

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by "holy men of God" who spoke as they were "moved by the Holy Spirit," that it has truth without any mixture of error for its matter, and that it is verbally and plenary inspired, and as such, is, and will remain, the only complete and final revelation of the Will of God to man. We believe that it is the standard for Christian union and the only standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be judged. Psalms 19:7-11, 119:89, 105, 130, 160, 172; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; John 5:39, 45-47; John 12:48; II Timothy 3:17; Revelation 22:18-19.

- A. By "Holy Bible," we mean the collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation which, as originally written, does not merely contain the Word of God, but **IS** the very Word of God. Psalm 119:142, 152, 160; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23; II Peter 1:19-20.
- B. By "inspiration," we mean that the writers of the books of the Bible were moved in such a definite way by the Holy Spirit of God, that their writings are super-naturally inspired. Luke 24:25-28, 44-45; John 5:45-47; Acts 1:16; 28:25; II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20-21.
- C. By "verbal," we mean that every word of the Bible is inspired. John 5:45-47; Acts 1:16, 28:25; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21.
- D. By "plenary," we mean that all parts of the Bible are equal in their inspiration even though they may not be of equal importance to all peoples. Luke 24:25-28, 44-45; II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20-21.
- E. We believe in the absolute and final authority of the Bible in all matters of faith and practice. II Timothy 3:16; I Peter 1:21.

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe:

- A. There is one, and only one, living and true God, who is an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. Genesis 17:1; Exodus 20:2-3; Psalms 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; John 4:24; I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6.
- B. There is one, and only one, living and true God, who is an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. Genesis 17:1; Exodus 20:2-3; Psalms 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; John 4:24; I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6.
- C. The true God is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, love, worship, and praise. Exodus 15:11; Mark 12:30; Romans 11:33; I Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:11
- D. That in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 2:1-11; 12:4-6; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 John 5:7.

III. JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ:

- A. Is God. Isaiah 9:6.
 - 1. He is the second Person of the Triune Godhead. Matthew 28:19.
 - 2. He was eternally pre-existent before His human birth. Micah 5:2.
 - 3. He is the Creator of all things. Colossians 1:15-17.
 - 4. We believe in the Lordship and Headship of The Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:10-20.

- B. Was virgin born of Mary. Luke 1:34,35.
 - 1. He was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35. .
 - 2. He is "the begotten Son of God." Luke 1:35; Hebrews 1:5. This indicates:
 - a. His position as truly God in the flesh. John 5:18; 10:33,36; 19:7.
 - b. His unique position as the only one of His kind. John 3:16.
 - 3. He fully became man without ceasing to be fully God. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14.
 - 4. He set aside the independent exercise of His relative attributes (omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence). John 17:5; Acts 10:3-8; Philippians 2:6-7.
 - 5. He did not in any way set aside His absolute or immanent attributes (holiness, justice, mercy, truth, faithfulness). John 14:9-10.
 - 6. He was absolutely sinless in His incarnation though He was tempted in every way just as we are. Hebrews 4:15.

- C. Died on the cross as our substitute, thus paying the death penalty we deserve for our sins. Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-24.
 - 1. Christ's death was provided as a redemption, or ransom, fully paying God's holy demands in the sinner's behalf and, thereby, freeing the sinner from the just condemnation of God. Isaiah 53:2-6; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25; Galatians 1:4; I Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 9:28; I Peter 3:18.
 - 2. Christ's death demonstrates God's love toward the sinner. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:9.
 - 3. The death of Christ is the basis by which the world is reconciled to God. II Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:16.

- D. Rose literally and bodily from the dead (John 20:24-29; I Corinthians 15:11-20), thereby:
 - 1. Proving Himself to be as He claimed, the Son of God. Romans 1:4.
 - 2. Guaranteeing the future bodily resurrection of believers. I Corinthians 15:20-23.
 - 3. Becoming the Head of the Church. Ephesians 1:20-23.
 - 4. Assuring the future bodily resurrection and judgment of unbelievers. Acts 17:31

- E. Ascended literally and bodily into Heaven. Acts 1:9-11.
 - 1. He is presently exalted at the right hand of God. Ephesians 1:20-22, 4:8-10.
 - 2. He now makes intercession before God for the saints, as their High Priest. Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 8:1-2.
 - 3. He now appears before God as advocate on behalf of believers. Hebrews 9:24; I John 2:1.

- F. Will return in power and glory in two events:
1. His return for the Church at the rapture of the saints. I Corinthians 15:51-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 2. His return with His saints to judge mankind and to rule the earth at the close of the Tribulation. Ezekiel 20:34-38; Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 19:15-21.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal and one with God the Father, God the Son, and of the same nature. Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3,4.

- A. In relationship to an unbelieving world:
1. He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled. II Thessalonians 2:6-8.
 2. He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness. John 16:8-11.
 3. He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony. Acts 5:32.
- B. In relationship to believers:
1. He is the agent in the new birth. John 3:3, 5-6.
 2. He seals, baptizes, indwells, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, intercedes in prayer, sanctifies, and helps. Luke 24:49; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; Romans 8:26; I Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; I Peter 1:2.
 3. We believe that some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit were temporary in nature (tongues, interpretation of tongues and healing). These gifts were restricted to the Apostolic age and were sign gifts bearing witness to the Apostles' ministry. I Corinthians 13:8-10, 14:22; Hebrews 2:3-4.

V. SATAN OR THE DEVIL

We believe:

- A. In the personality of Satan. Job 1:6-12; Isaiah 14:12-15; II Corinthians 11:14.
- B. That Satan is the unholy god of this age. II Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 4:3.
- C. That Satan is the author of all powers of darkness. Ephesians 6:10-12; Colossians 1:13.
- D. That Satan is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10.
- E. That demons are a part of the kingdom of Satan. Matthew 12:43; Mark 5:1-13; Revelation 16:13.
- F. That a Christian cannot be demon possessed (i.e.: Satan owned). Acts 5:3; I Corinthians 5:5; 6:19-20; 1 John 4:4.

VI. MAN

We believe:

- A. That man was created in the image of the triune Godhead. Genesis 1:26, 27, 31.
- B. That the first man, Adam, willfully disobeyed God's commandment, receiving the just result, being death (physical and spiritual). Genesis 3:6; 3:17; Romans 5:12-21; I Timothy 2:13-14.
- C. Now bears the image of corruption inherited from the first man. Genesis 5:3; I Corinthians 15:22, 49, 50.
- D. Is totally dependent upon the grace of God to be restored to life and fellowship with God. John 3:1-36; Ephesians 2:1-9; Titus 3:5.

VII. SIN

We believe sin:

- A. To be any attitude, thought, action, or inaction contradicting God's Holy character. Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:2, 3; James 4:17; I John 3:4.
- B. Has affected every part of man's being: spirit, soul, and body. Romans 3:10-19.
- C. To be that for which judgment must be executed. Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27.

VIII. SALVATION

We believe:

- A. Salvation to be a reconciliation from God to mankind whereby sanctified individuals escape condemnation by being the un-merited benefactor of divine and sovereign grace. John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24; Romans 3:22; Titus 3:7.
 - 1. Through personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ whose blood was shed once for all as the complete payment for the forgiveness and remission of our sins past, present and future.. Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:24, 25; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22, 28, 10:12; I Peter 1:18-19.
 - 2. Wholly of God's grace, apart from human merit, works, feelings, worth. Romans 3:27-28, 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; I John 4:10.
- B. Salvation to be instantaneous and not a process, being brought about by the Holy Spirit in connection with the Holy Scriptures. John 5:24; 16:8-13; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 1:13; 2:18; II Timothy 3:15.
- C. Salvation results in the priesthood of all believers. I Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14-16; I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:4-6

IX. ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe that all who are truly born again are:

- A. Kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; Philippians 1:6; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24.
- B. Sealed in this relationship by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30.

X. THE CHURCH

We believe:

- A. That the true universal church includes all born-again believers in Christ during the present dispensation and is the Body of which Christ is the Head and it is the Bride to whom He is the Bridegroom. John 3-7; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9.
- B. That the local church is a congregation of born-again baptized believers uniting to worship, to fellowship and to observe the ordinances with Christ as its Head. Acts 2:41-47, 20:7, 28; Hebrews 10:25.
- C. In the autonomy of the local church. Acts 6:1-7, 15:3-4, 7, 12, 22, 25.

XI. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that there are two church ordinances commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ: Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- A. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, as a public declaration of an inward change, resulting from the believer's faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour. Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Matthew 3:13-17, 28:19; Acts 8:12, 36-38, 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-7.
- B. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service, in remembrance of His death until He comes. It should be preceded by a solemn self-examination and confession of one's own sin. Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-34; I John 1:9.

XII. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe:

- A. The Christian is called to lead a holy life of service and testimony as a mark of love and devotion to Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1-2; II Corinthians 4:5, 5:17, 7:1; Galatians 5:1, 22-26; I Thessalonians 4:7; I Peter 1:15-16.
- B. In the believer's individual responsibility to search the scriptures daily, concerning matters of doctrine and conviction. Acts 17:11; Romans 14:5.

XIII. THE END TIMES

We believe the order of events of the end times to be as follows:

- A. The Imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church (commonly referred to as the rapture). I Thessalonians 1:9-10, 4:13-5:10.
- B. The Tribulation period. Revelation 6:15-17.
- C. The Second Coming of Christ to the earth. Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-16.
- D. The establishment of the reign of Christ on earth for one thousand years (commonly referred to as the millennium). Revelation 20:4-6.
- E. The Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:11-15.
- F. The new heavens and the new earth. II Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1.

XIV. THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead:

- A. The saved to a life of eternal glory and bliss in Heaven with God. Matthew 25:46; John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-4.
- B, The unsaved to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and torment in the lake of fire. Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16; Revelation 20:11-15.

XV. ANGELS

We believe:

- A. Angels were created by God. Mark 12:25; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:5.
- B. Angels now exist either:
 - 1. As un-fallen and confirmed in holiness, ministering before God. Isaiah 6:3.
 - 2. As fallen and condemned, including Satan. Isaiah 14:12-15; II Corinthians 11:14; Jude 6; Revelation 12:9.
- C. Angels affect our lives:
 - 1. Positively as "sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Psalms 91:11; Hebrews 1:14
 - 2. Negatively (See Satan, Demons). Job 1, 2; Acts 5:3.