

# Statement of Faith

## **Section 1. The Scriptures (Bibliology)**

### A. Inspiration

The Bible, in its original manuscripts, is completely inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), the very words inspired by God (2 Peter 1:19-21), and is the infallible (Psalm 19:7-11) and authoritative (John 17:17) Word of God given to man.

### B. Interpretation

Since the Bible was written by many authors over a long period of time, the most accurate and comprehensive method of interpretation is the literal-historical-grammatical method. In order to be consistent with Scriptural intent and meaning this is the method this church will use to interpret the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 4:5; Proverbs 30:5-6)

## **Section 2. The Trinity (Theology)**

There is one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) who is spirit and as such is infinite (Psalm 102:25-27), intelligent (Isaiah 40:13-14; Proverbs 3:19), omniscient (Psalm 139:2-6), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12), omnipotent (Genesis 18:14; Luke 18:27), immutable (Psalm 102:25-27), perfect (Psalm 18:30; Matthew 5:48), holy (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:15), and righteous (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 11:7). God exists eternally in three Persons (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14): Father (John 8:41), Son (John 1:1; Titus 2:13), and Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4). These three Persons are equal in deity, essence, power, sovereignty, and majesty; yet perform distinct but harmonious functions (Ephesians 1:3-14).

### A. God the Father

God the Father is a distinct (1 Samuel 2:2) person of the Trinity, yet shares in the same essence with God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He is sovereign (Psalm 29:2; Isaiah 29:15-16; 43:6-7; Romans 9) over all creation and His purpose (Isaiah 14:24-27) for all creation is to display His glory, person, and name (Revelation 4:11). Therefore, He does what He pleases (Isaiah 46:8-13; 55:8-13; Daniel 4:34-35) when and how He pleases.

### B. God the Son, Jesus Christ

God the Son has eternally existed as a distinct person of the Trinity, yet shares in the same essence with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is the creator (Colossians 1:15-22; Revelation 4:11), sustainer of all creation, and the LORD, Jehovah of the Old Testament and the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies (John 10:30-31). In the redemptive plan, even though He was still God (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1), He took upon Himself the form of man by being supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35) and born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14). In this way He became, and is today, the perfect substitutionary sacrifice for man and the only payment for the penalty of sin (John 14:6; Acts 2:38-39). After His death on the cross He rose bodily from the grave (Matthew 28:1-15), ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 1:1-4) making intercession for us (Acts 2:22-36). Both then (incarnation) and now He is completely God and completely man (Philippians 2:5-8), and will physically return (John 14:1-4) to rule and reign on the earth in keeping with His promises. We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus is LORD, Yahweh (Jehovah), without sin and without the possibility of sinning (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John

3:5). Jesus is the Savior and the Christ, the Messiah, the One who will establish the Theocratic Kingdom on earth at the time of His second advent. When the word “Christ” (Messiah) is used in the New Testament it is a reference to His work, position, and title as the “Anointed One”, the God/Man Ruler, and the King who has all power and authority in heaven and on earth. Jesus is His given name (Matthew 1:20-25).

### C. God the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit is a distinct person of the Trinity, yet shares in the same essence with God the Father and God the Son. He was active in the creation of this world along with God the Father and God the Son (Genesis 1:2, 26). In the Old Testament He came upon men selectively to empower them for service (Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10-11; Judges 3:10). In the New Testament, following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41) to institute the church and to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. He came to indwell all believers making them spiritually alive (John 3:5-8), setting them apart for purity, and sealing them as God's eternally secure possessions. Today the Holy Spirit is our helper (John 14:16-18) as He comforts and leads us through life. He teaches us the truths of God's Word, controlling and strengthening us to live Christ-like lives (John 16:7-14). At the moment we put our faith in Christ the Holy Spirit baptizes (John 3:5-8; I Corinthians 6:11; 12:13; Galatians 3:27) us into the Church, which is the Body of Christ, and gives spiritual gifts to be used in service for our Lord and the Church (1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12; Ephesians 4). Because of the completed revelation of the Bible, certain sign gifts that were used to authenticate an apostle's message from God have ceased to be needed and have come to an end (1 Corinthians 13; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4; Revelation 22:18-19).

## Section 3. The Church (Ecclesiology)

### A. The Church

There is one true church (Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 3:11) called in Scripture the body and bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-30). The church was a mystery in the time before Christ's death, burial, and resurrection; yet now has been revealed in the New Testament. It came into existence on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given (Acts 2:1-13). At this time the disciples became a part of the body of Christ. All who have been “born from above” by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are members of His body (John 3:3-8), of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23).

### B. The Local Church

The local church is comprised of those belonging to the body of Christ who are associated together by faith. In keeping with the admonition of Scripture, they voluntarily fellowship together (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42) in order to observe the ordinances (1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Luke 22:19-20; Matthew 28:19-20), preach Jesus Christ, worship (Luke 4:8), exercise their spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:11-16), care for the widows and orphans (James 1:27), and teach the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15; 4:1-5) to equip the saints for ministry (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 13:1-3). The local church has the absolute right of self-government (Matthew 22:21; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 19, 23; 10:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-13) with dependence upon none, other than Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).

### C. The Ordinances of the Local Church

Jesus Christ instituted the observances of baptism and communion (the Lord's Supper) as the two ordinances of the church. These ordinances are to be observed by born-again believers who are old enough to understand their meaning and are walking with the Lord. They are an act of obedience for the believer but are not required for salvation.

#### 1. Baptism

Scriptural baptism is by immersion (Acts 8:36-39) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is to be observed only once after conversion (Acts 8:12; 10:47; 16:33) as an outward sign of the inward work of grace by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38)

#### 2. Communion

The Lord's Supper is to be observed regularly until He comes. It is a remembrance of all that Christ did for us in His substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection. Observance of the Lord's Supper is for believers only and has no spiritual merit for the unsaved. (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

### D. The Church and Civil Government

God established both the church and the civil government, and He gave each its own distinct sphere of operation (Matthew 22:21; John 18:36; Romans 13:1-7; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 4; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

## Section 4. Man (Anthropology)

### A. The Purpose of Man

The primary purpose of man is to worship God and to bring glory to Him forever. (Isaiah 45:5-9, 21; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; 3:10, 20-21; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

### B. The Condition of Man

Man was created by God in a state of innocence (Genesis 1:27-31; 2:25), but as a result of the temptation of Satan, Adam voluntarily sinned and fell from his innocent state (Genesis 3:1-7). Because of this act of disobedience (Romans 5:12-14), all people are sinners by nature and choice (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9-23) and are totally depraved (Romans 8:5-8). Therefore, man, unless redeemed, is condemned eternally to a literal Hell (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

### C. The Redemption of Man

The only hope for man in his lost condition is the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross (1 Peter 2:24; Romans 6:23). This sacrifice of His body and blood (Leviticus 17:11; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22) satisfied God's demand for the payment required for the penalty of man's sin. Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection were not merely an example for us to follow (Romans 6:4-10). He acted as our only substitute and received the penalty for sin that we deserved (1 Peter 3:18).

### D. The Individual Liberty of Man

Individual liberty is the implementation of the truth that we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Every man must give an answer to God individually (Romans 14:12); therefore, no other man, and no church, can act as his conscience. He has the responsibility to interpret the Scripture for himself and to answer to God for the way in which he does so (Romans 14:1-8). The believer has the Holy Spirit to guide and enable him (Romans 8:1-5; 1 John 2:27), apart from any other ministry of man or of the church.

Every believer will stand individually responsible for the proper interpretation and application of everything the Bible teaches (Romans 14:9-12).

#### E. The Final Judgment

##### 1. Of the Believer

Every saved individual will someday stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). This judgment is not of their worthiness of salvation but of their works in order that every believer may receive rewards from the Lord (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 4:5).

##### 2. Of the Unbeliever

Unsaved individuals will someday stand before the Lord at the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) where they will recognize Jesus Christ as Lord, be judged according to their works, and sentenced to eternal judgment in hell (Luke 16:19-31; John 3:18).

### Section 5. The Spirit World (Angelology)

#### A. The Creation of Spirit Beings (commonly called angels)

God created a host of spirit beings (Ezekiel 1:1-14) to serve Him and bring Him glory (Job 38:7; Psalm 148:1-5). They were created with rank and authority, which is seen in their names: anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14), cherubs (Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 10:20), seraphs (Isaiah 6:1-8), archangel (Jude 9), and angels. The Scriptures further describe the ranks or organization of angels as powers, rulers, thrones, dominions, and authorities (Colossians 1:15-17).

#### B. The Present State of Spirit Beings

##### 1. Elect Spirit Beings

###### a. Their State

The spirit beings that did not leave their original state of creation are unfallen or elect spirit beings and will forever remain in that state. (1 Timothy 5:21)

###### b. Their Ministry

These spirit beings today minister in two general areas: (1) they worship God and carry out His will (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:6-11); (2) they are ministering spirits to those who are heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

##### 2. Fallen Spirit Beings

###### a. Satan

God created all things perfect and without sin. But when Satan, the anointed cherub and God's highest created being (Ezekiel 28:11-19), determined to be like God (Isaiah 14:12-17), sin entered into the creation. Satan is a real being and is extremely powerful, but he does not have God-like attributes (Job 1-2). He is evil and cunning (John 8:44), intending to destroy God's plan and usurp God's sovereign rule (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 12:7-10). He seeks to achieve his purposes and control through deceitful temptations and trying circumstances (1 Peter 5:8; Genesis 3:1). He is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10).

###### b. Demons

In seeking to overthrow God's authority Satan convinced one third of the angels to follow him (Revelation 12:4), resulting in their fall (2 Peter 2:4). Because of this willful act of sin, their eternal punishment and destiny is sealed

with no opportunity for repentance (Jude 6). Until these fallen angels are sent to their eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41), they are demonic messengers under Satan's control opposing God's plan and purpose (Revelation 12:7-9; Ephesians 6:10-12).

c. Their Activities

Both believers and unbelievers are influenced by these demonic forces (Luke 4:33-36; 9:38-43; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Timothy 4:1), but unbelievers are powerless to resist their schemes and dominance (Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 5:19). Unbelievers may also be demon possessed (Matthew 9:32-33, 12:22; Mark 5:1-20). Believers have the strength to resist Satan's temptations if they use the armor of God and the power given to them by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; 6:14-16; Ephesians 6:10-18). Demons seek to entice believers to act independently of God; however, they cannot be demon possessed because they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11; 1 John 4:1-6).

## Section 6. Salvation (Soteriology)

### A. Its Provision and Assurance

God authored and Christ purchased our eternal salvation (John 3:16). God has chosen those who will believe in Christ and exercise their personal faith in Him (Romans 8:27-30; 1 Peter 1:2-5) though we are still obligated to obey and yield to His sovereignty. This salvation is all of grace (Ephesians 2:8-9) through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ Who paid the full redemptive price for our sins. He satisfied God's righteous demands by suffering the death and penalty for man's sin on the cross of Calvary (Hebrews 5:9; 10:10-18). Salvation is made effective to man only as he believes (John 20:31; Acts 16:30-31), exercising personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Romans 10:9-10). Those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ are saved forever and nothing can separate them from God's love (Romans 5:5-11; 8:31-39; Philippians 1:6). Since believers are eternally His, God will not allow the believer to be separated from Himself.

### B. Its Content

#### 1. New Birth

Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden brought the penalty of death (Genesis 2:17) to him and all his descendants (Romans 5:12-21). At the moment of his sin, both Adam and Eve died spiritually and began to die physically. In order for God to deal with mankind's spiritual death, He sent His Son to die for all sin and to be raised from death in order to give victory over the penalty of sin (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). At the moment of salvation or new birth, the Spirit of God gives to a person who is spiritually dead, spiritual life (John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers are made partakers of the divine nature (Romans 8:16-17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Peter 1:4). This spiritual life enables them to understand spiritual truth and to communicate with God (Romans 8:5-11). Not only are believers made alive spiritually, but also indwelt with the Holy Spirit, who is the believer's source of power (Romans 8:11-14).

#### 2. Justification

Individuals are acquitted from the guilt of sin when they are saved by faith (Romans 5:1-11). At the moment of salvation God declares them to be righteous and

holy in the person of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), and they are set apart for a holy purpose. It is not possible for anyone to earn justification before God.

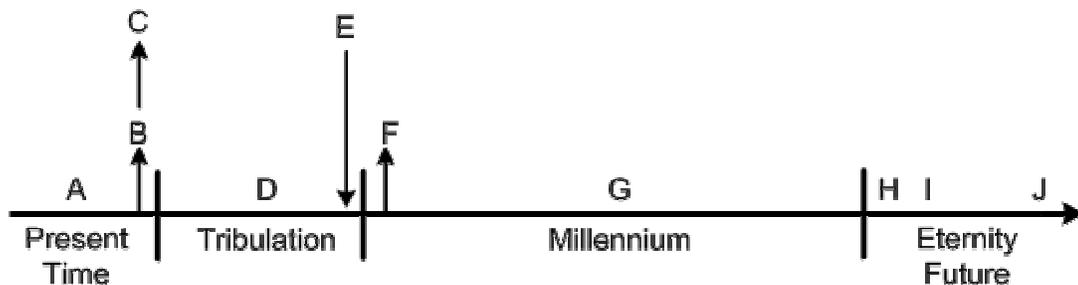
### 3. Sanctification

Believers are in an ongoing process of being set apart from sin to do the will of God in their lives. This is daily sharing and participating in God's holiness as the Holy Spirit is active in their lives. (Romans 6:1-23; Colossians 3:1-11; 1 John 3:1-4)

### 4. Glorification

In the future, when believers are in His presence, they will be like Jesus Christ. Not that they will become gods, but they will be glorified and holy in reality as Jesus Christ is holy. (John 3:1-3; Romans 6; 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 2 Peter 1:2-11; 1 John 3:1-4)

## Section 7. Future Events in Prophetic Scripture (Eschatology)



#### A. The Church Age

The church began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) when the Holy Spirit was given and will continue on earth until the rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17) of the church.

#### B. The Rapture

The next great prophetic event awaiting the church spoken of by Paul is the bodily coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:1) in the air when true believers from the day of Pentecost until His coming will be caught up to meet the Lord and be taken into heaven in glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 John 3:2). The word "rapture" comes from the Latin translation of the word "caught up" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) and means to seize or snatch.

#### C. The Judgment Seat of Christ

This is a judgment for believers in order to receive rewards (1 Corinthians 4:5). It is not a judgment of our being qualified for heaven but a judgment of our life as we give account of what we have done for the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:10).

#### D. The Tribulation

This is the seven-year period, also known as "Daniel's Seventieth Week", in which God will once again focus on the people of Israel and will pour out His wrath on all nations of the earth (Jeremiah 30:7). The tribulation is divided into two equal parts, the first half being "the beginning of sorrows" and the second half being "the great tribulation". The church will be taken to be with the Lord sometime prior to the beginning of this seven-year period (Matthew 24; Daniel 9).

E. The Second Coming of Christ

This is the personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ with His church to the earth to establish His earthly kingdom just prior to the end of the tribulation period (Zechariah 14:1-5; Jude 14-15). As Jesus Christ sets foot on the earth He will bring the great campaign of Armageddon to an end (Revelation 19:11-21). At that time He will conquer the nations and establish His millennial kingdom.

F. The Resurrection of Old Testament saints

Following the tribulation, Old Testament saints will be resurrected in order to receive their inheritance in Christ's millennial kingdom (Daniel 12:1-3, 9-13).

G. The Millennium

This is the fulfillment of God's promise to David (2 Samuel 7:8-16; Isaiah 11:1-16) that he would have a descendent who would sit on his throne forever. Jesus Christ will literally begin to fulfill this prophecy as He rules and reigns on the earth for one thousand years. At the end of the one thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison to deceive and gather the rebels for battle. However, fire from heaven will consume them, and the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:1-10).

H. The Great White Throne judgment

This is the judgment of unbelievers from all generations. All will be resurrected to stand before the Lord to be cast alive into the lake of fire because their names are not written in the book of life (Revelation 20:11-15).

I. The New Heavens and the New Earth

Following the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ and the judgment of unbelievers, God will restore the heavens and the earth to their original perfection. The new heavens and earth will be the eternal home of the saints (2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-22:5).

J. Eternity

Believers will exist eternally in the presence of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:3-57). For the unbeliever it will be an eternal existence in hell separated from God to bear the punishment of their sin without relief (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). (Revelation 21-22)