

OUR DOCTRINE

THE BIBLE

We believe the entire Bible is inspired of God and holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. We believe this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the sacred writings - historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic - as appeared in the original manuscripts. Therefore, we believe the whole Bible in the original manuscripts is without error. We believe the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21

THE TRINITY

We believe the Godhead eternally exists in three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each completely and fully God. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; John 1:1,14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14

ANGELS

We believe angels are spiritual beings who were created as sinless personalities and that they occupy different orders and ranks. They presently exist in both Holy and fallen (unholy) states. Holy angels are not to be worshiped, but instead were created to serve and worship God and are involved with mankind as protectors, observers, and fellow worshipers. Fallen angels include Satan and his angels. We believe Satan is the originator of sin who, under the permission of God, deceptively led our first parents into disobedience. Satan continues his evil schemes as "the god of this world," but has been judged and defeated by the cross. Satan will one day be banished from this world and cast eternally into the lake of fire.

Genesis 3:1-19; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:13-14; 2:14; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 7:12; 20:10

MAN + SIN

We believe man was originally created in innocence and in the image and likeness of God. Through Adam's sin, man fell and lost his spiritual life as a consequence. He is dead in trespasses and sins, and is now subject to the power of the devil. We believe this spiritual death - or total depravity of human nature - has been transmitted to the entire human race. Mankind is universally sinful by nature and choice, void of spiritual life, and incapable of saving himself.

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1.24; Romans 1:18-3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3

SALVATION

We believe salvation is a sovereign gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe man is justified by grace through faith, apart from works. Therefore, we believe the new birth of the believer comes through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe all true believers, elect of God once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever.

John 3:16; 5:24; 10:27-30; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; 8:1, 29-30, 38-39; Ephesians 1:4-14; 2:8-10

SECURITY OF SALVATION

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

John 10:27-28; Ephesians 1:13-14

SANCTIFICATION

We believe the righteousness of God was imputed to all believers at the moment of faith in Jesus Christ. We believe sanctification is the process of being set apart for God's work, as we are conformed to the image of Christ. We grow in grace as we lay aside the old self and its sinful desires and put on the new self. Sanctification is the Spirit-led process of becoming the person God created us to be and will only be fully realized when we are made complete in the presence of God.

John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:20-32, 5:25-27; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10,14

THE CHURCH

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe the Church began at Pentecost and a believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. We believe the Church is distinct from Israel. We believe the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one place for the purposes of worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, equipping for and carrying out ministry, specifically serving others and sharing the good news of the gospel.

Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 10:32; 12:13

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THE ORDINANCES

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which are to be observed by believers until He returns. We believe it is an act of obedience for a believer to make a public profession of faith and identity with his Savior through water baptism. We also believe parents may dedicate their children to the Lord, but should not baptize until the child can personally articulate his/her faith and the purpose of baptism. We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe every Christian has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper, but that participation must always be preceded by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

MARRIAGE

We believe in the divinely ordained and sacred institution of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe this relationship is a mysterious reflection of the relationship of Christ and the church and is therefore characterized by an unconditional, self-sacrificing love and devotion. We believe God designed the marriage relationship to thrive under the spiritual leadership of the husband and the loving respect of the wife. Despite the differing roles, both husband and wife have been created in the image of God and are of equal value in His sight. We believe the marriage relationship should be established and fruitful based on a mutual submission to Christ.

Genesis 2:24; Colossians 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:22-33

FAMILY

We believe children are a gift of the Lord; therefore, it is the parents' primary responsibility to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We believe the church family also shares in this responsibility and should partner with parents to raise up the next generation of *Christian disciples*.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4

THE END TIMES

We believe in the personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds for the gathering of His church who will meet Him in the air, commonly referred to as the rapture. This event will precede a 7 year period of worldwide judgment and a call to repentance known as the Great Tribulation. The tribulation will end with the triumphant return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom where Christ will reign for 1000yrs.

Daniel 9:27, 12:1b; Matthew 24:15, 21; John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:9; Revelation 3:10, 13:1-8, 19:11-16

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

In the end, it is the destiny of all humanity to stand before the judgment seat of God. Those who rebelled against God and rejected the good news of the gospel will pay the penalty of eternal destruction and will be eternally separated from the presence of God. Those who trusted God and the promise of salvation He fulfilled in Jesus Christ will inherit eternal life and live forever in the presence of God. Eternal rewards will be given to the saints based on the judgment of deeds performed in the flesh but nothing will enhance or diminish the joy of resurrected life.

Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Revelation 20:1-15

THE ETERNAL STATE OF BELIEVERS

We believe the souls of believers in Jesus Christ do, at death, immediately pass into His presence, and there remain until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the Church, when soul and body reunite. We believe the story of redemption culminates with a divine re-creation of heaven and earth where righteousness dwells. This eternal existence will include imperishable bodies for all who reside in the presence of God and dwell among men. There will be no more mourning or crying or pain. Sin will be abolished and God will make all things new.

1 Corinthians 15:44-49; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-22:5