



## **A SUMMARY OF OUR CHURCH'S BELIEFS**

### **The Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Bible, “as it is in truth, the Word of God...” (I Thessalonians 2:13). We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration in the original writings, and God’s preservation of His Word to every generation (II Timothy 3:16, Psalms 12:6-8). We believe that the Holy Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed. We use the King James Bible for all teaching and preaching.

### **The Godhead**

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three distinct eternal persons — The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14). We believe that God created the entire universe in six literal, twenty-four-hour days (Genesis 1:1-27).

### **The Person and Work of Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ became a man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; 7:14; Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 4:4-5).

We believe that Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His finished work on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).

We believe that Jesus Christ was raised bodily and that He ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He “ever liveth to make intercession” for us. (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2)

### **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Person who reproves the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, indwelling all believers and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14).

We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Regarding miraculous healing, the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the fulfillment of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayer of believers for physical healing. (II Corinthians 12:12; I Corinthians 13:8; Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:17-20; I Corinthians 1:22, 14:21-22).

## **Satan**

We believe in the reality of the person of Satan and that he and the fallen angels wage a spiritual warfare against the plan and purposes of God (John 13:2; Acts 5:3; Ephesians 6:11-12). We believe that Satan is a created angelic being who rebelled and who tempted man to join him in rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Genesis 3:1-5). We believe his power is supernatural yet limited; and that he cannot act without the permission of God (Job 1:6-12; I John 4:4). Satan's eternal end is everlasting torment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

## **Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the entire human race inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and therefore, mankind is unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12). The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image and is mindful of him, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every individual possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Psalm 8:4-9; Colossians 3:9-11).

## **The Way of Salvation**

We believe that the clear message of salvation is "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). We believe that salvation is "by grace through faith". We believe that Jesus Christ died for every man, and that each individual chooses to accept or reject the grace of God (Hebrews 2:9; I John 2:2). We believe that men are justified by faith alone and are accounted righteous before God only through the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Holy Spirit indwelling, good works, godly fruits, and a changed life are all evidence of true salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19)

We believe that all Christians, once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that eternal life is the present possession of every true believer (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5; Jude 1, 2).

## **The Church**

We believe that the New Testament church is a local assembly of baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together to carry out the Great Commission. The Lord is doing His work in this world through His churches. The establishment and continuance of churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

We believe in the autonomy of the church, free of any external authority or control. Christ is the only authority of the church (Acts 13:1-4, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7; I Peter 5:1-4).

We believe the scriptures teach that baptism is the complete immersion in water of the believer, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, performed with the church's authority. Baptism shows a picture of one's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour and it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership (Matthew. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:18).

We believe the scriptures teach that the Lord's Supper is a provision of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, as symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood; partaken of by the members of a church in unity, in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and in helpful anticipation of His return (Matthew 26:27-30; 28:20; Mark 14:20-26; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16; 11:2,17-34).

## **Biblical Separation**

We believe that all Christians should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God. (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1, 2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

## **The Return of Christ**

We believe the "Blessed Hope" of our Lord's return is literal, personal, visible, imminent, premillennial, and pretribulational. Christians will be caught up in "The Rapture" to be with the Lord prior to the seven years of tribulation, and at the end of the tribulation Christ will return with His saints to establish His thousand-year reign on the earth (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6; Psalm 89:3-4).

## **The Eternal State**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29, 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).

We believe that the souls of Christians are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious paradise they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious suffering until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).