

Evangelistic Newspaper
“All Honour to God”
“Daar is Lig in die Wapad” 101
New Testament Orientation

Evangelistic Newsletter

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Dear all in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour

All Scripture is the Word of God in the Words of Human Beings. To understand better what the Bible is saying to us a few guidelines for consideration:

- ▶ Uncover what the books meant in their original setting.
- ▶ In this way we hear what the authors meant in their own times.
- ▶ *Who* wrote the text? *When* was it written? *What issues* does it address?
- ▶ Know what it meant then, to know what it means today!

A short summary may be useful to explain this:

- ▶ Mark, the oldest Gospel, concentrated on what Jesus did as opposed to what He said. His Jesus is the suffering Messiah and does not focus so much on His Divinity. The main question is who is Jesus and is addressed in Mark 1:1; Mark 8:27-30 and Mark 15: 39.
- ▶ Matthew portrays Jesus as the teacher and new Moses. The Evangelist writes for a Jewish Christian community that highly respects teachers;
- ▶ Luke highlights Jesus’s mercy and forgiveness as well as his concern for the poor. These are lessons for Gentile leaders who have to be instructed on the Judaic roots; and
- ▶ John presents Jesus as King who is in control of His situation and the universe from the start of the creation. He is the Messiah, the reigning Son of God, the one who came from the Father, dwelt amongst His people and was lifted up to return to the Father where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father where He intercedes for us (Hebrews 4).

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When looking at the Gospels, it sometimes good to remember that:

- The gospels were not written by Jesus;
- The preached words of the apostles formed a living link with the life and teaching of Jesus;
- The gospels were products of the early Christian church;
- They are not biographical accounts of the life of Jesus;
- The Gospels can also be considered to be testimonies of faith, addressed to the faithful.

Hope this helps. I am happy to try and answer emailed questions and to correct any mistakes.
Nag Ou groete, Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.

7 u d Nest, Ph.D

Interesting Facts on “The Apostles’ Creed”

The Apostles’ Creed was in use during the first centuries of the Christian Church where it probably grew out of a series of statements used by the early Church for those being baptised (NCRS, 2016, p.5). People wishing to be baptised were required to learn and recite it. It contains 12 statements of belief about the three persons of the Holy Trinity and the Christian Church (NCRS, 2016, p.5). The Apostles’ Creed gets its name because it is considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles’ faith rather than because it was written by the apostles (NCRS, 2016, p.5). Like the 12 apostles it consists of 12 articles (NCRS, 2016, p.5).

References

National Centre for Religious Studies. (2016). *The Trinity*. Wellington: Author