

## **CONCERNING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:**

We believe the Holy Bible was given by inspiration of God, and is a perfect treasure of God's instruction; that it has God as its Author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principle by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, the true center of all Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, divinely preserved in the English language and commonly known as the authorized, King James Version of 1611.

By "inspiration" we mean that all books of the Bible were written down by holy men of God as they were supernaturally moved by the Holy Ghost, in a definite yet inexplicable way so as to record the very words and sense of God though conveyed within their own literary styles; that such writings are free from all error and from all omission as no other writings have been or ever will be; that the Bible does not merely contain the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; 3:21; II Samuel 23:2; Acts 28:25; Psalm 119:89,130,160; I Corinthians 2:12-13; Luke 24:25-27,44-45; Psalm 12:6-7; Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:23-25; John 10:35; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Luke 16:17,29-31; 21:33; John 17:17; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 3:4; 15:4; Revelation 22:18-19 John 12:48; Isaiah 8:20; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 19:7-11; John 5:39,45-47; Romans 10:17.

## **CONCERNING THE GODHEAD:**

We believe the scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### **Of God the Father:**

We believe the scriptures teach that God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the events of human history according to the purposes of His grace; that He is unchangeable in holiness, love and truth; that He is Father in truth to those who are the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and fatherly in His attitude toward all men, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and receive His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:1; 17:1; Exodus 3:14; 15:11; 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; John 4:24; Psalm 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Revelation 4:11; I Timothy 1:17; Romans 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matthew 28:19; I John 5:7; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; I John 1:5; 4:8; Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:15.

### **Of God the Son:**

We believe the scriptures teach that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, co-equal, co-essential, and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost, the second Person of the Trinity; that He was born into this world of Mary, a virgin, and that He is both perfect God and perfect man; that He lived

a sinless life, honoring the divine Law by His personal obedience, yet identifying Himself completely with mankind; that He died a substitutionary death on the cross securing redemption through His shed blood for sinners; that He supernaturally rose again the third day with a glorified body, was seen of many, and ascended into the heavens to be exalted and seated at the right hand of the Father where He is the Head over His churches, the Mediator and Advocate with God the Father for all believers; and that He is supernaturally coming again to this world to reign personally and visibly over the earth.

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:1-3,14; Psalm 2:7; Hebrews 1:8; Galatians 4:4; I John 5:20; I Corinthians 15:47; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5; Philippians 2:5-11; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 13:8; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:24-28; Revelation 1:8; Hebrews 10:12; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; I Corinthians 15:3-4; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Colossians 1:18.

### **Of God the Holy Spirit:**

We believe the scriptures teach that the Holy Ghost is a divine Person, co-equal, co-essential, and co-eternal, and co-active with God the Father and God the Son, the third Person of the Trinity; that He was active in the creation of the universe; that He moved holy men of God to write the Bible; that He is the present representative of the Godhead on this earth, and in His relationship to the unbelieving world restrains evil, convicting men of sin, of righteousness, and judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, and is the Agent of the new birth, regenerating those who by faith believe on Jesus Christ; that He seals, fills, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and comforts all believers, cultivating in them Christian character and bestowing upon them spiritual gifts.

Mark 1:8; John 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11,13; Acts 5:3-4,30-32; 11:16; I Corinthians 2:10-11; 12:4-6; Hebrews 9:14; Luke 1:35; 24:49; Matthew 3:11; John 1:33, 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; II Thessalonians 2:7,13; I Peter 1:2.

### **CONCERNING MANKIND:**

We believe the scriptures teach that God created man in His own image; that man is distinct from all other forms of life, being tripartite in nature and having an everlasting soul; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species; that the entire Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not allegorically or figuratively; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and specially, and God's established law is that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

### **Of the Fall of Man:**

We believe the scriptures teach that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression through an act of deliberate disobedience fell from that sinless and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but of choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the Law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:1,11,25-27,31; 2:21-23; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Revelation 10:6; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jeremiah 10:12; Nehemiah 9:6; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:1-6,24; Romans 1:18,20,28,32; 3:10-19; 5:12,19; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Galatians 3:10,22; Psalm 51:6; Ephesians 2:3; Matthew 20:15.

### **Of Human Sexuality:**

We believe the scriptures teach God has clearly commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman; that marriage is exclusively defined by God in His Holy Word as the covenanted physical union of one man (natural born male) and one woman (natural born female); that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pedophilia, and pornography are sinful perversions; that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

### **Of Family Relationships:**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in standing before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church; that the husband is called to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders of the church.

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society; that the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and the wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the Headship of Christ; that children are an heritage of the Lord; and that parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through a consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline.

Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; I Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; I Peter 3:1-7.

### **Of Abortion:**

We believe the scriptures teach that human life begins at conception and that an unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life.

Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

### **Of Euthanasia:**

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. We believe that life comes from God, it is a gift of God, and must be respected from conception until natural death; that any act that causes death to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. We do acknowledge that discontinuing medical procedures which are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of treatment.

Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28.

### **Of Civil Government:**

We believe the scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good of human society; that all those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the revealed will of God; that civil rulers have no rights or control over, or interference with, religious matters; that no religious group or denomination or organization should

be preferred above another by the State; that the State should not impose taxes for the support of any form of religion, and that churches and religious organizations should receive no help from the State, except protection and full freedom in the pursuit of spiritual ends.

Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-14,17; Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-8; Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7,10; Acts 4:18-20; Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:14; Psalm 72:11; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Philippians 2:10-11.

### **CONCERNING THE WAY OF SALVATION:**

We believe the scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of the grace of God, through the merits of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Of the Law and the Gospel:**

We believe the scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature.

We believe that the deliverance of fallen men from the eternal consequences of the violated Law and their restoration to a right relationship with God through a Mediator of unfeigned obedience to the Law is the one great end; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Romans 3:20,31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 4:15; Galatians 3:21; Romans 8:2,4,7-8; 10:4; I Timothy 1:5

#### **Of God's Grace:**

We believe the scriptures teach that it is the grace of God alone that brings salvation to man; that by it He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves those sinners who by faith believe on Jesus Christ; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of free mercy; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; and that it is the foundation of Christian assurance.

II Timothy 1:8-9; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; II Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:22; Romans 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; II Peter 1:10; I Thessalonians 4:10; Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:29.

#### **Of the Freeness of Salvation:**

We believe the scriptures teach 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 a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own inherent depravity and voluntary refusal to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

I Thessalonians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; I Peter 1:2; Titus 1:1; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 55:1,6-7; Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:13; John 6:37; Acts 2:38; John 3:15-16; I Timothy 1:15; I Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; John 15:40

### **Of the Atonement for Sin:**

We believe the scriptures teach that the Son of God, by appointment with the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; that by His death on the cross made a full atonement for the sins of all men; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by his death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners' place; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven and, uniting in His wonderful Person the most tender sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Saviour.

Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24,25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7,8; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3,20; II Corinthians 5:21; John 10:18; Galatians 1:4; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; Isaiah 53:11-12; Hebrews 7:25; 9:12-15; 12:2; I John 2:2.

### **Of Repentance:**

We believe the scriptures teach that repentance, inseparably united with faith, is a personal act, prompted by the Spirit of God; and consists in a godly sorrow over sin, as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; that it is accompanied with great humiliation in view of one's sin and guilt, together with prayer for pardon; also, by sincere hatred of sin and a turning away from all that is evil and unholy.

Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17; Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 5:31; 17:30; 20:21; Luke 18:13; 24:47; II Corinthians 7:2; Romans 2:5; Isaiah 55:7; Psalm 51:1-4,7.

### **Of Faith:**

We believe the scriptures teach that faith, inseparably united with repentance, is an assent of the mind and a consent of the heart, consisting mainly of belief and trust, wherein the testimony of God is accepted and believed as true, while Christ is unreservedly received for salvation; that through it the believer is brought into vital relations with God, as seeing Him Who is invisible, freely justified; that it reveals Christ to the soul as a willing and sufficient Saviour, and commits the heart and life to Him.

Acts 16:31; Romans 1:17; 10:3,9-13; Hebrews 11:1,6; James 2:23; Jeremiah 17:7; Psalm 34:22; II Corinthians 5:7.

### **Of Regeneration:**

We believe the scriptures teach that regeneration, or the "new birth," is that change wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, by which a new nature and a spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus; that a holy disposition is given to the mind, the will subdued, the dominion of sin broken, and the affections changed from a love of sin and self, to a love of holiness and God; that the change is instantaneous and not a process, effected not by culture or character, nor by the will of man, but solely through the power of God through the Word of God, in a manner incomprehensible to reason.

John 3:3,6; I Peter 1:23; James 1:18; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 2:29; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 1:13; 2:13; Romans 6:13; John 1:12-13; I Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5-7.

### **Of Justification:**

We believe the scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe on Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needed for time and eternity.

John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8; Acts 13:39; Isaiah 3:11-12; Romans 5:1-3,9,11; 8:1; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43; Matthew 6:33; I Corinthians 1:30-31; I Timothy 4:8; Isaiah 53:11.

### **Of Adoption:**

We believe the scriptures teach that adoption is a gracious act by which the Father, for the sake of Christ, accepts believers to the estate and condition of children, by a new and spiritual birth; sending the Spirit of Adoption into their hearts, whereby they become members of the family of God, and entitled to all rights, privileges, and promises of children; and if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ to the heritage of all saints on earth, and an inheritance reserved in Heaven for them.

Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 3:26; 4:5-7; Ephesians 1:5; I John 3:1; Hebrews 12:7; I Peter 2:9.

### **Of Sanctification:**

We believe the scriptures teach that sanctification is that work by which, according to the will of God, we are set apart unto God and made partakers of His holiness; that it is both a declared fact and a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried out in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, through the continual use of the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, prayer, and in the practice of all godly exercises and duties.

II Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; II Corinthians 7:1; 13:9; Ephesians 1:4; 4:11-12; Proverbs 4:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 6:1; II Peter 1:5-8; Philemon 12-16; Philippians 2:12-13; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 13:5.

### **Of the Eternal Security of the Believer:**

We believe the scriptures teach that salvation is eternal, and that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit of God, cannot utterly fall away and finally perish; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

John 6:39; 8:31-32; 13:8; I John 2:19,27-28; 3:9; 5:18; Matthew 13:19-21; Romans 8:35-39; Matthew 6:20,30-33; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Hebrews 1:14; 13:5; John 10:28-29; 16:8; Colossians 1:21-23; I Peter 1:5.

### **CONCERNING THE CHURCH:**

We believe the scriptures teach that a Baptist church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that it is the body

and espoused bride of Christ, and the temple of God through the Holy Spirit; that its only scriptural offices are pastors (elders, bishops), and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the New Testament; that the true mission of each church is found in the Great Commission, first, to make individual disciples, second, to build up the church by baptizing those believers, third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded; that his order cannot be reversed; that each church has the absolute right of self-government, free from any interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only Head of each church is Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for churches of like faith and order to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel, but that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its coöperation; that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of each church is final.

Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11; 8:1; 11:31; I Corinthians 4:17; 5:5,11,18; 11:2,23; II Corinthians 8:5,23-24; 11:2; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; I Timothy 3:5,15; I Peter 2:5; II Thessalonians 3:7; Romans 16:17-20; Matthew 18:15-20; 28:19-20; John 14:15; 15:10; I John 4:21; I Thessalonians 4:2; II John 6; Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; I Corinthians 12:4,8-11; Acts 6:5-6; I Peter 5:1-4; Jude 3-4; I Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:1-3.

## **CONCERNING THE ORDINANCES:**

### **Of Baptism:**

We believe the scriptures teach that baptism is the immersion in water of the believer in Christ, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, performed with the church's authority; to show forth a beautiful picture our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership; that infants are God's little ones, and are safe in Christ until an age of moral accountability is reached, thus making any thoughts of "infant baptism" unnecessary.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 8:12-13,26-39; 9:17-18; 10:25-26,44-48; 16:14-15,25-37; 18:7-11; Matthew 3:1-16; 21:24-25; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Galatians 3:27-28; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:15,20-21.

### **Of the Lord's Supper:**

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.

## **CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION AND LAST THINGS:**

We believe the scriptures teach that Jesus Christ rose literally and bodily from the dead on the third day; that having ascended into glory, He alone is our merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God; that this same Jesus shall return to earth bodily, personally, and visibly; first to raise the righteous dead and catch up all living believers in the twinkling of an eye, then to return with the saints to set up His glorious kingdom of a millennium of peace and righteousness, having executed judgment upon an

unbelieving world; that at the final day of judgment all Christ-rejecting sinners will be raised, judged, and cast into the lake of fire for everlasting damnation, that the saved will live with Him for eternity according to the sure promises of God.

Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:2,4-6,19,51; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6,19; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:1,6; 12:2; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9-10; John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:27,35,42; Hebrews 9:28; I Corinthians 15:25,42-44,51-53; Philippians 4:20-21; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 11:4-5; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:1-4,6,15; 21:7-8,24-27; 22:11; I Peter 4:7; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Revelation 1:7; I John 2:17; Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; II Timothy 1:10; Acts 10:42; Matthew 13:37-43,49; 25:35-41; II Peter 2:9,11-12; I Peter 1:4-5.