



WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible

We believe the Bible is the authentic Word of God, His written revelation to man.¹ We believe the Bible is eternal, unchanging,² verbally inspired, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts,³ and reliably preserved throughout all generations.² We believe the Bible is the supreme authority in the life of the believer and in the function of the church.⁴

¹ Deut. 29:29 ² Matt. 5:18; 24:35

³ 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pe. 1:20-21 ⁴ Matt. 4:4

The Godhead

We believe in one True God: ¹ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; ² eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having precisely the same attributes and perfections. ³

¹ Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6 ² Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

³ Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 1:1-13

Man's Creation and Fall

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God,¹ but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God, and came under judicial sentence of death.²

¹ Gen. 1:26-27 ² Rom. 5:12; 3:23; 6:23

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that our LORD Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God;¹ that without ceasing to be God He became a man,² having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.³ We believe the Son of God came to glorify the Father⁴ by revealing God,⁵ destroying the works of the devil,⁶ and redeeming sinful people by His substitutionary, atoning death through His blood shed on the cross.⁷ We believe in the physical resurrection of our LORD's crucified body;⁸ His bodily ascension into heaven;⁹ His exaltation to the right hand of the Father¹⁰ where, as High Priest of His people,¹¹ He fulfills the ministry of Representative,¹² Intercessor,¹³ and Advocate.¹⁴ We believe in the imminent,¹⁵ bodily¹⁶ coming of the LORD Jesus Christ for the Church¹⁷ and His subsequent premillennial return to establish His Kingdom on earth.¹⁸

¹ Jn. 1:1, 14 ² Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 2:9 ³ Lk. 1:34-35 ⁴ Jn. 17:1-4 ⁵ Jn. 1:14-18; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3 ⁶ 1 Jn. 3:8

⁷ Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:19-20 ⁸ 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Lk. 24:36-43 ⁹ Acts 1:9-11 ¹⁰ Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9-11 ¹¹ Heb. 4:14-16 ¹² Heb. 9:24 ¹³ Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34 ¹⁴ 1 Jn. 2:1 ¹⁵ Matt. 24:37-44 ¹⁶ Acts 1:11

¹⁷ 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11 ¹⁸ Rev. 20:4-6; Zech. 14:4-11

The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit;¹ that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment;² that He regenerates the individual,³ and indwells,⁴ enlightens,⁵ and guides the believer;⁶ that He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ,⁷ and seals every believer for the day of redemption.⁸ We believe that the Holy Spirit strengthens us with

power, testifying of the LORD Jesus Christ, so that we might know the love of Christ and the fullness of God.⁹

¹ Jn. 14:16-17 ² Jn. 16:7-11 ³ Titus 3:5 ⁴ Rom. 8:9 ⁵ Eph. 1:15-18 ⁶ Jn. 16:13 ⁷ 1 Cor. 12:12-13

⁸ Eph. 4:30 ⁹ Eph. 3:14-19

Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely the gracious work of God¹ wherein the Holy Spirit, by means of the gospel message,² moves upon the sinner with regenerating power,³ bringing forth repentance from sin⁴ and faith in the LORD Jesus Christ⁵ as the only hope of eternal life.⁶ We believe that every person who believes in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation is justified before God only on the merits of the perfect life and propitiatory sacrifice of Christ.⁷ We believe that those God justifies will experience an ongoing work of sanctification,⁸ and that believers should joyfully persevere in this process.⁹ We believe that saving faith manifests itself in works pleasing to God.¹⁰ We further believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ forever.¹¹

¹ Eph. 2:8-9 ² 1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Pe. 1:23 ³ Titus 3:4-7

⁴ Lk. 24:46-47 ⁵ Acts 20:21 ⁶ 1 Jn. 5:11-12

⁷ Rom. 3:21-26 ⁸ 2 Tim. 2:19-22 ⁹ 2 Cor. 7:1;

Phil. 2:12-13 ¹⁰ Eph. 2:8-10; James 2:14-26

¹¹ Jn. 10:27-30; Rom. 8:28-39

The Church

We believe that the universal Church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ,¹ is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons, irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations.²

¹ Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27 ² 1 Cor. 12:12-14

We believe that this universal Church is manifested in various places in the form of local churches.¹ We believe that a local church is an organized body² of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who meet together regularly³ for worship,⁴ instruction in God's Word,⁵ mutual edification,⁶ observance of the ordinances,⁷ and the exercise of discipline.⁸ When not purposefully gathered, the members are strategically placed by God in the community and the world to carry out the great commission until the LORD returns.⁹

¹ Acts 14:23; Gal. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1 ² 1 Cor. 12:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15 ³ Heb. 10:23-25 ⁴ Acts 2:46-47 ⁵ Acts 2:42

⁶ 1 Thess. 5:11 ⁷ Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

⁸ Matt. 18:15-20; Heb. 3:12-13; 1 Cor. 5:4-5

⁹ Gen. 12:2-3; Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Thess. 1:2-10

The Personality of Satan

We believe the person of Satan was originally created a blameless and perfect being, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God,¹ thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people,² leader of all other evil angels and wicked spirits,³ the deceiver and god of this present world.⁴ His powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God Who over-rules all his wicked devices for good,⁵ that he was defeated by our LORD Jesus Christ and judged at the cross,⁶ and therefore his eternal doom in the lake of fire is certain.⁷ Believers in the LORD Jesus Christ, clothed in the full armor of God,⁸ are able to resist⁹ and overcome him by the blood of the Lamb,¹⁰ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19 ² Job 1 & 2; 1 Pe. 5:8

³ Rev. 12:7-9 ⁴ 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-3 ⁵ Job 42:10-17 ⁶ Jn. 12:31-33; Col. 2:13-15 ⁷ Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10
⁸ Eph. 6:10-17 ⁹ James 4:7 ¹⁰ Rev. 12:11

The Eternal State

We believe that upon physical death the soul of one who has trusted in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation passes immediately into His presence, ¹ and there remains in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. ² We believe that upon physical death the soul of an unbeliever remains in conscious suffering ³ until the final judgment, when soul and body reunited in physical resurrection shall be punished forever in the lake of fire, ⁴ away from the presence of the LORD and from the glory of His power. ⁵

¹ 2 Cor. 5:6-8 ² Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

³ Lk. 16:19-26 ⁴ Matt. 25:41,46; Rev. 20:11-15

⁵ 2 Thess. 1:9

Conclusion

We not only believe that this body of doctrine is a sacred trust to be preserved and taught in its purity, but we also believe it is a life to be lived and a gospel to be preached.