

### Section 1. The Scriptures

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, and the supreme and final authority of doctrine and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; John 17:17).

### Section 2. The Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three equal persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who have the same nature and attributes but who are distinct in office and function (Matthew 28:19; II Cor. 13:14).

### Section 3. Angels, Fallen and Unfallen

We believe that angels are spiritual beings who were created as sinless personalities, and that they occupy different orders and ranks. They presently exist in both fallen and unfallen states, the former including Satan and his angels (Hebrews 1:13-14; II Peter 2:4; Revelation 7:12).

We believe that Satan by his own choice, the enemy of God and of the people of God, is the originator of sin, that he led our first parents into sin and now rules as the god of this world. We believe that he was judged at the cross and ultimately he will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Isaiah 14:12-14; Genesis 3:1-19; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10).

### Section 4. Man Created and Fallen

We believe that man was created innocent and in the image and likeness of God, but that he sinned bringing both physical and spiritual death to himself and his posterity. We believe that man has inherited a sinful nature, is alienated from God, and is in need of salvation (Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:19; Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-3).

## Section 5. The Dispensations

We believe that the dispensations are stewardships by which God administers His purpose on the earth through man under varying responsibilities. We believe that these different administrative responsibilities are manifest in the Bible and that they span the entire history of mankind, and that each ends in the failure of man under the respective test and in an ensuing judgment from God. We believe that three of these dispensations or rules of life are the subject of extended revelations in the Scripture, vis.: the dispensation of the Mosaic Law, the present dispensation of grace, and the future dispensation of the millennial kingdom. These are in accordance with the eternal purpose of God (Ephesians 3:11). Salvation is always by grace, through faith, and rests upon the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We also believe that it has always been true that "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).

## Section 6. The First Advent

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice. We believe that our redemption and salvation is guaranteed by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (John 1:1; 1:14; 1:18; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-26; 4:25).

## Section 7. Salvation Only Through Christ

We believe that salvation is a gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10).

## Section 8. Unlimited Atonement

We believe that the finished work of Christ - His death and resurrection - have potentially provided salvation from sin, reconciliation to God and eternal life for the whole world, and that anyone who responds to God's free offer of eternal life may respond in faith to receive it (John 1:29; 3:16; II Cor. 5:19; II Peter 2:1; I John 2:2).

## Section 9. The Extent of Salvation

We believe that when an unregenerate person exercises faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he immediately passes out of spiritual death into spiritual life, and from the old creation into the new. At that point and time he is in possession of every spiritual blessing and is absolutely complete in Christ. He, therefore, is not required by God to seek a so-called "second blessing" or a "second work of grace" (John 5:24; 17:23; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1; I Cor. 3:21-23; Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 2:10; I John 4:17; 5:11-12).

## Section 10. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, is positional, progressive, and ultimate. Positionally, it is already complete since the believer is in Christ and is set apart unto God as Christ is set apart unto God. Since he retains a sinful nature, however, there is need for progressive sanctification whereby the Christian grows in grace by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, the child of God will be set apart from sin in his practices as he is now in his position in Christ when he is taken to be with Christ and shall be like Him (John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thess. 5:23; Hebrews 10:10, 14).

## Section 11. Eternal Security

We believe that, because of the eternal purpose of God toward the objects of His love, because of the very nature of the divine gift of eternal life, all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever (Romans 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-30).

## Section 12. Assurance

We believe it is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ to be assured of their salvation from the very day they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is based on the testimony of God and His written Word (Luke 10:20; 21:32; II Cor. 5:1, 6-8; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 10:22; I John 5:13).

### Section 13. The Holy Spirit

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is a person who restrains evil in the world and convicts men of sin. He also regenerates those who receive Christ as Savior, baptizes them into the church, The Body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts on each one and fills those yielded to Him (John 16:7-11; John 3:8; I Cor. 12:4-11, 13; John 14:16-17; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).

We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit such as speaking in tongues and miraculous healings were given as authenticating signs in the early church and were temporary (I Cor. 14:22-24; Hebrews 2:4). We believe, however, that God answers prayer for the sick in accordance with His will (I John 5:14-15; James 5:15-16).

### Section 14. The Church - A Unity of Believers

We believe that the church, the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism, made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe that the church began at Pentecost and that a believer is placed into the church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the church is distinct from Israel (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; I Cor. 12:13, 10:32).

We believe that the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one locality for the purposes of worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, to be equipped for Christian service (Acts 2:42-47; I Cor. 1:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-13).

### Section 15. The Ordinances

We believe that Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper which are to be observed by believers until His return (Matthew 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

We believe that by water baptism the believer is publicly identified with the Savior; that the mode should be a matter of the individual's choice; that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord, but not baptized.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe that every Christian has the right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper, but that participation should always be preceded by solemn self examination.

## Section 16. The Christian's Walk

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, thus to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh. But the flesh with its fallen nature will never be eradicated in this life, therefore it needs to be kept constantly in subjection to Christ (Romans 6:11-13; 8:2,4, 12-13; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:1-10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 1:4-7; 3:5-9).

## Section 17. The Christian's Service

We believe that enabling gifts for service are given by the Spirit of God to those who are saved. While there is a diversity of gifts, each believer receives at salvation at least one spiritual gift for his divinely appointed service in the body of Christ. In the apostolic church there were certain gifted men such as the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers who were appointed by God for the equipping of the saints for the work of service.

We believe today there are men that are gifted as evangelists and pastor-teachers, etc. that are to fulfill their responsibilities in equipping the saints for work of service as well (Romans 12:6; I Cor. 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11).

We believe that at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ, rewards are promised according to the faithfulness of each believer through his service for his Lord (I Cor. 3:9-15; 9:18-27; II Cor. 5:10).

## Section 18. The Great Commission

We believe that the expressed commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples applies to believers today. After one trusts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, he is to relate to this world as a stranger and as an ambassador (witness). His primary purpose in this life is to make Christ known to the whole world (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:18-20; I Peter 1:17; 2:11).

## Section 19. The Blessed Hope of the Church

We believe that, according to the Word of God, the believers in this age are to constantly live in expectation of the coming of Christ for the church, at which time the dead in Christ (church age believers) will be raised from the dead and all living believers will be transformed, and both will be translated into the presence of Christ in the clouds and will be made like Him (I Cor. 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; I John 3:1-3).

## Section 20. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the period of great tribulation on the earth will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He ascended, in person to the clouds of heaven, and with power and great glory to introduce the millennial age, to bind Satan and place him in the abyss, to lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, to restore Israel to her own land and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises, and to bring the whole world to the knowledge of God (Deut. 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:9; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Matthew 24:15-26:46; Acts 15:16-17; Romans 8:19-23; 11:25-27; I Timothy 4:1-3; II Timothy 3:1-5; Revelation 20:1-3).

## Section 21. The Eternal State

We believe that souls of believers in Jesus Christ do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the church, and soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery in Hades until the final judgment of the Great White Throne, at the close of the Millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord (Luke 16:19-20; 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Philippians 1:23; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 1:6-7; Revelation 20:11-15).