

SECTION 2.02 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God, and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-20).
2. We believe that God is a sovereign, living, intelligent, rational Being and that He has a plan for man and for the universe. We believe He has the will, power, and

authority, and is actively engaged in carrying that plan to completion (Genesis 18:25; Isaiah 57:15; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 8:28-29).

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; Matthew 28:19).

3. We believe in the personality of Satan. We believe that the Devil or Satan:
 - a. Once was a holy angel and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell (Isaiah 14:12-13; Ezekiel 28:15-17).
 - b. Drew after him a host of angels (I Thessalonians 3:5).
 - c. Is now the prince of the power of the air, the unholy god of this world (I Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:13).
 - d. Is man's great tempter (I Peter 5:8)
 - e. Is the enemy of God and His Christ.
 - f. Is the accuser of the saints.
 - g. Is the author of all false religions; the chief power back of the present apostasy (II Corinthians 11:13-15).
 - h. Is the lord of the antichrist (I John 4:3; II John 7).
 - i. Is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and
 - j. To the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels (Revelation 19:11, 16, 20, 12:7-9, 20:1-3; Matthew 25:41).
4. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin, and is true God and true man (Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-2, 14, 18, 14:7-11, 20:28; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 2:9-10).
5. We believe in the literal Genesis account of creation. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach the age of moral responsibility, are sinners in thought, word and deed (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 5:12, 3:23).
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood (I Corinthians 15:1-4; Hebrews 10:9-12; Romans 3:24).
7. We believe in the eternal security of the believer; that is impossible for one born into the family of God ever to be lost (John 1:12, 6:27, 10:27-30, 5:24; Hebrews 7:24-25).
8. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord; in His ascension into heaven; and in His present life there as High Priest and Advocate (I Corinthians 15:1-20; John 20:24-29; Acts 1:10-11; Hebrews 1:3, 4:14-16, 7:24-25; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1-2).
9. We believe in that blessed hope – the personal, premillennial, pretribulational and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when the church will be gathered together unto Him (Titus 2:13; Acts 1:10-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-15).

10. We believe in the literal fulfillment of the prophecies and promises of the Scriptures which foretell and assure the future regeneration and restoration of Israel as a nation (Ezekiel 37:11-14, 21-28; Isaiah 11:1-2; Romans 11:26-27).
11. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God (John 1:12, 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 8:9, 16-17; Galatians 3:26; Titus 3:5; I John 3:1-2).
12. We believe in the soul liberty of every individual. Soul liberty is the implementation of the truth that "We must obey God rather than man." Every man must give answer to God individually, and therefore no other man, and no church, can act as his conscience now. He has the right to interpret the Scriptures for himself and the responsibility to answer to God for the way in which he does so. He has, as a believer, the Holy Spirit to guide and enable him apart from another other ministry of man or the church (I John 2:27; Romans 14:5; II Timothy 2:15; I Corinthians 2:9-12).
13. We believe in the priesthood of all believers; that all believers have immediate access into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus; that we need no human agency to intercede for us before the throne of grace; and that Jesus Christ is our only mediator before God (Hebrews 10:19, 13:15; I Peter 2:1-10; I Timothy 2:5).
14. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost. For a sequence of events see Article 16-a (John 5:21-30; Daniel 12:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15, 21:8; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; John 14:1-6).
15. We believe that the true church is the mystical body of Christ, of which He is the living head, and the regenerate believers from the day of Pentecost to the rapture of the church are the members (Ephesians 5:23-32, 1:22-23; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2; Colossians 3:11; I Corinthians 12:13).
 - a. The local church is a body of baptized believers organized to meet together for the purpose of observing the ordinances and to carry out the principles, precepts and commission of Christ – see Constitution, Article II – Purpose (I Timothy 3:15; Acts 2:1-47, 14:23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Matthew 28:18-20).
 - b. We believe that the Scriptural ordinances of the church are baptism (single immersion), and the Lord's Supper; that baptism should be administered to believers only, as a symbol of their belief in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and as a testimony to the world of that belief and their identification with Him in His death, burial and resurrection; and that the Lord's Supper should be partaken of by baptized believers only, to show forth His death till He comes, and as a memorial of His death (Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:26-39, 2:41-44; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28).
16. We believe in the sovereignty and independence of the local church from any controlled power, whether from other churches, denominations, or the State. We believe in the separation of Church and State. We believe in obeying the "powers that be" of government except where they violate the commands of God's Word (Romans 13:1-7; Acts 5:29, 15:3, 19-31). We believe in this, the Church Age, that the Holy Spirit indwells in each and every believer from the moment he receives Jesus Christ as Savior. We believe this indwelling alone makes it possible to live a victorious Christian life. We believe that the modern-day speaking in tongues and divine healing movements are not related as outward evidence of the Spirit-filled life.

We believe that the Spirit-filled life is to be the normal experience of every born again Christian and that regardless of one's occupation or profession, he is filled with the Spirit when he is occupied with Jesus Christ and His Word for the purpose of reaching others for Christ (I Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:1-14; John 14:16-18, 16:7-13; Ephesians 6:17, 5:18; Hebrews 4:12).

- a. We believe this age will end with the rapture of the mystical body of Christ, the church, referred to under Article 8. At that time the Holy Spirit as the restrainer and indweller will be removed from the world, thus paving the way for the following events:
1. The Day of God's Wrath, commonly known as the Great Seven-Year Tribulation Period, and the last week of the prophetic seven weeks given to Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27, 12:1; Revelation 6:16-17; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9).
 2. The revealing and judgment of the wicked one, commonly known as the antichrist, or son of perdition (II Thessalonians 2:3-17; Revelation 19:20, 20:10).
 3. The revelation of Jesus Christ when He comes back to the earth with His saints to stand on the Mount of Olives, in the full radiance of His eternal glory (Matthew 24:27-31; Jude 14-15; Zechariah 14:1-9).
 4. The judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31-32).
 5. The resurrection of the righteous dead (Revelation 20). The dead of the church will have been resurrected at His coming in the Rapture (I Corinthians 15:22-23; I Thessalonians 4:13-15).
 6. The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ – a literal reign of 1,000 years by Christ on earth over all the people, nations and tongues. This will especially be the fulfillment of the promises to Israel for the Messiah the King to reign on the throne of David – see Article 9 (Revelation 20:4-6; Philippians 2:9-11).
 7. The resurrection of the wicked dead (Revelation 20:5).
 8. The Great White Throne Judgement, and eternity (Revelation 20:11-15, 21, 22; I Corinthians 15:22-23).

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Revelation 22:17

“... that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Colossian 1:18