

STATEMENT OF FAITH

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe that it is the true center of Christian union and the only infallible rule for all human conduct, creeds and opinions.

References—II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:16-17.

Section 2. Of the True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions; the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT; one in substance and equal in every Divine perfection.

References—Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; I Timothy 3:16; Revelation 4:11.

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He was Divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His Deity; that as a man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.

References—John 1:1-2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-38.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

References—John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27.

Section 3. Of the Devil or Satan

We believe that Satan is a distinct personality; that he is the god of this age, author of all the powers of darkness and sin, and that he is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire.

References—Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

Section 4. Of the Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution.

References—Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3.

Section 5. Of Mankind

We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression, fell into sin thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and shapen in iniquity and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice and so are without excuse before God.

References—Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:1019; Romans 1:18, 32.

Section 6. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son.

References—Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4.

Section 7. Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who, by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine Law by His personal obedience, and by His death made full and vicarious atonement for our sin; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but by voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, having risen from the dead is now enthroned in Heaven, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfection and that He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

References—Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21.

Section 8. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that it is solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Divine truth, and our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

References—John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; II Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8.

Section 9. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification. That Justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but that solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood His righteousness is imputed to us.

References—Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1, 9.

Section 10. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

References—Acts 16:31

Section 11. Of Sanctification

We believe that Sanctification of the Believer is the Divine setting apart of the individual unto God, accomplished in a threefold manner: first, an eternal act of God based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the Believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saints as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to life; third, the consummation of this process at the Lord's return.

References—Hebrews 10:10-14; Hebrews 3:1; John 17:17; Ephesians 5:27; II Corinthians 3:18; I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-26; I Thessalonians 4:3-4, 5:23-24; I John 3:2; Jude 25:25; Revelation 22:11.

Section 12. Of the Church

We believe in the unity of all true Believers in the Church - the Body of Christ - which was established on the Day of Pentecost; and that all Believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jew and Gentile, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church, which is a congregation of born-again and immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ and governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word, and that its officers should include pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture.

We believe the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity.

We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with one another in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of such cooperation; and that in all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

References—Ephesians 3:1-6; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 411; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-7; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 3:23-24; Acts 13:13-18.

Section 13. Of Separation

We accept the Scripture command to separate from worldliness, modernism, and apostasy, and from any individual or group that threatens or interferes with the Church's ministry to glorify Jesus Christ.

References—II Corinthians 6:14-17; I Timothy 6:3-6; Romans 16:17-18; IT John 9:11; I Timothy 4:1-2; II Chronicles 19:2; Matthew 7:15-20; Acts 20:28-31; Revelation 18:4; II Thessalonians 3:6-14.

Section 14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that there are two Church Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the single immersion of a Believer in water, and is properly called "Believers Baptism". It depicts in a beautiful and solemn way our faith issuing in death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to church membership. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes and our continual fellowship with Him, and should logically be preceded by Baptism and always by careful self-examination.

References—Acts 8:36; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-32.

Section 15. Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ.

References—Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1.

Section 16. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem, while all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; that this distinction holds among men both in and after death in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

References—Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; Romans 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21.

Section 17. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the Will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

References—Romans 13:17-; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:18-20; Daniel 3:17-18.

Section 18. Of Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be completely regathered in the Holy Land after the completion of the Church and will be saved as a nation at the Second Advent of Christ.

References—Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37.

Section 19. Of Last Things

The Second Advent of Christ: We believe in the "Blessed Hope" - the personal, imminent, pretribulational and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones, and in His return to earth after the tribulation, with His Saints to establish His millennial Kingdom.

References—I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6.

The Judgment Seat of Christ: We believe that every saved person will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be judged by the Lord in regard to faithful service.

References—I Corinthians 3:11-13; II Corinthians 5:10.

The Eternal State: We believe in the bodily resurrection of All men - the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment; that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be forever glorified with the Lord; that the souls of the unbelievers after death remain in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul and body reunited they shall appear before the Great White Throne to be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

References—Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:4b; John 5:28-29; Philippians 1:23; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Revelation 20:1-6, 12-15.

The Millennial Kingdom: We believe that the Millennial Kingdom on earth will be ruled by Jesus Christ from the throne of David.

References—Luke 1:32; Acts 2:21, 30; Isaiah 9:6-7.