

# What We Believe

## The Bible

The Bible was written by men who were divinely inspired. It is God's revelation of Himself to man. It has God as its author, salvation as its end, and truth without error for its matter. It is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The Bible is alive and relevant to live by today.

## God

There is only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is holy and perfect in all aspects. He reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through His Word, the Bible, and His Son, Jesus. Each person of the Trinity has distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

## Jesus

Jesus is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, he was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. During his life on earth, Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, living his life fully free of sin. He suffered and was crucified on a cross as redemption for mankind's sin. Following His death by crucifixion, He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples. He ascended into Heaven and is now eternally exalted at the right hand of God. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His mission to redeem from sin those who believe in Him.

## The Holy Spirit

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He comes to dwell within us through the person of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who inspired holy men to write the Scriptures that became the Bible. He enables men to understand God's truth, convicts of sin, and exalts Jesus.

## Heaven and Hell

Heaven and Hell are actual places. God's Heaven is perfect, therefore God cannot permit sin into Heaven. Those who accept Jesus as their personal Savior are forgiven of their sin, allowing them to have eternal life with God in Heaven when they die, or when Christ returns. For those who have not accepted Jesus as Savior, they will stand in judgment for their sin and will be condemned to eternal torment and separation from God in Hell.

## Mankind

Man was created by the special act of God, in God's own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin. By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. By his nature man is sinful. Only the grace of God can bring man back into a relationship with God. God has made this work possible through the person, life and death of Jesus Christ.

## Grace & Salvation

God makes salvation from sin possible solely through His grace. Due to our sinful nature, mankind can do nothing to earn God's favor or salvation, other than accept Jesus as Savior. By faith, man accepts the free gift of salvation from sin that God has made available through His Son, Jesus. God's grace is a glorious display of His love for man and the forgiveness He make possible. Those whom God has accepted in Christ will never fall away from their state of grace and forgiveness.

## The Christian Life

When we accept Jesus as our Savior as payment for our sin, His Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us. The Holy Spirit guides us, leads us in seeking and understanding God and His holy will, and comforts us. As Christians, out of devotion and gratitude to Jesus, we are to seek to live a Christ-like life. Jesus came to give believers a more abundant life, both now and eternally in heaven. Our response is to make Him Lord of our lives and to seek to serve Him.

## The Church

The Church is a local group of believers who come together for the purposes of worshipping God, ministering to the needs of others, seeking to become more like Christ in how we live, growing in fellowship with other Christians, and seeking to lead others to know and accept Jesus' as their Savior and Lord. As a part of Jesus' body (the church), we are called to live and treat others as Jesus would.

## Sanctity of Life

We believe that human life is a divine gift from God and something for which all humans are responsible. The human life is to be valued and respected, and no human has the right to commit murderous acts. We believe that life starts at conception and therefore our church has a Pro-Life stance on abortion.

## Christian Marriage

We believe that marriage is one of the holiest of relationships that two people can maintain, and that God Himself creates the bond of marriage. Thus, we must treat it as sacred. God developed the Christian Marriage from the beginning, following his Creation, meant for only one man and one woman whose union in marriage becomes one flesh.

## Basic Faith

We adhere to the basic Southern Baptist beliefs found in the Baptist Faith and Message and do not concur with the views of Calvinism, Baptist Reform, Reform Theology, Reform Ministry, or any of the other names associated with the beliefs, thus any Ministerial Staff and Teachers of the church shall NOT believe, practice, or encourage use of these ideas. Use of literature or other means concerning these beliefs would NOT be acceptable. All Ministerial Staff & Teachers must sign a pledge to such with employment application.