

ELDER'S STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. The Scriptures

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible were written by men inspired by God, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation The Scriptures...continued for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II. God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honour, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

IV. The Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of His Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin; honoured God's law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for the sins of the elect; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V. Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing that Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is granted, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favour with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. The Freeness of the Gospel

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, repentant and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. God's Grace in Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner beyond our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with God's truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, forged in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with genuine contrition, confession, supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the responsibility of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God

and active imitation of His mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in those who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers in His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in

- XI. **Sanctification...**continued regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means - especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XII. The Preservation of the Saints

We believe that such only are true believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XIII. A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws and exercising gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word.

XIV. Baptism and The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful symbol, our faith in the crucified, buried and then risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; and the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Jesus Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is appointed by God, for the interests and good order of human society; and that political leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed; except only things opposed to the will

of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of the conscience, and the King over the kings of the earth.

XVI. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such

XVII. **The Righteous and the Wicked...**continued as continue in unrepentance and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. The World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be condemned to endless punishment and the righteous welcomed into endless joy; and this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.