A detailed mosaic background featuring a central face with large, expressive eyes. The mosaic is composed of small, irregular tiles in shades of gold, brown, and purple. The face appears to be a religious or historical figure, possibly a saint or a deity, with a serene expression. The text "NICE" and "CREED" is overlaid on the mosaic in a large, white, sans-serif font.

NICE CREED

WEEK NINE

What would you
like to do forever?

Let's Read the Creed

Recap

- Week 1-6 - Intro, Father, Son.
- Weeks 7, 8, & 9 - The Spirit
 - 7 - Who the Spirit Is
 - 8 - The Spirit and The Church
 - 9 - The Spirit and Eternity

“and we look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

Reading

- Today: Chapters 1 & 2 of *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright

Outline Today

1. Language of the Creed
2. More Common Confusions
3. Surprised by Hope

Language of the Creed

“We look...”

- We are aware of the end! End times parables:

Ten virgins (Mt 25), Talents (25), Sheep and Goats (Mt 25), Fig Tree (Mk 13), Watchful Servants (Mk 13), Faithful and unfaithful servants (Lk 12), Wedding Feast (Lk 14)

- How does this posture affect the way you see the world?

Language of the Creed

“For the resurrection of the dead”

- Not just “Heaven”
 - Bodily Resurrection!
 - Death is *defeated*

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. - Romans 8:22-23

Language of the Creed

- What then is Heaven?
 - A creation of God. “In the beginning...”
 - For God and His angels
 - And for those who “fall asleep” in faith
 - Paradise
 - “Interim state”
 - They will pass away (“New heavens and new earth”)

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne; they cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

- Revelation 6:9-10

Language of the Creed

“And the life everlasting.”

- When the end comes, it will be life!
 - Here and now in the End Times, what is our concern?
- Isn't eternal life boring?
 - We've hardly begun to understand what life really is
 - It won't just be sitting on a cloud!

More Common Confusions

- Cremation
 - “Hey God, resurrect this!”
 - “Yes, I will!”
 - What’s the reason for it?

- Rapture & Dispensationalism

More Common Confusions

- Rapture & Dispensationalism
- We are in the End Times now!

Our map is something like this:

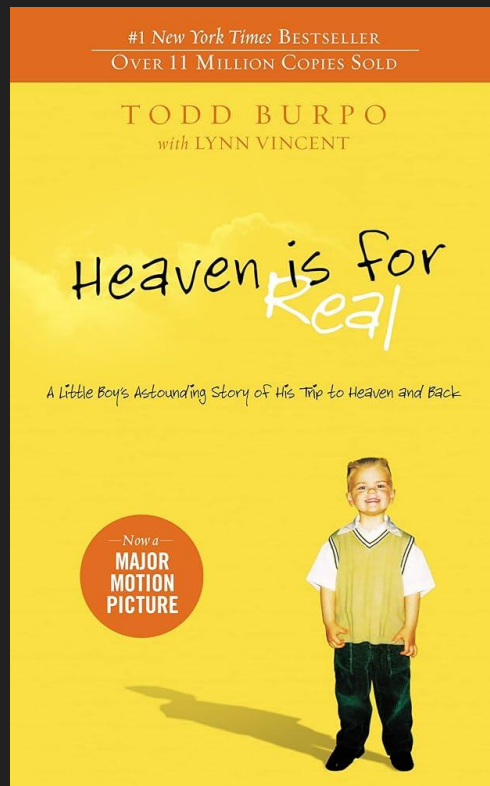
1. Jesus wins (At the cross and grave)
2. Troubles now until the end
3. Jesus returns and raises the living and the dead

More Common Confusions

- Near-death “seeing Heaven”
- People ask: “Are they lying??”
- I ask: “Where is our true confidence?”

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21



Surprised by Hope

- What's missing if we don't tell end of the Story correctly?
 - The Truth (we want to tell it right)
 - Defeat of death
 - Importance of *stuff*
 - Importance of our world