



# Statement of Faith

"What We Believe"

## 1. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it is truth without any mixture of error; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man. As described by Paul in his letter to Timothy, we believe that "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

- By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God but IS the very Word of God.
- By "Inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## 2. THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God -- the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth who is holy and worthy of all possible glory and honor and love; and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing the great work of redemption.

**FATHER** -- Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

**SON** -- Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

**HOLY SPIRIT** -- Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14,16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

## 3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the Creation, and in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

**SEE ABOVE, also [Person]** Ephesians 4:3 -- Romans 8:27 (mind); 1 Corinthians 12:11 (will); Acts 13:2; 16: 6, 7, 10 (speaks); Psalm 139:7; Matthew 3: 16,17; 28:18-20; Hebrews 9:14; Acts 5:3,4; (deity); **[Work/Salvation]** Isaiah 59:19 (protects); John 16:8; Acts 24:25; 26:28; (convicts) ; John 3:3-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17 (regenerates); Ephesians 1:13-14 (secures); **[Work/Christian living]** 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 3:16 (indwells); Ephesians 5:18 (fills); Romans 5:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (sanctifies); Galatians 5:22, 23 (produces fruit); Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; Ephesians 4; 7-12; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:12, 13; Revelation 4:11 (imparts gifts).

4. THE DEVIL OR SATAN . . . We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew after him a host of angels; and that he is now the prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God, the accuser of the saints, and the author of all the powers of darkness -- destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

*Genesis 3:1-7,15; 1 Samuel 16:14; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:9; 2:4, 5, 7; Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:14-19; Zechariah 3:1; Matthew 4:1-11; 12:24; 13:19; 25:41; Mark 3:27-28; 4:15; Luke 4:6-8; 8:29; 10:18; 13:16; 22:3, 31; John 8:44; 12:31; 13:2, 27; 14:30; Acts 13:10; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 4:4; 6:15; 11:3,14, 15; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4; 1 Timothy 3:6, 7; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8, 9; 1 John 2:13; 3:10; Revelation 9:11; 12:7-9, 10, 11; 20:2, 7, 8, 14.*

5. CREATION . . . We believe in the Genesis account of creation; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; and that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or developments through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms.

*Genesis 1:26-41, 2:7, 15-17, 18-25; Psalm 8:4-9; Psalm 139: 14-16; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 4:11.*

6. FALL OF MAN . . . We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11; Hebrews 2:14-18.*

7. VIRGIN BIRTH . . . We believe that Jesus Christ was born of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman; and that He is both the Son of God, and God the Son.

*Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 23:30; Matthew 1:16-23; Luke 1:26-38; 4:6-55; 3:23-38. Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11; Hebrews 2:14-18.*

8. ATONEMENT FOR SIN . . . We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God, who by the will of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His perfect obedience and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but in the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place -- the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; and that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven interceding on our behalf to God the Father.

*Leviticus 16:27, 29-30; 17:11; 23:27-28; Romans 5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Hebrews 9:22*

**ALSO...[Death]** *Genesis 2:16-17 (physical soul from body); Romans 6:23 (spiritual-permanent separation from God); Romans 3:23, 5:12; [cf. Isaiah 59:2 & Romans 14:23] (sin); 1 John 3:16, 4:10; Hebrews 9:14; Philippians 2:5-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:6 Matthew 20:28; Acts 2:23 [Christ's sinlessness] 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15, 7:16; 1 Peter 2:22; [Propitiation] Numbers 5:8; Psalm 130:4; Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 3:5; 4:10; [Mercy] Exodus 25:21-22; Leviticus 16:2, 13-14; Psalm 86:5; 130:7; Luke 18:13; Hebrews 9:5, 12; [Substitution] Genesis 22:1-13; Isaiah 53:4-6; Matthew 20:28; Luke 22:19-22; John 6:51; 10:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:3-4; 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 5:2, 25; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; [Reconciliation] Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:7, 8, 10, 11; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:20, 21; Hebrews 9:22; [Redemption] Leviticus 25:27, 48; Ruth 4:4-6; John 19:30; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; 2:10; Colossians 1:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5; 5:9.*

9. GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION . . . We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Jesus Christ; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; not by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit; and that its proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

*John 3:3-21; 5:24; 6:44-47 (esp. v. 45); Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:8; James 2:22; 1 Peter 1:14; 2 Peter 1:5; 1 John 2:2. ALSO Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 6:65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39;12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

**10. FREENESS OF SALVATION . . .** We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by an act of obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection results in condemnation.

*Ezekiel 18:23, 32; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 5-6; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; 4:14; ALSO Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8.*

**11. JUSTIFICATION . . .** We believe that the great Gospel which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; and that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works or righteousness which we have done, but that solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

**12. REPENTANCE AND FAITH . . .** We believe that repentance and faith are necessary requirements of salvation and also inseparable graces brought about in our souls by the convincing, convicting power of the Holy Spirit of God; and by being convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of Salvation by Christ, we turn away from sin and self to God with a genuine prayer of confession and plea for mercy -- at the same time gratefully receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior. **SEE REFERENCES ABOVE**

**13. THE CHURCH . . .** We believe that a church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, being governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its officers of ordination are pastors, elders, and deacons -- whose qualifications are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the Church is found in the Great Commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the Church; Third, to teach and instruct as He commanded.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 10:25; 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3; 22:17.*

**14. BAPTISM . . .** New Testament baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience, not a condition of salvation or cleansing, symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior and the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus as Lord.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 19:1-7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 1:14-17; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21.*

**15. LORD'S SUPPER . . .** We believe the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church (not limited to the local body of believers), through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming.

*Exodus 12: 1-14, 21-28; Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29. ALSO [Examination] 1 Corinthians 11:34 and John 1:9; Romans 12:1; Matthew 5:23-24.*

**16. ETERNAL SECURITY . . .** We believe that true believers endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from all other superficial believers; that God Himself watches over their welfare; that they are inscribed in the palm of His hand and none other can snatch them out; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. In essence, no one can *earn* their salvation and no one can *lose* it. It is a complete act of grace from God and God alone.

*Isaiah 49:16; John 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 17:12; Romans 8:38; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Timothy 1:12.*

**17. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED . . .** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that those who through faith are justified (mercy judgment/forgiven) in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified (set apart) by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His eyes while all who continue in unrepentance and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse. The righteous (saved) inherit eternal life in heaven while the wicked to everlasting, conscious suffering of the lost.

*Matthew 25:1-30; Galatians 5:19-21; 22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:2-22; Revelation 3:5; 20:12, 15. [Wheat] John 6:37-40; 17:12; ALSO® Romans 8:38; 2 Timothy 1:12; John 10:27-30. [Tares] 1 John 2:19; Hebrews 6:4-6 (read in context of Hebrews 10); 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; ALSO® 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Peter 2:20-22.*

**18. THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST . . .** Of the resurrection, we believe that Christ arose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; "That this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" -- bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until he hath put all enemies under His feet. "

*1 Corinthians 15:4; Hebrews 8:1; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:34; 1 Corinthians 15:25. Matthew 24; 25:31-46; Mark 8:38; Luke 16:19-26; 17:22-37; John 14:1-3; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10.*

**19. MISSIONS . . .** We believe that the command to take the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the Church.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 4:19; 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

**20. THE GRACE OF GIVING . . .** We believe that God's method of financing His work (the spreading of the Gospel to all nations, the care of the churches, and the support of the ministry) is by the tithes and offerings of His people; that everyone is accountable to the Lord to be a responsible steward of all his or her possessions; and that the tithe is an expression of stewardship instituted long before the law was ever given and was practiced by the early church.

*Genesis 14:20; Exodus 30:13-15; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*