

## THIS I BELIEVE:

This is the Good News

May 27, 2018

COLOSSIANS 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

***This I believe***

***This I discover***

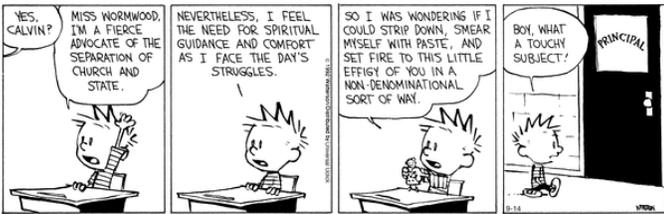
***This I dream***

***This I wonder***

***This I know***

***This I believe***

### Calvin #1



"THIS I BELIEVE!"

I believe,  
You believe

***This I believe***

***This I discover***

***This I dream***

***This I wonder***

***This I know***

***This I believe***

Classic Christian Teaching brings us to a question that each one of us must find along the way.  
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

THIS I believe ... I hope that in these seven weeks we will awaken our own beliefs! We can learn from those who have come before us and we can find our own completion of the statement: THIS I BELIEVE:

These weeks include:

1. the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed
2. We are not alone
3. We Believe in the one God
4. Where the Spirit of the Lord is...
5. Who Shall Separate us
6. This is the Good News
7. There is One God

Let's awaken our faith ... discover the vocabulary and principles of our own faith that permit us to say:  
THIS I BELIEVE

Affirmation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 And Colossians 1:15-20

**Leader:**

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved:

**People:**

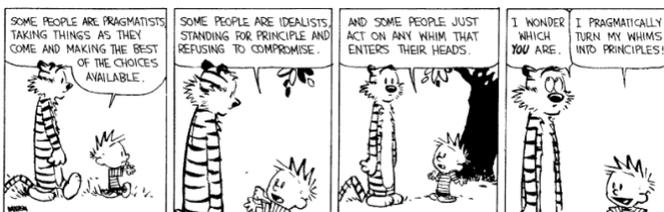
Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.  
Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross  
reconciles all things to God. Amen.

This Affirmation was placed in our hymnbook as it comes from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians and from Colossians. IT is also in the hymn book to prompt us to remember that every “Lord’s Day” SUNDAY / Time we are in worship is a COMMEMORATION of the Resurrection!

We are called to Keep Christ at the very center of our lives as Christian people. In truth, this affirmation is one of the first forms of vocabulary in understanding Christian life. Most Christians I visit with will share these words quickly when they are building the response to the question: What do you Believe?

**Calvin #2**



Which are you? Pragmatist? “Taking things as they come and making the best of the choices available?

Idealist? Standing for Principle and refusing to compromise?

OR one who just acts on any whim that enters the head?

In Truth, in this room we all represent the spectrum of how we come to our beliefs! Yes... our beliefs are born of:

- Scripture
- Intellect
- Experience
- Tradition
- The church
- Trust of our elders
- Miss Wormwood / or Mrs. Waters who taught the Middle High Class
- It's in the hymn book!

We come to believe what we know through teaching and our life experience.

Thus we say:

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved:

We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.  
Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross  
reconciles all things to God. Amen.

Colossians offers vocabulary for the ways many believe. The authenticity of Christ at the center of all things. When we consider Christ at the beginning and in the center and at the end of all things... we shift how we think and Live:

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the Anointed One of God,  
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the firstborn from the dead,  
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in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell

CALVIN #3



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THIS WE BELIEVE:

*This I believe*

*This I discover*

*This I dream*

*This I wonder*

*This I know*

*This I believe*

What do you believe?

CALVIN #4



For many of us Christ is our best friend. As mysterious and unknown as that is ... We believe. Our vocabulary training has come to guide us to say:

**Leader:**

This is the good news  
which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved:

**People:**

Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.

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What do you believe?

## **We've a Story to Tell to the Nations**

*The United Methodist Hymnal Number 569*

*Text: H. Ernest Nichol, 1862-1928*

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword.  
(Refrain)

3. We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigneth above  
hath sent us his Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love.  
(Refrain)