

## We Believe...

### **The Bible**

We believe in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally, plenary inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings (II Timothy 3:16). Written by men of God, divinely and uniquely inspired, who wrote as they were directed by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20, 21). We believe the Word of God to be the final, infallible, and supreme authority in all matters of faith, conduct, and practice (John 17:17). We accept versions such as the King James, and the American Standard as being reliable and trustworthy. We reject the modern versions, paraphrases and interpretations such as Today's English Bible, Revised Standard Version, Living Bible, Good News for Modern Man, and all comparable writings as being not authoritative, in that they contain doctrinal error. Further these may not be used in the teaching ministry of this Church."

### **The Trinity**

We believe in one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) eternally existing in three persons, equal in every divine perfection. Identified with each other (John 1:1, 10:30; 14:7; 16:18).

#### The Trinity: God the Father

We believe in GOD the Father, sovereign, perfect in holiness (Isaiah 6:3) infinite in wisdom ( I Corinthians 1:25-2:7), and measureless in power (Genesis 17:1; Romans 1:20). He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, and hears and answers their prayers (Matthew 21:22; Acts 16:25, 26), and saves from sin, death, and judgment all who come to Him through the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13; Hebrews 7:25).

#### The Trinity: God the Son

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:8; John 10:30) in His virgin birth (Luke 1:31), in His perfect humanity (Galatians 4:4), in His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; II Corinthians 5:21), in His miracles (Acts 2:22), in His vicarious and atoning death (Romans 5:5, 8, 9; Hebrews 1:3; Luke 22:20; I John 2:2), in His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 3:1). And in His present intercession for the saints (Hebrews 7:25; I John 2:1; Ephesians 2:18).

#### The Trinity: God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 7:51; John 14:26), as a divine person who came forth from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and regenerate, sanctify and comfort the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:30; Acts 7:51; John 16:7-15; John 15:26; John 14:16; 17; Acts 13:12). That in relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled (II Thessalonians 2:7), that he bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony (I Corinthians 2:4), that He is the agent in the new birth (John 3:5), that He seals (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, I John 4:1; II Corinthians 1:22) , endows (Acts 1:8), guides (Romans 8:14; John 16:13), teaches (John 14:26), witnesses (Romans 8:16), indwells (II Timothy 1:14), helps (Romans 8:26, 27), and sanctifies the believer (Romans 15:16). Holy Spirit Gifts: We believe that the Holy Spirit gifts of Healing, Apostleship, Tongues, Miracles, and Prophecy have been fulfilled with the writing of Scripture; and thus are not meant to be exercised today (Hebrews 2:3, 4; I Corinthians 13:8-10).

## **Satan**

We believe in the personality of Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44; Job 2:1-6). A fallen angel (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:2-17), that he is the unholy god of this world system (II Corinthians 4:4), and the potentate of all the powers of darkness (II Corinthians 10:13-15; Ephesians 6:11, 12), and is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41). We further recognize the reality of Satanic activity in the world today, and thus heed the warnings of Scripture to beware of “seducing spirits” and “doctrines of demons” that as foretold will seek to lead souls astray in the latter times (I Timothy 4:1-2). We also believe that Satan reveals himself today through the use of Fortune-telling, witchcraft, spiritual mediums, astrology, ouiji boards, hypnotism, telepathy, séances, ESP, horoscope, voodoo, handwriting analysis, crystal balls, etc. We are thus enjoined by Scripture to “Try the spirits (I John 4:1-6) and be separate from those not of God.

## **Angels**

We believe in the literal existence of spirit beings (Genesis 33:1; Matthew 26:53; Luke 2:13), created by God. They were created holy but under probation, and some retained their integrity (Genesis 32:1, 2; Daniel 4:13), but others fell, (II Peter 2:4; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:9), and will be cast into the lake of fire, (Matthew 25:31).

## **Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, according to the Scriptures both inanimate and animate (Genesis 1:1, 20-27). We believe man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution (Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3). We believe that God created in six literal 24 hour days (Genesis 1:31).

## **Man**

We believe that man was created in innocence (Genesis 2:25). In the spiritual image of God (Genesis 1:26); “And God said Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ...”, And as a tri-partite being (I Thessalonians 5:23), Body (I Corinthians 6:20), Soul (Genesis 2:7; Matthew 16:26; Luke 10:27; 12:27; Hebrews 4:12; I Peter 2:11), and spirit (James 4:5; II Corinthians 7:1; I Corinthians 6:21; 2:11; Romans 8:16). We believe that man has fallen in and through Adam, (Romans 5:12; I Corinthians 15:22); and that by nature, (Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; II Corinthians 7:1; II Timothy 3:13), and choice (Romans 6:19; 7:23; Ephesians 2:2, 3), all men are sinners and thereby incur not only physical death, (Ezekiel 18:4; I Corinthians 15:21), but also spiritual death (Romans 5:19), which is separation from God (Matthew 25:41; II Thessalonians 1:9), and owing to this universal depravity cannot be redeemed without the wooing of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ (John 6:44, 11:32, 3:5).

## **Salvation**

### Salvation: Justification

We believe that Christ secures to such as believe in Him (Romans 4:5), justification (Romans 3:24, 25). This includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life (John 5:24; Titus 3:7), not on principles of righteousness which man had done (Titus 3:5), but on principles of righteousness which is bestowed (II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:6; Ephesians 2:8, 9), and which brings man into a state of blessed peace (Romans 5:1), and favor with God which secures every other blessing needed for time and eternity (Romans 8:32).

### Salvation: Repentance and Faith

We believe that faith and repentance, are both necessary for salvation and are wrought in the souls of men by the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-11), where by being deeply convicted of guilt (Romans 3:19), danger (Romans 2:5), and helplessness (Romans 7:23). And of the way of

salvation by Christ (John 14:6), we turn to God with contrition, confession (I John 1:9), and supplication for mercy (Luke 8:13; II Corinthians 7:10).

### Salvation: Regeneration

We believe that in being saved, sinners are regenerated or born again (John 3:3-6), that regeneration gives a holy disposition to the soul (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 2:28, 29; Titus 3:5), that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine Truth (James 1:18; I Peter 1:23) so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel (I John 3:24; II Corinthians 5:15; I Peter 1:23) and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance (I Corinthians 6:11), and faith (Galatians 2:20) and newness of life (Ephesians 4:24).

### Salvation: Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God (I Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 1:4), we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work (Philippians 1:6), begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers throughout their earthly life by the presence (I John 2:2), and power (I Corinthians 6:11) of the Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:2), the sealer (Ephesians 1:13, 14; 4:30), and comforter (John 14:16), in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12, 13; John 17:17), self examination (I Corinthians 11:31), self denial (Titus 2:12), watchfulness (Matthew 26:41), prayer (I Thessalonians 5:17) and in the practice of all Godly exercises (I Timothy 4:7; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8), and duties and will be completed at the Rapture.

### Salvation: Security

We believe that all who are genuinely born again through the Holy Spirit, by the Word of God, are kept by the Father for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6; Jude 24, 25; I John 4:13-5:13; II Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; I Thessalonians 5:24; John 6:39; 10:28, 29; 4:14; 5:24; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

### **Baptism**

We believe Baptism and the LORD'S Supper to be the only two ordinances of the Church. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 13, 18:8; Romans 6:1-10) of a believer in water after salvation (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-38) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem (Colossians 2:12) our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:3-5). It is an expression of obedience to the admonition of the Lord (I Corinthians 11:2; Acts 2:41), and it is prerequisite to the privileges of a local church membership (Acts 2:41), and service (Acts 6:3).

### **The Lord's Supper**

We believe in observing the Lord's table as Christ commanded, to proclaim His death till He comes again (I Corinthians 11:26). This is a provision of bread and cup as symbols of Christ's body and blood (I Corinthians 11:24, 25; Luke 22:19, 20) We believe that all those who have been born again, all baptized believers, redeemed from the power of sin, and walking in newness of life pleasing unto God are eligible to partake (Acts 2:41, 42; I Corinthians 11:23-26) and should be preceded always by solemn self examination (I Corinthians 11:9, 27-29). We believe the cup to be unfermented.

### **The Local Church**

The local church is autonomous: We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-

government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, that it is scriptural for churches of like faith to fellowship and cooperate with each other for the furtherance of the Gospel; and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation on all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, benevolence, and the will of the local church is final (Acts 2:41, 43; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:17; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23, 24; Acts 15:13-18). We believe that the officers of the local church are Pastors and Deacons.

### **Object of the Gospel**

We believe in the great commission which our Lord gave to His church through His Apostles and Disciples (Acts 1:1-9; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20) "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." We believe it is the duty of all believers to seek out every unbeliever and try, by the power of the Holy Spirit to show them their sinful condition and need for accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (II Peter 3:9).

### **Righteous and Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (I John 5:19; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:17), that such as only through faith (Romans 15:16), are truly righteous in His sight (Romans 10:10; I Corinthians 1:30; John 2:29), while all who continue in impenitence (Romans 2:5), and unbelief (John 3:36), are in His sight wicked and under the curse (Galatians 3:10); and this distinction holds between men both in and after death (Luke 16:19-31; Daniel 12:2; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17) (with Revelation 20:13-15; Isaiah 57:15, 19-21).

### **Church and State**

We believe that the church and the state must forever be separate entities, as each having different functions, and each with responsible duties, free from the dictation or patronage of the other (Matthew 22:21).

### **Last Things**

We believe in the literal (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16); Pre-Tribulational (Matthew 24:21; I Thessalonians 4:1-18; Titus 2:13; Romans 5:9), return of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His bride, the church. This includes the resurrection of the righteous dead known as the first resurrection (Revelation 20:6) and the change of the living in Christ (I Corinthians 15:51-53). Following this, the world will enter the tribulation period under the rules of the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 19:11-21). During this seven year period, the church will meet Christ at the judgment seat of Christ (Revelation 4:2). Following this the Lord will return with the saints to the earth to establish His 1,000 year reign as Messiah and King (Revelation 19:20; Romans 11:1-36; Isaiah 11; Psalms 89:36). Following the thousand year reign we believe Satan, his angels, and all unsaved people will appear before the Great White Throne subsequent to being cast into the literal and eternal lake of fire (Revelation 20:14-15); and the new Jerusalem in the New Heaven and New Earth shall be revealed (Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:13) for all believers.