

# DECLARATION OF FAITH

These are, in short, the teachings of our church, which are believed and taught by all the elders and deacons of the church.

## **1. The Holy Scriptures - Our absolute standard for what we believe and how we live.**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the only book in the world that comes from God. It is the breath of God and therefore it is a living book that can change man and guide him to salvation and to honor God in everything. Therefore, the Bible is our guide regarding our faith and conduct. It teaches us what to believe and what to do. We believe that there are many good translations but the original language in which the Bible was given always takes precedence over any translation. We believe that there were no errors or mistakes in the original manuscripts. We believe that the Bible was written by men moved by the Holy Spirit. They wrote from the heart but this whole process came from God and was controlled by God so we have a perfect Bible. We only accept the 66 books of the Bible, 39 of the Old Testament and 27 of the New Testament. These books are different in their teachings and practices because many were written for other ages, other dispensations. That means that God changed what He asks of man but salvation has always been by grace through faith. All the books form a great group of books without error and all those books have the same objective - to glorify God and save man. We believe that each book teaches us more about God. We also believe that the only way to interpret the Bible is with the help of the Holy Spirit and common sense - We accept and teach a consistent, normal and literal interpretation of the Scriptures; and a dispensational understanding of God's progressive revelation. (Matthew 5:18, John 16:12,13) Galatians 1:8-9, John 20:30-31.

- 2Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- 2 Peter 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- Revelation 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

## **2. GOD - The object of our worship and service.**

We believe that anyone can know that God exists because He has placed that knowledge within each person. Creation and the Bible also confirm His existence - Romans 1:19-25.

We believe that there are attributes that only belong to God.

- God is independent. God does not need anything or depend on anything or anyone. Acts 17:25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;
- God is immutable. He never changes. Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. Psalms 102:25 “Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 “Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. 27 “But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.
- God is omnipresent. He is everywhere, all the time. Psalm 139:7-10
- God is omniscient. He knows everything.

In addition to these attributes, there are others where the believer can participate, but not at the same degree as God. For example, we can love, but not like God. God is holy, He is love, He is faithful, He is wise and He is a God of wrath.

We believe that there is only one living and true God, personal, eternal, perfect in justice, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness; maker, sustainer, and supreme arbiter of all that exists in heaven and on earth (Gen.1:1,26,27), inexpressibly glorious in holiness (Ex.15:11), worthy and deserving of all love, adoration, trust and obedience. That in the unity of the God-head there are three persons (The Holy Trinity): the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Jn.15:16, Mt 28:19); different in the performance of offices, but equal in substance, divine attributes and glory (Jn.3:16, Jn 16:7-15), and they harmonize in the great work of Redemption. (1 Cor . 12:4-6).

### ***3. CHRIST - Our Savior and Lord.***

We believe and adore the Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty incarnate in human flesh, the eternal Son of God, who without ceasing to be God, became flesh, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, living a blameless and sinless life. The Lord Jesus Christ came to reveal God and redeem fallen human beings from their sin. Luke 1:35, John 1:1,2,14, Philippians 2:5-11 Galatians 4:4

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ provided us with a complete redemption by His death on the cross, being a sacrifice made in our favor and in our place, thus obtaining unlimited atonement for the sins of the whole world, (this means that He paid the full payment for all the sins of the whole world. His death was enough to save all mankind). All of this was verified by his physical and literal resurrection from the dead. Romans 3:24,25, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24, 1 John 2:2.

- Romans 3:24-25 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;
- 1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted, seated at the right hand of God, He is our High Priest, who intercedes for us as the Only Mediator between God and men. 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 2:1-2, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 4:14-16

- 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
- 1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

### ***4. THE HOLY SPIRIT - Our Comforter and the One who enables us to live holy lives.***

We believe and testify that the Holy Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who in this present age convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, who regenerates and baptizes believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling them and sealing them until the day of redemption. John 16:8-11, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Ephesians 1:13-14.

- John 16:8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- 1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into truth, it being their privilege to be filled with and walk in the power of God's Holy Spirit. John 16:13, Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 5:18, 1 John 2:20,27.

#### ***5. The fall of man - Our condition apart from the grace of God.***

We believe and teach that man and woman were created in the image and likeness of God but because of Adam's sin the whole race was left in a fallen condition, inherited an evil nature and is entirely separated from God. The human being is totally depraved and absolutely incapable of remedying his lost state. (Depraved means that your whole soul, body and spirit have been damaged by sin. There is nothing "good" in us without Christ and we cannot offer God anything "good" without Christ because everything has been tainted by sin. )

Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 3:22,23, Ephesians 2:1,3,12.

- Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Romans 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

## ***6. Salvation - Our new condition before God.***

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as a sacrifice on our behalf and in our place, in such a way that those who trust in Him are indeed saved by grace alone and through faith alone, on the basis of His shed blood, being accepted in the Beloved, kept by the power of God and therefore safe in Christ forever. John 1:12, 6:37,40, 10:27, Romans 8:1, 38,39 1 Corinthians 1:4-8, Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10, 1 Peter 1:5,18,19, John 14:13-14.

- John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,
- John 6:40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”
- Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## ***7. Sanctification - Our growth in a holy life.***

We believe that an unbeliever cannot submit to God. But when a person is saved, then he has the ability to obey or disobey God, but he will never be sinless in this life.

All churches agree that we need to grow and become more like Jesus. But how can we grow in grace and knowledge? Some might think of revivals and prayer meetings, others think of highly emotional experiences, others might think of tongues or prophecy or miracles. How can we grow?

The key to growth is found in living the truth or carrying the truth. (Ephesians 4:15). Romans 12:1-8 lays out four things we must do. This is the way we grow.

1 - The focus of our daily life is to obey God. We take up our cross each day. Our body is a living sacrifice. We are dead to our sinful desires. Our life now has the purpose of pleasing God. Testing what is good and best is a very important part of our growth. As we walk in obedience each day, the Lord will bring growth. We have to focus on pleasing God in everything we say, do and think.

2- We must be in the Word daily. We have to learn to meditate on the Word. As we meditate on the Word and obey it, the Holy Spirit changes us. If you can encourage others to spend 15 minutes or more each day meditating on the Word, you will have helped a person grow. You have to listen to the Bible, memorize it, study it, teach it and listen to Bible sermons. Meditate on the Word day and night. May the Word of Christ dwell in you abundantly.

3 - Pride does so much damage. It is always repulsive to God and others. It prevents us from listening to others so that we can grow. The challenge in Romans 12:3 is not to think too highly of yourself but to think wisely. If you are qualified to be a teacher or a leader, you must do it. If you have good advice, then you have to share it. The key to treating pride is realizing that everything we have comes from God and others. Even your ability to work hard or desire to do something is given to you by God. As Paul said, nothing good dwells in this flesh.

4 - The purpose of life is to honor God and serve others. Sometimes we give money, or help someone or we shepherd a soul. A person will grow when he puts his focus on serving others and learns to truly seek the good of others. How can we love God whom we have not seen, if we do not love those whom we have seen?

- Romans 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- Romans 8:12,13, Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:10, 1 Peter 1:14,16, 1 John 3:5,9.

It is, therefore, the privilege of all believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation, as witnessed by the Word of God, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as a pretext for disobeying the teachings of God. Romans 13:13,14, Galatians 5:13, Titus 2:11,15, 1 Peter 2:13-20.

- Romans 13:13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

## ***8. The vision of our church***

Without a doubt our main work is to make disciples. We do this by seeking the lost and winning them to Christ, baptizing them and teaching them to obey the Lord. We have to reason with those who are lost, explaining the reason for our hope and why they need a Savior. We work with the saved in order to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. We do this by following the four areas of growth explained in the previous point dealing with our sanctification. This work of making disciples extends to the whole world. Our goal is therefore to make disciples all over the world. Matthew 28:18-20.

## ***9. The church - Our spiritual family.***

We believe and teach that the church was born with the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and is the Body and Bride of Christ. It is a spiritual organism made up of all people who, having trusted in Christ as their personal Savior, have been born again through the regenerating work of the Spirit of God. Acts 2:1-13, Ephesians 1:22,23, 5:25,27, 1 Corinthians 12:13,14. Likewise, we understand that the establishment and continuity of local churches is taught and clearly defined in the New Testament scriptures. Acts 14:27, 20:17,28-32, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-11.

- Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

For this reason the Lord calls us to walk in harmony and love, one with another because we are all members of the body of Christ. He calls us to walk in truth and in love.

## ***10. Ordinances - Symbols of spiritual truths.***

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ stipulated two ordinances to be observed by the churches. These are water baptism by immersion that teaches us that we have new life in Christ, and the Lord's Supper or Breaking of Bread as a reminder of His death. 1 Corinthians 11:23-24, Acts 8:12, 35-39, 10:47,48, 1 Corinthians 1:14.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- Acts 10:47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?” 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.
- 1 Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

### ***11. Missions - Our responsibility to the world.***

We believe and teach that Christ commanded all church members to make disciples of all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that He had commanded us.

- Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

### ***12. Spiritual gifts - Trained to serve.***

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ gives the churches evangelists and pastor\_teachers. These men are to prepare and instruct the saints for the work of the ministry. Likewise, we understand that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all believers for Christian service and the edification of the entire church. Romans 12:3,8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Peter 4:10,11.

- Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
- Romans 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.



- 1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
- 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

We believe that the church age began on the day of Pentecost with the ministry of the apostles and prophets which was accompanied by signs and wonders in order to authenticate and confirm their message. These spectacular gifts, which include the gift of tongues, the gift of prophecy, the gift of working miracles, and the gift of casting out demons, these gifts gradually ceased as the New Testament canon was completed. 1 Corinthians 12:28,31,13:8-10, 14:1-28, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 2:19,22, Hebrews 2:3-4. Likewise, we believe that God hears and answers the prayer made according to His good will, for the healing of the sick and afflicted. John 14:13,14, 15:7, 1 John 5:14,15, James 5:13-16.

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.
- 2 Corinthians 12:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.
- Hebrews 2:3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

### ***13 . Dispensationalism - The correct way to understand the Bible.***

We believe and teach that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural and literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations, which define the responsibilities of man in successive ages. For example, we don't offer a sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem to a priest from the

tribe of Levi because we are in a different age, a different dispensation. The rules have changed.

A dispensation is not a way of salvation, but a divinely ordained administration by which God directs men according to His purposes. Nehemiah 8:7-8, John 1:17, 2 Corinthians 3:9-18, Galatians 3:13-25, Ephesians 1:10, 3:2-10, Colossians 1:24,25, Hebrews 7:19, Revelation 20:2-6.

- Ephesians 3:2 if indeed you have heard of the **stewardship** (this is the word dispensation in Greek) of God's grace which was given to me for you; 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, **that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body**, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 **and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery** which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;
- John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 1:10 with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- Hebrews 7:18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

We believe that salvation is always by grace through faith, whatever dispensation the believer may have lived in. God's purpose in salvation by grace through faith alone has always been based on Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Ephesians 2:8,10, Hebrews 11:6, 1 Peter 1: 10-12.

#### ***14. The personality of Satan - Our enemy.***

We believe and teach that Satan is a created being, the author of sin, the tempter in the fall, the declared enemy of God and man, and the god of this age. He will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. Job.1:6,7, Isaiah 14:12-17, Matthew 4:2,11, 25:41, Revelation 20:10.

- Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”
- Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### ***15. The second coming of Christ - Our hope for a world in which justice will prevail.***

We believe and teach the personal second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ which is imminent, pre-tribulational, that is, prior to the apocalyptic events that are to come upon the world in the tribulation, and premillennial, that is, before the establishment of the millennial kingdom. The first aspect or stage of His second coming will have to do with the rapture of His true church to heaven. We believe that at the end of the seven year worldwide tribulation, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth with His redeemed saints in great power and glory to reign for a thousand years. Zechariah 14:4-11, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13, 18; 5:9, Titus 2:13, Revelation 3:10, 19:11,16, 20:1-6.

- Zechariah 14:4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! 6 In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. 7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. 8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. 9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. 10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses. 11 People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
- Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

#### ***16. The eternal state - The ultimate destiny of every man.***

We believe and teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and eternal perdition. Matthew 25:46, John 5:28,29, 11:25,26, Revelation 20:5,6,12,13.

- Matthew 25:46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- John 5:28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.
- Revelation 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body but present with the Lord, where in conscious blessing they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body will be reunited glorified, to be with the Lord forever. Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23, Philippians 3:21, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 20:4-6

- Luke 23:43 And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
- Philippians 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

- Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

We believe that the souls of unbelievers are, at death, absent from the body and in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with body and soul reunited they will appear before the Great White Throne, being cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer an eternal conscious separation from God. Matthew 25:41-46, Mark 9:43-48, Luke 16:19-26, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Jude 6, 7, Revelation 20:11-15

- 2 Thessalonians 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- Judas 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

## ***17. The Creation***

We believe and teach that the Triune God, by a free act and for His own glory, without the use of pre-existing materials or secondary causes, immediately and instantly created in six literal days by the word of His mouth the entire visible and invisible universe. Genesis 1:1-27, Exodus 20:8-11, Nehemiah 9:6, Psalm 104:25-26, Isaiah 40:21-31, John 1:1-15, Colossians 1:16-17,

- Exodus 20:8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.
- Nehemiah 9:6 “You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

## ***18. Biblical unity and separation - The distinction of the believer.***

We believe and teach that the saved should live in such a way as to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ. This style of living requires separation from sinful pleasures, practices, and relationships. We believe that the Scriptures forbid unequally yoking unbelievers in marriage or in ministry to the Lord. We believe that the Scriptures command us to lovingly restore those who make a profession of salvation but do not live according to the teachings or practices of the Bible.

We will not cooperate with or endorse any movement, organization, or program that is contrary to the faith, whether in doctrine or in practice. Matthew 18:15-20, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 14:13-23, Romans 16:17-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 2 Thessalonians 3: 11-15, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 1 John 2:15-17, Ephesians 4:1-6, Titus 3:10, 2 John 1:9-11.

- Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED**. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.
- 2 John 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.
- Titus 3:10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. 15 Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
- 2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

### ***19. Marriage.***

We believe that the Bible establishes marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman and is designed to show the relationship between Christ and the church. The Bible teaches that it is a sin to have sex before marriage or with a person outside of marriage. We believe that incest, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, fornication, adultery, and pornography are all sin and a perversion of the sexual life between a man and a woman in marriage. We believe that being a man or a woman is determined by their birth, not by any changes they have made in life.

Genesis 2:18-25; Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:22-33).

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible verses are from the New American Standard Version.

“Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org)”