

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by divine inspiration and is the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13); that it reveals man's state by nature and presents the only means of his salvation (Romans 3:10-12; Acts 4:12); that it constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:20); and that it sets forth the principles by which man will be judged (Romans 2:1-3).

THE GODHEAD

We believe there is only one living and true God, Yahweh (Psalms 83:18; Exodus 6:2-3), perfect, infinite, and eternal (Matthew 5:48; I Kings 8:27; Psalms 90:2), who is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love, and truth (Malachi 3:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Genesis 17:1; Isaiah 6:3; Psalms 19:9; Exodus 34:6; John 3:16); who is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:2-3; Psalms 103:19; Ephesians 1:11); who exists in three persons; namely, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who are equal in their divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct office (Matthew 28:19; John 5:17; 14:16; 15:26; Ephesians 2:18).

THE FATHER

We believe that God is the Father of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son (John 20:17; 3:16), and spiritual Father of the nation Israel (1 Chronicles 29:10), and all believers in Christ. God the Father made the Supreme Sacrifice in giving His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, as the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (Matthew 3:17; Romans 3:24-25; 1 John 2:2).

THE SON

We believe that in the fullness of time the Son humbled Himself and assumed man's nature by being born of the virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the divine and human natures in their completeness in the one unique person of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14). By becoming man, He was made of near kin to us (Numbers 27:11; Ruth 3:12-13), and having a body, He could offer it as a sacrifice for us (Hebrews 10:9-10). Being eternally Yahweh God (John 1:1-14; 8:58), and without sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15), the sacrifice He made on Calvary was infinite in value (John 1:29; 1 John 2:1-2). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God where, as High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy for His people (Hebrews 1:3; 3:1; 7:23-25; 1 John 2:1-2).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in all aspects with the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19; Exodus 17:7 with Hebrews 3:7-9; 1 Corinthians 3:16). He proceeds from the Father and the Son (John 15:26). His principal ministry since His advent at Pentecost is to reprove or convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11); to restrain the process of evil until God's purposes are accomplished (2 Thessalonians 2:7); to bear witness to the truth preached (Acts 5:30-32); to regenerate those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ, baptizing them at the moment of salvation into the church (the body of Christ) (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13); to indwell them permanently and seal them unto the day of redemption (1 Corinthians 3:16; John 14:16; Ephesians 1:13-14); to instruct, comfort and guide God's

children (John 14:16-18, 26; 16:13); to sanctify them (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1-3); to empower them for life and service (Romans 8:2; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5); and to quicken their mortal bodies (Romans 8:11).

MANKIND

His Creation

We believe that man was created by an immediate act of God and not by a process of evolution; that he was created in the image and likeness of God, possessing personality; that he was endowed with power of rational and responsible choice between good and evil; and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God (Genesis 1:27; Colossians 3:10; Acts 17:24-28; Revelation 4:11).

His Fall

We believe that man was subject to trial in the Garden of Eden in order to test his loyalty to his Maker (Genesis 2:15-17); under trial he lost his holy estate, was alienated from God, and became depraved physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually, by voluntarily transgressing His positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan. In consequence of this act of disobedience, the entire human race became involved in sin so that in every heart there is by nature that evil disposition which eventually leads to responsible acts of sin and to just condemnation (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12-18; 3:10-12, 23; 1:19-31; Ephesians 4:18; 1 John 1:8-10).

His Redemption

We believe that God has provided redemption for men through the mediating work of Christ, who voluntarily offered Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin, the Just for the unjust, being made sin for us, bearing sin's curse, and tasting death for every man (Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 9:11,12; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).

SALVATION, REGENERATION, AND JUSTIFICATION

We believe that salvation is wholly by grace, conditioned solely upon acceptance of Christ by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Acts 4:12; 16:31; 2 Corinthians 7:10). When the repentant sinner has met this requirement, God regenerates and justifies him.

Regeneration makes the believer a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). By the operation of the Holy Spirit through the Word, he is given a disposition to obey God (John 3:3-5; 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23). This experience is witnessed to by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16).

Justification is a judicial act of God whereby the believer is declared righteous on the basis of Christ's punishment on the cross (Romans 5:1, 9; 4:4-5; Acts 13:39).

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is one aspect of the experience known as Baptism with the Holy Spirit, and has to do primarily with setting apart unto God. Every believer at regeneration receives the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9), is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), is baptized by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), and sanctified by the Holy Spirit

(2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2). The Holy Spirit indwells every believer, for he is told not to grieve (Ephesians 4:30), nor to quench (1 Thessalonians 5:19), but to yield to (Romans 6:13, 19) and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe that a person once saved can never be lost for he is born of incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23). He is given everlasting life (John 5:24; 10:27-29), is sealed until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30), and his life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). He is given knowledge and assurance of eternal life (1 John 5:11-13). He is assured of no condemnation or separation from God (Romans 8:1; 8:35-39).

RESURRECTION AND IMMORTALITY

We believe that at the return of the Lord the righteous dead will be raised and the living believers will be changed so that both will have literal, and spiritual, and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Philippians 3:20-21; Acts 1:3).

THE CHURCH

We believe that the church invisible and universal is an organism composed of all those who are called out of the world, separated from sin and vitally united by faith to Christ, its living head and ruler (1 Peter 2:9; cf. John 15:28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27); that the church, local and visible, is an organization made up of a company of professed believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship and instruction in the Word, to observe the ordinances, and to administer discipline (Acts 2:46-47; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; see also Acts 6:1-6; 14:23). It is the duty of the church to give the gospel as a witness to all men (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 5:42), to build itself up in the most holy faith (Jude 2-21; Ephesians 4:11-12, 16; Acts 20:32), to minister to the widows and orphans, the sick and afflicted (Acts 6:1-9; James 1:27), and to glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).

ORDINANCES

We believe that Christian ordinances are outward rites appointed by Christ to be administered in each church, not as means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation.

Baptism

We believe that baptism by water is the public confession of Christ in death, burial, and resurrection and, therefore, is to be administered by immersion only to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their personal Savior (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:15-17).

The Lord's Supper

We believe that in obedience to the command, "This do in remembrance of me," all believers should observe the Lord's Supper. It consists of the partaking of the consecrated emblems of bread and wine, and symbolizes the death of Christ for the remission of our sins and our continual dependence upon Him for our sustenance. The Lord's Table should be

open to all believers who are in right relationship with God, regardless of denomination (Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16).

ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evildoers and for the protection of the good (Romans 13:1-7). We, therefore, consider it our duty to pray for rulers and magistrates (1 Timothy 2:1-3), and to be submissive and obedient to their authority, except in things opposed to the will of God (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Acts 4:19; 5:29; Matthew 23:10).

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

We believe in the personal, visible, pre-millennial and imminent return of Christ (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; Mark 13:34-37). This will be accomplished in two stages: First, the Rapture - Christ's coming for His saints - when Christ will descend into the air to catch away His waiting bride, the church (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 3:11); Second, the Revelation - Christ's descending with His saints (Jude 14; Romans 8:16-19; Colossians 3:4; Revelation 19:14) to establish the long-promised kingdom and to reign upon the earth for a thousand years (Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4-6). Between these two stages the Great Tribulation judgments are visited upon the apostate and rebellious world (Jeremiah. 30:7; Matthew 24:21; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10; Revelation chapters 6-19).

JUDGMENTS

We believe that the believer's sins are judged in Christ on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; John 5:24); and that his works will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ at the time of His coming (1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:8). We believe that the impenitent wicked will appear before God for judgment at the Great White Throne after the Millennium to be consigned to the lake of fire, there to suffer torment forever and ever, together with the devil and his angels (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 10:28; Mark 9:43-48; Romans 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:10-15; cf. Revelation 14:9-11).

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that after all God's enemies are consigned to their place of punishment, the present order of things will be dissolved and the new heaven and the new earth, wherein righteousness dwells, will be established as the final state in which the righteous will live forever (Isaiah 65:17; 66:12; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-22:7).

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to the ending of life on earth by God. It is a grievous sin to take a life except in self-defense, during times of war, or when administered by the civil government (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6; Exodus 21:22-25; Psalms 127:3; 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:15; Galatians 1:15).