

## What We Believe

### The Holy Scriptures

We believe the writings of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 12:6-7).

### The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Co. 13:14; John 14:10, 26).

### The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8).

(2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).

(3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and

Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

### **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the Creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. (John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; John 3:5-6; Genesis 1:2; John 14:26)

### **The Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but that in Adam's, sin the human race fell, inherited sinful nature and became alienated from God, and that man is totally depraved and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23 5:12, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

### **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; I Peter 18-19). We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations and inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; that they occur when we willfully and knowingly turn from our sin and by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior

and Lord (Acts 20:21; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 7:10).

## **Baptism**

We believe that Christian baptism is the complete immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior; that it pictures our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, is the obedient submission of the child of God, and does not constitute in part or in whole salvation or redemption; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relationship and to the Lord's supper (Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; Matthew 3:6, 16; Matthew 28:19; John 3:23; 1 Peter 3:21-22).

## **Eternal Security of the Believer**

- 1) We believe that all the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5).
- (2) We believe that it is the privilege of the believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 6:1-4; 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

## **The Church**

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, said church being understood to be the "pillar and ground of the truth," observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors, elders, and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; first, to make individual

disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that the one and only leader is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final (Acts 2:41; I Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 18:8; Acts 5:42; I Timothy 3:1-13).

### **The Resurrection and Return of Jesus Christ**

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their full value. Of the resurrection we believe that Christ rose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God"; that "this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven..." bodily, personally, and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet;" "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He has put all enemies under His feet." We are therefore pre-millennial and pre-tribulational as it pertains to the return of Christ (Matthew 28:1-7; I Corinthians 15:1-54; Revelation 20:1-6; Acts 1:3, 11; I Thessalonians 4:13-16; Revelation 19:11-16).

## **The Person of Satan (the Devil)**

We believe that Satan is a person, an angel who rebelled against God, the author of sin and the cause of man's fall; that he is the openly declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire, "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Job 1:6-7; Ezekiel 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

## **Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; & (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14).

## **Stewardship**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe God established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to support the church, relieve those in need and spread the Gospel. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; I Timothy 5:17-18; I John 3:17).