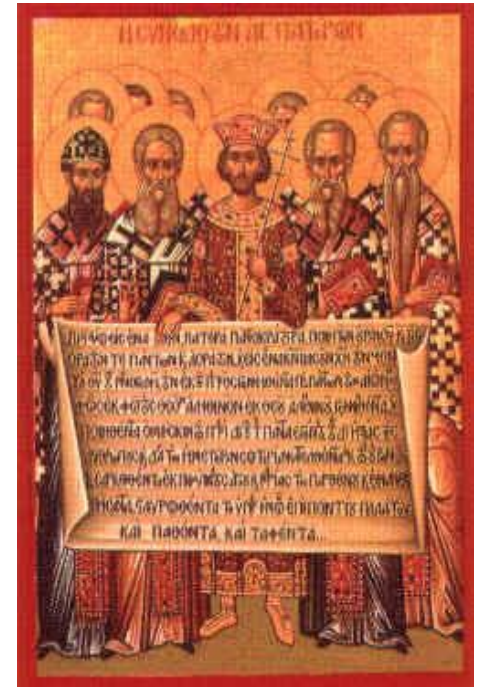
Council of Nicea
325



Present text of Nicene Creed (381)

I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
all that is,
seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.



For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.



I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.



End of
Being Catholic and Christian, Part Ia

Go to
Being Catholic and Christian, Part Ib