

# **Statement of Faith**

## **I. The Inspiration of the Bible**

I believe the Holy Scriptures, which include the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are the verbally inspired Word and revelation of God. As we read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”. I believe the Bible is inerrant in its original writings, infallible, God-breathed and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. In Psalm 12:6-7 we read, “The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”. And then in II Peter 1: 20-21 we read, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”.

(Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Luke 24:13-28; John 16:12-16; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 138:2).

## **II. The Trinity**

I believe there is but one God. Deuteronomy 6:4 reads, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord”. Jesus himself affirms that He and God are one in the Gospel of John in the tenth chapter and the 30<sup>th</sup> verse where He says, “I and my Father are one.” And then of course in Matthew 28:19, we read, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” Here we see that the Bible also asserts that the Holy Spirit, in the same way as the Father and the Son, is also God. At the same time, I believe that although there is but one God, He eternally exists as three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit-coequal and coeternal. Each has His individual identity and separate responsibilities for the purposes of redemption, yet perfectly united as three Persons in One. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said it this way, “The Father creates; the Father elects; the Father planned salvation and the Son was sent by the Father to work out this salvation. The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son to apply the salvation.” In 1 John 5:7-8 we read, “For there are three that bear

record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one”.

(1 John 5:1-8; John 16:7-18; Genesis 1:26).

### **III. The Deity and Virgin Birth of Christ**

I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. He is described in the Bible some forty times as the “Son of God.” In Matthew 3:17, God himself refers to Him in an audible voice as “my Son”. Luke 1:30-35 described how the Holy Spirit would come upon the Virgin Mary and how she would conceive a child by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son and call His name Jesus.” The prophet Isaiah in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter and 14<sup>th</sup> verse foretells of this very act hundreds of years in advance, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

(John 1:18; 3:16; Philippians 2:5-11; John 14:9; John 10:36).

#### **IV. The Holy Spirit**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, who according to John 16:8-11, convicts the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; and that on the sole condition of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, men are born again by the Holy Spirit; that at regeneration, all believers in this age are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption. In Ephesians 1:13-14 we read, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." I also believe that the baptism of the Spirit is not a separate event apart from the reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit upon believing on Christ unto salvation. Romans 8:9 tells us that, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." I believe as John 16:13 teaches, that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14, Romans 3:24-28; 8:9-11;

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; Acts 15:6-11; Galatians 3:2,14; Romans 10:13-17; Romans 8:9; John 16:13; I John 2:20, 27).

## **V. Angels**

I believe in the existence of angels, an innumerable company of Spiritual beings. I believe they were created by God to serve Him and to praise Him and to minister to His saints. In Colossians 1:16 we read, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." In Hebrews 1:13-14 we read, "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? I believe in two classes of angels: the "Unfallen" or those who have "Kept their first estate" and the "Fallen" as described in II Peter 2:4 as those who sinned and followed Satan and rebelled against God.

(Genesis 2:1; Hebrews 1:13-14; Revelations 7:11-12, Luke 15:10; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

## **VI. The Personality of Satan**

I believe in the personality of Satan, "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." I believe that he is actively opposing the cause of Christ on every hand and is the arch enemy of every true believer. His warfare includes the mixing of error and truth as well as that which is blatantly vile and evil. I Peter 5:8 tells us to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

According to 2 Corinthians 11:3-15, "He marshals a host of fallen angels that can also serve to deceive the unsuspecting by "transforming themselves into apostles of Christ and ministers of righteousness." Therefore as 1 John 4:1 teaches, every experience and teaching must be examined in light of the Word of God and tested to determine its true source. But the Bible tells us in Revelation 20:10 that Satan will receive his just reward "and will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and will be tormented day and night forever."

(2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Revelation 12:9-10; Matthew 4:2-11; Isaiah 8:20; Isaiah 14:12-17; John 8:24; Revelation 20:10)

## **VII. The Total Depravity of Man**

I believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 1:27 says, “That God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” But as a result of Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden, the race fell and man incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which of course is a separation from God. As a consequence, all men are declared by God to be totally depraved, having inherited a sinful nature and having become sinners in thought, word and deed.

Romans 3:10 says, “That there is none righteous, no not one.” Verse 23 of that same chapter reads, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 5:12 goes on to explain, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

(Genesis 1: 26-27; 2:16-17; 3:6-19; Romans 3:10-23; 5:12; 6:3; 7:18; 11:32; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; Galatians 3:22).

## **VIII. Atonement**

I believe that Jesus Christ died as a substitutionary and complete sacrifice for the sins of the whole world and only those who trust in His redemptive work are saved on the ground of His shed blood.

Romans 3:24-28 reads, “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore I conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of law.” (Romans 5:8-10; I Timothy 2:5-6; I John 2:1-2).

## **IX. Salvation**

I believe that salvation is the free 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. As we read in Ephesians 2:8-10, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

(John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19).

## **X. Justification by Faith**

I believe that man is justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood and bodily resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." I believe that the all-sufficient and completed work of redemption, accomplished through His death and resurrection, is fully appropriated at the moment in time by those who receive by faith the free gift of salvation offered in the one true Gospel.

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; John 5:24; Ephesians 5:8).

## **XI. Eternal Security**

I believe in the eternal security of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Once a lost sinner has become a "new creature in Christ," he can never lose that new relationship in the family of God which is based upon Christ's imputed righteousness and not his own. The life that God imparts to the believing sinner is not "eternal life" if it can be terminated. As we read in John 10:25-29, "Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believe not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my

sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” I believe that sin in the life of the believer affects his fellowship with the Father not his sonship. Hebrews 12:6-13 explains that those who are truly born of the Spirit and who continue in sin will be dealt with by the chastening hand of God. All who are in Christ are sealed unto the day of redemption and will be glorified. Philippians 2:12 tells us that, we are to "work out" our salvation not "work for" our salvation. Texts used to supposedly teach that one can lose his salvation are speaking of loss of reward, not the loss of salvation or the right to be called a child of God.

(1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; 1 John 1:5-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 John 8; Revelation 3:11; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

## **XII. Two Natures of the Believer**

I believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for the old nature to be defeated by the new nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the complete eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural.

Galatians 5:16-25 tells us in general to “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

(Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:5-9; Romans 7: 18-24).

### **XIII. Sanctification**

I believe that all Christians should live in a manner that exalts Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives. We are first to be separated wholly unto the Lord, and as a necessary result, we must be:

1) Separated from worldly and sinful practices. As is stated in I Peter 1, we are to be holy, even as He is holy, and be not conformed to the ways of the world. (I Peter 1: 13-16; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2; I John 2:15-17).

2) Christians should be separated from apostasy and unbelief. A believer must not be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers," thereby being identified with unbelief by association, whether it be in ministry, or worship, or by joint religious activities (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; 3:1-5; Amos 3:3).

3) And then according to 2 Thessalonians and the third chapter, Christians should separate themselves from disobedient brethren and doctrinal compromise. A believer is identified with the doctrinal positions and practices of those he is in fellowship with. (Romans 16:17; 2 John 10-11; Galatians 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:33).

#### **XIV. The Resurrection**

I believe in the physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that He died, was buried and after three days arose from the grave, showing Himself to the disciples and others and then ascended bodily into the heavens and is now at the right hand of the Father as our Mediator, Priest, and Advocate. Acts 3:12-26; John 20; Hebrews 9:24; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28; 1 John 2:1.

#### **XV. The Second Coming**

I believe also in the Rapture and the imminent return of Jesus Christ both personally and bodily. I believe that at that time He will receive unto Himself the resurrected bodies of all those who have "died in Christ" and also all those who are presently alive and "in Christ" and we will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:6-10; I Corinthians 15:50-55; Acts 1:11; Titus 2:13). I believe that He will then return visibly to the earth "with His

saints" after the seven year Great Tribulation to inaugurate His millennial kingdom of universal peace and righteousness. (Jude 14-15; Matthew 25:31-46). At that time, the Lord will cast the anti-christ and the false prophet into the lake of fire, send Satan into the abyss and establish His earthly kingdom. Christ will reign one thousand years, thus literally fulfilling the covenant promises made to a believing remnant of Israel through the Patriarchs of the Old Testament (Isaiah 11:1-16; Revelation 19:19-20; 20:1-6). After the earthly reign of one thousand years, He will bring all the unsaved dead to the judgment of the Great White Throne and all who stand before that Throne will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 7:21-23). And then Satan himself will be cast into the Lake of Fire and tormented day and night forever. (Revelation 20:10).

## **XVI. Heaven and Hell**

I believe that Heaven is a real place of eternal blessedness prepared by God for those whose garments have been "made white" through their faith in the shed "blood of the Lamb." I also believe that hell is a real place of eternal suffering for those whose names are not written in the "book of life." There is no intermediate state in which the

unsaved can atone for his own sins (John 14:1-6; Revelation 7:13-17; 20:11-15; 21:22-27; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Luke 16:19-31).

#### **XIV. Missions**

I believe it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind by praying, giving and going where the Lord so leads.

Acts 1:8 tells us plainly, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Mark 16:15; II Corinthians 5:19-20; Matthew 28:19-20).

#### **XV. The Church**

I believe that the universal church is the body of Christ composed of all who are born again during this church age, which began at Pentecost and will end when the church is raptured. I believe in the establishment, autonomy and continuance of the local church as is taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2; Acts 2; 14:27, 20:17; 28:37; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 2:42).

## **XVI. Ordinances**

I believe there are two ordinances for the local church. They are water baptism by immersion, which is a testimony of the believer of his new life in Christ and the Lord's Supper, which of course is in remembrance of Christ's death. (Matthew 28:19; Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

## **XVII. The Eternal State**

I believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6; 12-13)

I believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death absent from the body and present with the Lord, where they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited and glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17)

I believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain in constant misery after death until the last resurrection, when soul and body are reunited and appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, to suffer everlasting, conscious

punishment, eternally separated from God. (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20: 11-15)

### **XVIII. Interpretation of the Scripture**

I believe in the literal, grammatical, and historical method of Bible interpretation. I believe in the pre-millennial dispensational view of Biblical interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as “Hyper-Dispensationalism” such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord’s table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age.

(Matthew 20:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 13:49; Ephesians 3:2).



