



The Creed

Part 7 – The Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting. Amen.

Adam Donyes

We've been doing a seven-part series on *The Creed* with Ted for the majority and Dr. Travis Brawner a little bit too. They have done a phenomenal job communicating what the Creed is. The Creed is like supplements. Dr. Travis Brawner, who came and spoke to my program this week about nutrition and taking care of your body and having a balanced meal and doing all those things, would never tell you to live on supplements. The Creed has been a simple way to stir out hearts' affections for Jesus and point us back to what biblical truth says, but a creed or anything should ever replace the Word of God itself. The Word of God is the meat. The word of God is the nutrients that we need and so the Creed is just simply supplements.

If you're new here, welcome. If you're visiting from out of town, welcome to Hillbilly Vegas; we are glad you are here. If Silver Dollar City is too steep for you to pay, I've got a ride for you. Just go to one of our roundabouts, stop in the middle of it, and you'll get a free honk and a wave. It might be a one-finger wave, but you'll get it. If it's a one-finger wave, it's none of us at Woodland Hills, I promise you that. We do the Jesus juke on you. So, if you stop in the middle of the roundabout, Woodland Hills, we just put our hands out like, *what are you doing?*" And then you look at us and we put our hands up towards Jesus. Just praising Jesus today.

I want to welcome all the Chiefs fans to the 9:00 instead of the 11:00 like you're used to. You're not usually early to bed, early to rise, making a man wealthy and wise. You're coming to the 9:00 because you don't want to miss the noon kickoff with the Eagles, right? We'll get into that a little later.

The Creed... The Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting. Amen. We're finishing *The Creed* today. I went to New York City a couple of years ago with my wife. For those of you who have been to New York City, you know what I'm talking about. You go to Time Square and there are people trying to sell you everything from knock off Gucci purses to Versace to everything else.

We were walking down the street and there's this guy in a big trench coat and he just opens up his trench coat. He's got like all these watches: Rolex and everything else. He opens it up and he goes, "New York, New York; only in New York! Get the finest watches here." You knew they were fake, so I'd call that dude a dope dealer, not because he was dealing dope, but because you'd have to be a dope to buy any of that stuff from him. Sorry if you bought something from New York and you think it's real. They're Fauxkleys, I promise.

Today, I'm excited about wrapping up this series because I'm a hope dealer today. There is a lot of hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

A few months ago, my little five-year-old got to go over to some friends' house and play video games. We don't allow video games in our house. If you do, I'm not judging you. I think in moderation, they can be okay, but I just have done too much research on video games and what it does to young men's brains and the stimulation and it hurts their ability to learn, etc.

So, he gets to go over to a friend's house and play video games once and a while; I'm great with that. So, he goes and plays this video game on the PS4 that has to do with Street Fighter meets Capcom, so it's like the Avengers meet the old Street Fighters characters. He comes home and he's telling me about it and he's so excited. He's like, "And Captain America threw his shield and he knocked out Ryu and then Hulk did a big ole smash!" He's going on and on and he's so excited and he's so animated and I have to grab his cute little five-year-old face and I say, "Dubs..." That's his nickname. "I have to break the news to you..." because it's now or never, right? I say, "Buddy, we will never have video games in this house."

You would have thought I took pliers and plucked out his two front teeth. He's a pretty even keel kid. He threw a fit. He's kicking, he's screaming, he's yelling, he's going nuts. I'm like, this is not my child. After he calms down, he's trying to get his breath. I get him in his bed and he's got a little time out in there and he gathers himself.

After he calms down a little bit, I come into his room and I was like, "Hey, Aiden, go get on your Captain America costume." He's looking at me like, *What? I thought I was in trouble and you're telling me to dress up.* I told him again to get his Captain America costume on. So, he goes and gets his costume on.

I run out and I say, "Sweetie, Sweetie, where's the hulk hand, where's the hulk mask. I hurry and run out in to the living room and I'm just waiting for this little guy to go get his stuff on and I'm getting my stuff on.

I get my Hulk hands on and my Hulk mask on and here he comes, right around the corner. He sees me and he squares up. He takes that Captain America shield and flings it across the room and jacked me right in the mouth. Before I could even get my bearings, this dude has sprinted across the living room, full on Brian Urlacher, tackles me, and takes me down. I'm already hurting, but, Dads, you know we can't respond when a five-year-old has no concept of hurting us, right? Or CPS might get called on us. They have no concept of the fact that they hurt you. It's like when you stub your toe on a couch, you want to beat up the couch, but it's not going to do any good to beat up the couch. Like it's somebody's fault that they put it there. It's been there for 15 years and all the sudden it's someone's fault that the couch is there.

He lays me out and we're just sitting there. I was like, *I can't be physical back, so I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to play dead.* So, I just act dead and I just lay there for a long time. I'm hurting and he doesn't know I'm hurting. He jacked the side of my face with the shield and I'm just lying there. He tries to pull up my eye lids and I'm just...

Then my soon to be three-year-old gets in on the mix and he almost starts crying, "Dada? Dada?" I'm just soaking it up. I'm like, *Sucker, you knock me out; I'm going to make you think for a little while.*

He gets on top of me and he starts pushing on my stomach. I'm just trying not to laugh the best that I can. I'm just holding it in, right? And now I have my soon to be three-year-old and my five-year-old thinking I'm dead. I'm just lying there and then all of the sudden, I jump up and yell. They're not even scared, they're excited because Daddy is back to life.

That's not what we're talking about today. We're not talking about resuscitation. We're talking about resurrection. They thought they resuscitated a dead dad, which they still don't have the full concept of death.

Today, we're talking about resurrection and the Christian hope is everything in the resurrection. Without the resurrection, what are we putting our hope in? If there is no resurrection, Paul says our preaching, our lives are meaningless. **What are you placing your hope in this morning?**

Ultimate hope versus daily hope. Woodland Hills, online viewers, chapel, what are you placing your ultimate hope in? There's a difference. There is an ultimate hope and then there is a daily hope. Ultimate hope is what we are looking to satisfy or to sustain us. A daily hope is like a wishful thinking like "I hope the chiefs win the Super Bowl this year." "I hope the Cardinals make it back to the playoffs." "I hope I get a raise." "I hope my kids turn out okay." Those hopes are like wishful thinking.

When we talk about ultimate hope, we know we rest assured because ultimate hope is actually coupled with faith. Faith and hope are two separate things. Faith in Jesus at the beginning of the Creed... I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That's faith in those things that leads to an ultimate hope that one day, you and I will never taste death, that our bodies will be resurrected, that we will be united with our King in heaven.

Sometimes what happens when we place our ultimate hope in other things, is they become idols that will never satisfy. As a matter of fact, when we put our ultimate hope in other things, 1 Corinthians 15 says we should be pitied. ***19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only...*** So, if all we have hope in is this life: we live, we die, we go back to the dust and that's it, we should be pitied. ***...we are of all people most to be pitied.***

If you are placing your ultimate hope in this life, in your 401k, in your kingdom, your status, your parenting, your marriage, and all those things... If that is where your ultimate hope lies, Paul says you should be pitied. "If I only had a boyfriend." "If I only had a girlfriend." You should be pitied.

It's like this picture of this Lamborghini. We have this hope or we carry ourselves like everything is awesome and we've got it all together, but the reality is if I were to start asking you questions, I could quickly discover what your ultimate hope is in. But, what's crazy is any ultimate hope outside of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and that we will one day be resurrected with him would quickly be displayed. What do you put your hope in?

For those of you that are in oil, you know you can't put your hope there. That's falling apart. You know you can't put your hope in your marriage because then they become a co-dependent, dysfunctional savior and that becomes a weight that they don't want to bear. It can't be your kids as you vicariously live through them through sports because that's a weight they can't bear and that they'll never live up to. It can't be your next raise because that might not ever happen. So, we act like it's all good, but in reality, if I were to pop the hood because there's a check engine light on, underneath that amazing Lamborghini actually looks a lot like a broken-down motor, if we were to be honest with ourselves.

Did you ever realize how many times we buy cars and we never even pop the hood to see what's underneath the hood? Most of us don't even know how an engine works or what an engine is. We just trust what the outside looks like. The scary thing is if we're not doing a check engine light... Some of you are like, "Stop! Put my hood down. Stop lifting my hood. I don't want to look what's under the hood today. You told me you were going to be a hope dealer today. Put it down. I don't want to deal with what's underneath."

The reality is on the outside we're like, "Yes, Jesus, Jesus," but on the inside, a lot of times we're putting our ultimate hope in things that will never satisfy, nor were they ever intended to. When we do that, we become impatient because someone attacks that ultimate hope. We're driven so much at work because we're going to build a new boat and we're going to build a new house and we're going to do all these things. Then we get tired at work. Then when our wife wants some time with us, we get really edgy and snappy because all of the sudden, we're consumed at work because we put our ultimate hope in this thing and we respond in this way. You can quickly see by the way you respond to things where you're actually placing your ultimate hope. And anything outside the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting is going to cause you to respond in a way that just isn't very pretty.

But, we have this hope. It's in 1 Corinthians 15. The whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 does a phenomenal job of talking about the resurrection and the hope we have. I would encourage you to read it today when you leave church. Just go back and read the whole chapter. We're not going to cover it all today. It's a long chapter over 50 verses.

Listen to this: ***42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable...*** Everything in this world is perishable. None of us have ever seen a U-Haul follow a hearse to a funeral. We've never seen it because we know that nothing is going with that individual. You never see somebody on their deathbed say, "Hey, bring me all my trophies, bring me my bank account..." They are always saying, "Bring me the relationships." "Bring me the people." "Bring me the memories." ***...what is raised is imperishable.*** Our glorified bodies, our resurrected bodies, that which death cannot take from us.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body... It's important to know here. There are two completely different bodies. I know some people get hung up on cremation and whether or not... There is nowhere in the Bible that directly speaks against cremation. By the way, if a body has been in the ground for over a thousand years, it's dust anyway. Cremation just speeds up the process. And if God created the body from dust, he's going to create these glorified bodies again. ***...it is raised a spiritual body.*** Two different bodies.

Now, we'll be recognized in heaven. We know that from the way Jesus was recognized by the Apostles. Some theologians believe the only cognitive dissonance that we will have of sin at all in heaven are the scars of the Lamb. Other than that, we will have no recollection of sin. What is raised is a spiritual body.

There is a lot of ultimate hope to be placed there because some of your bodies are failing. I know this is first service. Some of your bodies are falling apart. Your hips aren't the same, your knees aren't the same, your shoulder is not the same, and your tendonitis isn't the same. On a more serious note, some of you are battling cancer. Some of you are battling illness. Some of you have someone in your family whose bodies are failing. Our bodies will let us down.

Even if you are a 17-year-old punk, your body will eventually... Some of you are like, "I don't know what he's talking about; I feel great, man. I did my P90X..." No, your body will eventually fail you. So, when our hope is even in that, it's scary. But the hope isn't in our natural body. So, find hope, even if you feel like your body is falling apart, it is going to be raised a spiritual body.

That leads me to... It's important to talk about because Ted knocked out justification. That moment we come to trust Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are justified. Right now, we are all in this current process of **sanctification**. Whether we like it or not, those who are believers in Jesus Christ are going to be sanctified.

And our final resting place, which is **glorification**. By the way, sanctification, just to bear you any anticipation, will never stop until you take your last breath on earth. God loves you so much, he is not going to stop sanctifying you, me, all of us. He will not stop sanctifying us until we take our last breath on earth. It is a process and it is met with glorification. This is what glorification is. **Glorification is God's final removal of sin from the life of the saints.** So, we will be in a glorified body. I don't mean we are going to look like Arnold Schwarzenegger; I mean we are going to be in a flawless, perfect body where we will be glorified and united with one another.

This is a crazy concept because we rarely think about heaven, we rarely have an eternal perspective. We quickly get pulled in to a temporal perspective and that's what drives ultimate hopes that don't satisfy, nor where they ever intended to. So, when we get drawn in to a temporal hope or a temporal perspective, we forget heaven, we forget what it's like or we get some people that try to make quick money off of books and say, "I went to heaven and I've been back..." The problem I have with these books or these movies that say they died and came back is when their depiction of heaven has nothing to do with seeing Jesus in the presence and glory of God. That's the only problem I have those.

When you read in Revelation, it has everything to do about Jesus. Listen to me, Woodland Hills, heaven is all about Jesus. It's always been about Jesus. It's always going to be about Jesus. And it's never stopped being about Jesus. When we get there... I'm so excited to be in the presence of Jesus. I love my wife. I'm not worried about being married to her. Some of you ask that question. "Am I going to be married in heaven?" Yes, to Jesus. You're going to be married to Jesus. You're going to get to be in his presence. You're going to get to worship him. "Am I going to get to do these things in heaven?" I don't know, but you're going to get to worship Jesus.

I think when we're so consumed if we're going to be able to do this and this in heaven and Jesus isn't in the equation, we have to question where our ultimate hope is because that question alone shows you where your ultimate hope is. "Am I going to get to golf in heaven?" I don't know, but Jesus will be there. "Am I going to get to cheer on my favorite football team in heaven?" I don't know, but Jesus is going to be there. "Are we going to eat in heaven?" Heck, yeah, there's the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Praise God, right?

This is the question I ask young people all the time: If you don't spend time with Jesus, if you don't enjoy spending time with Jesus now, on a weekly and daily basis, praying with him, reading the Bible; if you don't enjoy spending time with Jesus now, why do you think you're going to enjoy heaven? Heaven is all about Jesus. It's all about Jesus. If you enjoy no time with Jesus today, I would just ask you in the gentlest, most loving way possible, where you are placing your ultimate hope. Because you spend plenty of time building your 401k. You spend plenty of time chasing whatever ultimate hope you think is going to satisfy. But, I know, in the deepest longings of my soul, that Jesus alone satisfies. He is my ultimate hope.

Listen to this picture of heaven that we see in Revelation ***1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... Gone. Everything was dead, decrepit, fallen, broken from the Garden of Eden. ...and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.***

Oh my goodness; is that not beautiful. God will be with us. That is heaven. That is the depiction of heaven I want to hear when I'm reading these books or watching some movie about people saying that they went to heaven. I want to see them magnifying the Shekinah Glory that we hear about in Revelation. This is what I want to hear about heaven because this is what the Bible tells me heaven will be like.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes... That the last song that we sang... And I asked them to sing it. "He's in the waiting..." And he talks about in the triumphs and going through the storms. There will be a day when your knee isn't replaced. Some of you are already ready for that day. But there will be a day where there's no more tears, no more cancer, no more shingles, no more nothing, no more mosquitoes, no more ticks. There will be a day where every tear will be wiped from your eyes for those who are in Christ.

...and death shall be no more... that's an amazing ultimate hope to know that Jesus tasted death so you and I don't have to. ***...neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore...*** Some of you are sitting in your seat saying "Hallelujah! Praise Jesus! I barely got out of bed this morning." ***...for the former things...*** All those things of this world, everything we chased ***...have passed away."***

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Which includes our resurrected bodies. ***Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*** ***6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I***

will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

That's hope. That's where I want to place my ultimate hope, Woodland Hills. There's hope that no matter what happens in this blink of an eye, or, as James called it, a mist or a vapor or, as David referred to it, a fleeting shadow, it's going to be gone. Some of you are like, "Holy cow, my kids are in college already; when did that happen?" Some of you are like, "Holy cow, I'm already a grandparent; when did that happen?" So, we talk about a glimpse... And when you talk about the expanse of eternity and when you're so focused on this versus forever, it's crazy. It just doesn't mathematically add up.

Then there's some further hope about death in 1 Corinthians 15. ***"Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*** It's gone for those who are in Christ. Every single one of us in here are immortal. We're all immortal. Everybody in here is going to live forever. Now, some of us are going to possibly enjoy a warmer temperature than others, but everybody in here is immortal. Biblically, everybody is immortal. There are two different things. C.S. Lewis said it this way:

"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal..."

Think about how much hope we put in these things. Do you know why I wasn't too concerned with who won the last election in November? It's because my ultimate hope isn't in who runs this country. My ultimate hope isn't in the economy. My ultimate hope is in Jesus. My ultimate hope lies with him. My ultimate hope isn't in my job. My ultimate hope isn't in my sports teams. My ultimate hope isn't in those things. If the Chiefs lose today and your husband is in a bad mood the rest of the day, wives, you can say, "Where's your ultimate hope?" It might not go very well for you, but I'm just saying... Apply the message, okay? Or if the Cardinals don't make the playoffs again. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations – these are mortal; they're not satisfying. They are fickle, they're dust. From dust they came and to dust they shall return. These are mortal things. May we not be so foolish to place our hope in mortal things.

"... and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

What's he talking about? Those who don't know Jesus. That's an immortal horror to know that someone who has never placed their faith in Jesus, has never trusted him as their personal Lord and Savior is going to live forever. Biblically, all of us are going to live forever and we're all immortal, but it's either in immortal horror or in everlasting splendor.

"This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption."

So, we should all enjoy earth and we should all be here while we're alive, and we should all maximize the time that God has given to us on earth. However, that shouldn't be where we place our ultimate hope. And I think he gets a lot of this quote from Philippians.

Look what it says in Philippians. ***20 But our citizenship is in heaven...*** This is such a gospel presentation opportunity.

If anyone ever asks you this question: "Do you believe in aliens?"

I love when they ask me this. I'm like, "Yeah, I do. As a matter of fact, I think I'm an alien."

"Now your wacked out, Adam, what in the world?"

Let me explain. I'm in a foreign land. This isn't my home. This is temporary. As a matter of fact, Peter said all those here were aliens in a foreign land. Our final resting place, our final home for those who are in Christ, is heaven. Amen? We're all aliens. Our citizenship is heaven. Our citizenship is not this fallen world.

...and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body... In 1 Thessalonians, he talks about it in Chapter 4 too, where they'll be raised up, as Ted talked about a few weeks ago. That's the only time we see the word... *Rapture* is never mentioned in the Bible, but we see this word in 1 Thessalonians 4: *caught up*. It's where we get the Greek word *rapturo*. We'll be caught up, those who are dead in Christ. First those who are buried will be caught up into their new spiritual bodies and their glorious bodies and they will meet Jesus in the sky and then those who are still alive will come after them, being ushered by this loud trumpet. ***...to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.***

What are you placing your ultimate hope in today? Where does it lie? Because if you were to be honest with me and I were to be honest with you, every time I place my ultimate hope in something other than Jesus and striving for eternity in heaven with him, it dissatisfies and never lives up to my greatest expectation. That new boat, that new car, that new house, it's always more. That's how the enemy has us so wired. "I gotta have more, gotta have what's next..." It's not going to satisfy. We need more of Jesus.

When our gaze is heaven, our gait is steady. Let me tell you what I mean by that. When our eyes are fixated on the author and perfecter of our faith, we're going to face trials, we're going to face sanctification, we're going to face hurdles, but we stay steady, we stay the course because our gaze is heaven. Our gaze isn't what this boss did to us or what this spouse did to us or what this kid did to us. Our gaze is heaven, our hope isn't in those people, things, or moneys. Our gaze is heaven, so our gait is steady.

Psalms 23 - ***4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...*** My gaze is heaven. I'm going to keep walking there. I'm going to keep walking steady. My ultimate hope is

going to be in Jesus, so that when difficult things come my way, I'm not going to get knocked off. But you quickly see when our gaze is not heaven, our gait is not steady. It gets us knocked off really easy.

I want you guys to picture with me for just a second The Marriage Supper of the Lamb talked about in Revelation 19. What is The Marriage Supper of the Lamb? It's when you and I are going to be ushered into the presence of Jesus and these angels are going to take you and they're going to sit you down to where you are at a seat in this huge Marriage Supper of the Lamb where all the focal point is on Jesus. That's why it's the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. One day, all of us in here will take our last breath and it will be so special and so beautiful that the angels will come and they'll usher us to where we are to sit. And they'll sit us down at this Marriage Supper of the Lamb for those who are in Christ and then sitting next to you will be a young middle eastern man and a young Asian girl, and sitting across from you a little eight-year-old girl. And they'll sit you down at this Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

You'll turn to the Asian girl and you'll say, "What's your name?"

She'll say, "Chang Ying Lee."

You'll say, "Chang Ying, will you talk to me about your story a little bit."

She says, "Well, I grew up in communist China. You see, we weren't allowed to read Bibles. As a matter of fact, we weren't allowed to own them. They wanted to brainwash us. They didn't like the freedom that Christianity brought and the rebellion they felt it forced. So, we had to do underground churches. We would meet under these buildings and try to hide because if we got caught, we knew that death was imminent."

She says, "One day, we were doing a Bible study underneath this house in this little hatch and we heard these communist soldiers break into the house. We could hear the footsteps up above the ceiling. They found our hidden hatch and they came down into this basement. With the one Bible we had, they put it in the middle of our circle where there were about ten of us. They told all of us to start spitting on that Bible or we would be killed."

She says, "One by one, I saw my fellow Christians spit on that Bible. I couldn't stand the sight, so I took the bottom of my dress and I reached out and I started wiping the spit off the Bible. Before I could get to that second wipe, the next thing I heard was the gunshot. I've been waiting here ever since. Isn't this special?"

You look at her and say, "Thank you for sharing your story."

Then you turn to your right and say, "Excuse me, young man, what's your name?"

He says, "Mohammad Aziz Therar."

You say, "Mohammad, would you please talk to me a little bit about how you got here?"

He says, "I was in Pakistan and Jesus came and visited me in a dream. I grew up Muslim and believed Islamic beliefs my whole life until one night, Jesus visited me in a dream. As clear as day, I knew he was the way, the truth, and the life. So, despite what circumstances I might have to face, I surrendered my life to Jesus and denounced Islam. When ISIS found out, they captured me and they told me to praise Allah and if I didn't, I would be beheaded. I was beheaded that day. I got a new head. I've been sitting here waiting ever since."

Then sitting across from you is the eight-year-old little girl with the most piercing blue eyes you've ever seen. You say, "Little girl, what's your name?"

She says, "Rebecca."

You say, Rebecca, will you talk to me a little bit about how you got here?"

She says, "We lived a real hard life. When I was eight years old, these people came and took my daddy because he loved Jesus. Me and my brother followed them along to see where they were going to take him. They took him to this big arena where there are all these people. They took him to the center of the arena and told him if he just denounced Jesus, he could live. My daddy didn't do that. Out of every door came lions."

She says, "I watched my daddy die that day. I never cried so hard in my life. The next day, they came back for me and my brother. They took us to the same arena where there were all these people. I had never been so scared in my life. They told me that if I just denied Jesus, I could live. But, I couldn't do that. He was everything to me. He was my reason for living. I died that day. The angels came and ushered me into heaven."

Then these piercing blue eyes, these beautiful green Middle Eastern eyes, and these beautiful brown Asian eyes... Six eyes turn onto you and say, "What about you? What's your story? How did you live your life, placing your ultimate hope in Jesus?"

So, the Creed ends with this word: Amen. Why do we say amen after our prayers? Why did they say amen after the Creed? It's to follow the example of the Apostles that we see in the New Testament. It's a word that says, "May it be done as we have prayed." "May it be done as we have said." Amen. Everything we just prayed for, everything we just learned about the Creed, everything we just absorbed, may it be done as we have said. Amen.

Father God, thank you so much for this place called Woodland Hills. God, show me the areas in my life where you were not my ultimate hope. Show me areas in my life where I'm hoping in my money or I'm hoping in my sports team or I'm hoping in things that are not far greater than you. God, I'm the first one in line to say I get caught up in thinking other things will bring me ultimate hope. I'll confess I learn the hard way. Thank you for this place. Thank you for using the Creed to stir our heart's affections back to you and ultimately your Word, your flawless and inherent Word.

I pray that if there is anyone in here today that doesn't know where they will spend their immortal life, they would have a conversation before they leave. There is a prayer team up here, Lord, that they could join with.

God, we greatly anticipate that Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We greatly anticipate death losing its sting. We love you, Jesus, and it's all about you. Forgive us when we make it about us.

It's in the matchless name of Jesus we pray and all God's people said... Amen.