

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section I The Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the very Word of God: the product of the breath of God and thus verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given by God, complete in sixty-six books of the Bible, altogether infallible, and sufficient in themselves as our only rule of faith and practice, the only standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Section II The Trinity

We believe in The One Triune God: Who is personal, spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite, and eternal in His Being, holiness, love, wisdom, and power; separate from and above the world as its Creator, yet present everywhere in the world as sustainer; self-existing and self-revealing in three distinct persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each of whom is to be honored equally as true God. Mark 12:29; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 104; John 5:23, 26

Section III God, Father

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, that He loves the world and concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and the second death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. It is our Supreme purpose to glorify Him through worshipful obedience. 1 Cor. 8:6, Matt. 6:26; Matt. 7:11; John 15:8; John 20:17.

Section IV Jesus Christ

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ: the Second Person of the Triune God; that, without any essential change in His divine person, He became man by the miracle of the virgin birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and man; that as man, He was tested as we are, yet without sin; that as the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, bearing there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He rose again from the dead and was glorified in the same body in which He suffered and died; that as our High Priest He ascended into heaven, there to appear before the face of God and to continue as our Advocate and Intercessor. John 1:1; Matt. 1:23; Col. 2:9; Heb. 4:15; Gal. 3:13; John 20:25-28; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1

Section V The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit: Who is the Third Person of the Triune God, that divine agent in nature, revelation, and redemption; that He convicts the world of sin, restrains evil, regenerates those who believe, and indwells, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, and sanctifies all who become the children of God through Christ; that He enables individual members of the body of Christ to be used in the church; that the gifts of tongues and healing were given to some early Christians as a sign to unbelieving Israel, confirming God's Word to that nation, but are not applicable today. Acts. 5:3, 4; 1 Cor. 2:10; John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 6:11-19; 1 Cor. 14:21, 22.

Section VI Creation and the Fall of Man

We believe in the Creation and the Fall of Man: That he was the direct creation of God, not in any sense the product of animal ancestry, but made in the divine image; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God man sinned and thus brought physical and spiritual death to the entire race, who are universally sinful both in nature and practice, alienated from the life and family of God, and have no possible means of recovery of salvation within themselves. Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 4:18; Rom. 1:18.

Section VII Salvation

We believe in Salvation by Grace through Faith: that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all believers have as present possessions the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish. Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:5; John 3:16; John 10:27-29; 1 John 5:13; 2 Peter 1:3.

Section VIII Eternal Security

We believe in the eternal security of the true believer in Jesus Christ. Since salvation is by grace, it is impossible for any believer to lose his salvation. We believe that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 10:27-29; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Rom. 8:35-39.

Section IX Satan

We believe in the existence of Satan: who originally was created a perfect and holy being, but through pride and unlawful ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming completely corrupt in character, the adversary of God and His people, leader of all evil angels and spirits, the deceiver and god of this world; that his powers are supernaturally great, but limited by the purposes of God Who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated at the cross, making certain his final doom. Ezek. 28:13-17; Isa. 14:12-15; John 8:44; Rev. 12:9-11; Matt. 12:24-26; John 16:11; Eph. 6:12-18.

Section X The Church

We believe in the One True Church: the body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, which He began to build on the day of Pentecost, and will complete at His second coming, and into which all true believers of the present age are placed; that the members of this spiritual body should assemble themselves together in local churches, which consist of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith for worship, evangelism, prayer, fellowship, teaching, united testimony, and the observance of the two New Testament ordinances, namely baptism by immersion as a public testimony of faith, and the Lord's Supper as a commemoration of the death of Christ. Eph. 4:4; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Heb. 1:25; Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:26-39; 1 Cor. 11:23-28.

Section XI The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the Second Coming of Christ: that His return will be personal, visible, pre-millennial, and glorious - a blessed hope, the time being unrevealed, yet always imminent; that when He comes, He will first remove His church from the earth by resurrection and translation, then pour out God's righteous judgments on the unbelieving world, afterward descend with His church and establish His glorious

Kingdom over all nations for a thousand years, at the close of which He will raise the unrighteous dead for their final judgment. Titus 2:11-13; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 20:11-15.

Section XII Future Life

We believe in Future Life, Bodily Resurrection, and Eternal Judgment; that the spirit of believers at death go to be with Christ in heaven where they abide in joyful fellowship with Him until their bodies are raised from the grave, changed into the likeness of His glorious body, at which time their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for determination of reward; that the spirits of the unrighteous at death go into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be resurrected and they shall be judged and condemned at the Great White Throne, and they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment. Phil. 1:21-23; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Peter 2:9; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15.