

Belief Statement

The Scriptures

We believe in the verbal (every word) and plenary (complete) inspiration of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts; that the complete written revelation of God is the sixty-six books of the Bible; that these books are therefore infallible and inerrant in all matters of which they speak; that God has preserved His Word through the centuries; and that these Scriptures are the supreme, literal and authoritative standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be judged (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

The Trinity

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that they are equal in every divine perfection, while executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exodus 20:2,3; Matthew 28:19,20).

God the Father

We believe that God the Father is father only to those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior (John 17:1-9); that He is spirit (John 4:24); that He is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power (Leviticus 11:44; Psalm 147:4); that He concerns Himself in the affairs of men (1 Timothy 2:3-6); that He hears and answers prayer (Psalm 65:2); and that He is the object of our worship and praise (Exodus 20:3-6).

God the Son

We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ (1 John 5:20; John 1:18); His eternal existence as God (Hebrews 1:8); His incarnation (becoming flesh) by means of the virgin birth (Matthew 1:18-25); His sinlessness (1 Peter 2:22); His substitutionary atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross (Hebrews 9:12-14); His death, burial, bodily resurrection, and ascension (1 Corinthians 15:3-6); His present high-priestly ministry in heaven (1 John 2:1); and His personal, visible return to earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Acts 1:11).

God the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is divine in His person, equal to and of the same nature as the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19); that He convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-15); that He is the agent of the New Birth (John 3:5-7); that He baptizes all true believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, filling, sanctifying, sealing, and securing them unto the day of the redemption of the body (2 Corinthians 1:21-22); and that the evidence of His filling is a changed life characterized by practical spiritual graces (Galatians 5:22-23). We do not believe that the New Testament gift of tongues exists today, but, along with certain other temporary sign gifts, has ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Revelation 22:18-19).

Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God, without the

involvement of any evolutionary process (Genesis 1:1-2:25; Colossians 1:16; John 1:3-10).

Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil (Matthew 4:1-11); his creation by God and subsequent fall (Isaiah 14:12-17); that he is the author of sin, the initiator of man's temptation and fall (Genesis 3); that he is the enemy of God and man, the leader of a host of demonic forces, and the god of this present world system (2 Corinthians 4:4); and that he is destined to judgment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence in the image and likeness of God, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state (Genesis 3:1-6); that being in Adam all men have a sin nature and are guilty as sinners by virtue of their nature and actions (Romans 3:10-19; 5:12,19); and that all men are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Romans 1:18,32).

Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ; that Christ is the only and all-sufficient Savior, His blood shed upon Calvary being the only means of the remission of sin (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 9:22); that man's only condition for salvation is faith in Christ, but that genuine faith unto salvation is evidenced by changed attitudes and actions (Ephesians 2:8-10); that all who receive Christ are regenerated instantaneously by the Holy Spirit

and become children of God; that no rite, ceremony, or work can avail for a sinner's salvation or make the believer's salvation more secure (Titus 3:5-7); and that all who are truly born again are kept secure in salvation by God and shall never perish (John 10:28,29).

Christian Growth

We believe that all who are born from above in salvation will be becoming like Jesus Christ as the Spirit and Word of God work in their daily lives (Romans 8:28,29); that each believer has the responsibility of growing in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18); and that this growth comes by a personal walk with Christ in the Word of God, in prayer, in obedience, in fellowship with other saints, and in service to Him (Acts 2:41-47).

The Church

We believe that the church as an organization is an assembly of baptized believers, voluntarily associated by covenant in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ for the purposes of conducting and supporting a local church ministry in accordance with the Word of God (Acts 2:41-47); that its officers are pastor(s) and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly set forth in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13); that the local church has the right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, religious or governmental (Acts 15:1-35); that the local church's only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit (Colossians 1:18); that it is Scriptural for true churches of like faith and practice to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel, and that each local church is the sole judge in the measure

and method of its cooperation; and that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, benevolence, and rule, the will of the local church under the authority of the Word and Spirit of God is final (Acts 15:1-35). We further believe that all those who have been truly born again in this New Testament church age are a unified a part of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Church Ordinances

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolic, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Table.

Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water after his salvation profession, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19,20); that it sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption - the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4); that it gives testimony to that which has taken place in the life of the believer - death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4); and that it is an act of obedience to Christ and a prerequisite to local church membership (Acts 2:41).

The Lord's Table

We believe that the observance of the Lord's Table is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed until He comes (Matthew 26:29); that the elements - the unleavened bread and the unfermented juice - are symbols of His broken body and shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28); that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's

fellowship with the crucified Savior (1 Corinthians 10:16-21); and that the observance should be preceded by solemn heart searching and self-judgment (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

Separation

We believe that the Christian is to separate himself unto Christ in true holiness (Romans 12:1,2); to separate himself from any participation in or endorsement of sin or worldliness (1 John 2:15,16); from ecclesiastical organizations and religious personalities that deny the faith or compromise its message (2 Corinthians 6:14-18); and from brethren who walk disorderly or who unrepentantly continue in sin (2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 5:4,5; Titus 3:10-11).

Future Events

We believe in the pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment (Philippians 3:20,21); that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and both groups shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44,51-54); that this rapture of the church is pre-tribulational - that is, it shall take place immediately prior to the seven years of Tribulation (Revelation 3:10); that the Tribulation will be culminated by the pre-millennial revelation of Jesus Christ in power and great glory to deliver Israel, to bind Satan, and to sit upon the throne of David for a literal 1,000 year reign upon the earth (Revelation 20:1-4,6); that Christ shall ultimately cast Satan

and his hosts into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

Eternity

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (Romans 6:17,18); that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ are truly righteous in God's sight (Romans 5:1,2); that all men who continue in rebellion and unbelief are in God's sight wicked and under the condemnation of God's judgment (John 3:18); that all those who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ shall spend eternity in the heavenly presence of God (Revelation 21:1-7); that all those who do not receive Christ as Savior shall forever be in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8-9).