

STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, to be the God-breathed Word of Godⁱⁱ, written by menⁱⁱⁱ in God's control, without error^{iv} and infallible^v in the original manuscripts, and the final authority^{vi} in faith and life^{vii} (II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 19:7-9).

THE GODHEAD:

We believe in one Godⁱ, eternally existing in three personsⁱⁱ – The Father, The Son Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit – these three being identical and possessing precisely the same attributes and perfections in essenceⁱⁱⁱ, while eternally existing as three distinct persons. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; Phil. 1:2, Titus 2:13, Acts 5:3-4).

THE CONDITION OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of Godⁱ in innocence and without sin, but that in Adam and Eve's sin humanity fellⁱⁱ, inherited a sinful natureⁱⁱⁱ, became spiritually dead^{iv} and alienated from God^v. God is holy and will not tolerate sin. Man of himself is incapable of remedying his lost and depraved^{vi} condition (Gen. 1:26, 2:1-24; Romans 3:10-18, 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3; Romans 6:6, 11-12).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christⁱ, the eternal Son of Godⁱⁱ, became fully man without ceasing to be Godⁱⁱⁱ, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin^{iv}, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man^v. This redemption He accomplished by voluntarily giving Himself as a sinless substitutionary sacrifice^{vi} on the cross, thereby satisfying God's righteous judgments against sin^{vii}. After confirming that redemption by His bodily resurrection^{viii} from the grave, He ascended to the right hand of His Father where He intercedes^{ix} on behalf of those who trust Him. (John 1:1,2,14,18; Luke 1:34-35; Romans 3:24-26, 8:34).

Jesus is the Son of God, and the Messiah – Luke 1:35, John 4:25-26

Jesus is the only way to God, and is holy/sinless – John 14:6, Hebrews 4:15, 7:26

Jesus is all-powerful – Isaiah 9:6

Jesus is the highest authority – Philippians 2:9-10

Jesus is the head of the Church – Eph 5:23

Jesus is coming again – Titus 2:13

Jesus is our intercessor – Hebrews 7:25, Isaiah 53:12, John 14:6

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine Third Personⁱ of the Trinity who convicts the worldⁱⁱ of sin, that He brings new lifeⁱⁱⁱ to those who are spiritually dead, that all believers are placed into the one true Church^{iv}, which is the Body of Christ^v, that He indwells^{vi} them permanently, seals^{vii} them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts^{viii} upon them, and empowers^{ix} them for service. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (John 16:7-11, 3:5-8; I Cor. 12:7-11,13; John 14:16-17; Eph. 4:30, 5:18; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23).

SALVATION & RESPONSIBILITY

We believe that salvation from the penalty of sin is the gift of God's graceⁱ. It cannot be gained by meritorious worksⁱⁱ but is freely bestowed upon all who put their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christⁱⁱⁱ at Calvary. All who so trust the Savior are forgiven of their sins^{iv} and born into the family of God^v by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. However, salvation must not be the occasion for sin^{vi}, for God in Holiness cannot tolerate sin^{vii} in His children, and in infinite love He corrects them^{viii}. True faith in Christ is expressed by a fruitful, God-pleasing life^{ix} (John 10:27-29; Romans 8:28-29; I John 5:13; Heb. 12:6; Matt. 7:20; James 2:20; Eph. 2:8-9; 1:7; John 1:12; Galatians 5:22-23).

THE CHURCH:

We believe that the true Churchⁱ, called in Scripture the Body of Christⁱⁱ, is a spiritual organismⁱⁱⁱ into which every person who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation^{iv} in this present age has been baptized by the Holy Spirit^v. The Scripture also teaches the establishment and continuance of local churches^{vi}, groups of redeemed individuals joined together^{vii} for worship, instruction, fellowship and service (Eph. 1:22-23; I Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:42, 13:1-2).

EVANGELISM:

Jesus' last command was to go into the entire world and preach the gospel, making disciples, and emphasizing the importance of obeying God. The Church is to minister to the local community, the region, and beyond (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

THE OBSERVANCES:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted two observances to be practiced by all believers until His return, baptismⁱ and the Lord's Supperⁱⁱ. Their observance by each new believer is urged. (Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 11:23-26).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:

We believe in the personal, imminentⁱ coming of the Lord Jesus Christⁱⁱ for His Churchⁱⁱⁱ (I Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16, 20:1-6).

THE ETERNAL STATE:

We believe that at death the souls of those who have trusted Christ for salvation shall be associated with Him forever in gloryⁱ. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious miseryⁱⁱ until the final judgment of the great white throne, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fireⁱⁱⁱ, not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God forever in conscious punishment^{iv} (Luke 16:19-26; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15).