

What do we believe?

We believe the truths embodied in the Apostles Creed. We adhere to the eternal and unchangeable truths of the Bible, which is the basis of the Creed. The word Hell was used in early versions of the Apostles Creed. We believe the reference is to Hades, since Hell usually describes, “*the Lake of Fire*,” which is yet to be occupied. Hades was the place where the faithful of God who had died; Noah, Moses, Abraham, etc., waited for the promise of Redeemer to come. Hades is also the place where the unfaithful that die are held for final judgment. Jesus tells us about Hades in His description about Abraham and the rich man who longed to return to earth in order to warn his brother of the judgment that awaited those who did not have faith in God. *Luke 16:19-31*.

While we do not have all the details on Hades, we can see from Jesus’ own description in Luke 16, that it was divided into at least two compartments. One compartment was for the departed souls that awaited the Lake of Fire, and the other compartment was for those souls that waited for the Redeemer that was promised by God to Adam and Eve and the fathers of the faith. Jesus refers to the latter place as “*Abraham’s bosom*.”

When Jesus went to Hades, it was to preach to those who died in faith. He let them know that the His Father’s promise had been fulfilled and that heaven was now available to them. He released them from Hades and brought them to their heavenly home. The compartment for the faithful in Hades *ceased to exist* because now they had arrived in heaven.

As far as the other compartment described by Jesus, we can see it’s destiny in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 20:14-14 “*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*”

We use the words “*Holy Christian Church*” to describe all of those who are saved with their names written in the Lamb’s Book of life. Early versions of the Apostles Creed stated ‘*Holy Catholic Church*.’ We do not have a problem with the word catholic, if it is used in the context of the ‘*Universal Church*’ meaning all Christians, and not in reference to any specific denomination.

Pastor Vince