

Doctrine of Creation

We believe that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible (Hebrews 11:3). We further believe that the creation of the heavens with all their hosts, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them (Nehemiah 9:6) were created in six literal days (Exodus 20:11), and that after God had created everything He "saw all that He had made" and said "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). On the seventh day He abstained from work and rested (Exodus 31:17). We hold the position that all human life is sacred and is created in God's image. Psalm 139:13-18, Genesis 1:26-27 Job 10:8-12 Jeremiah 20:17.

Doctrine of the Bible

We believe the "Bible" is composed of the sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation and is God's revealed word to mankind (Numbers 12:6; Dt. 29:29).

We believe this Word was "God breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16) as men were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21) and is therefore without error (Numbers 23:19) in the original manuscripts; and that we have today reliable representation of that original text.

We believe the minds of those who genuinely trust Christ for salvation can discern truth from Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:11-12; 14).

We believe divine revelation and inspiration have ceased (Revelation 22:18-19), but that illumination continues (John 14:26; 16:7; Romans 8:16) as the Holy Spirit reveals truth to God's children (John 14:16-17).

We believe the scriptures are used by the Holy Spirit to communicate the truths to mankind that are necessary for salvation (Romans 10:14-17), the sufficient means by which we can understand God's plan for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), and is the final authority in the believer's life (John 8:31-32; 17:17).

Doctrine of God

We believe God is "The Self-Existent One," (Exodus 3:13-14) meaning that there was never a time when God did not exist (Nehemiah 9:5); that He is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27). God has revealed Himself to us as being three distinct Persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) but yet One God (Isaiah 44:6) and this revelation is in the masculine context "He" (Isaiah 64:8).

We believe God is Sovereign (Ephesians 1:4-11) meaning that nothing in all creation escapes His notice (Hebrews 4:13) and that all things come about under His authority and control (1 Corinthians 15:25-28).

We believe that God is "perfect" (Matthew 5:48) in all His ways (Psalm 77:13); that in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

We believe God is "immutable" (James 1:17) meaning He does not lie, nor change His mind (Numbers 23:19). What He says He means, what He means, He brings about (Isaiah 46:9-10). His character demonstrates, among other things, His love (John 3:16), His holiness (Leviticus 19:2), His justice (Romans

11:33), His righteousness (Romans 1:17), His mercy (Lamentations 3:22), His power (Exodus 9:16), His majesty (Psalm 8:1), His authority (Romans 13:1) and His glory (Isaiah 42:8) to such an extent that an understanding of these attributes compels a true believer to worship (John 4:23).

We believe that genuine faith (Hebrews 11:1) and reliance in the lordship of Christ (Romans 10:9), the Creator of all things out of nothing (John 1:3), manifests itself in a personal relationship with God the Father and God the Son (1 John 1:3).

We believe God's call to salvation extends to all men (1 Timothy 2:4), and that in His Sovereignty He has predestined His elect to adoption into His family through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace (Ephesians 1:3-6).

We believe God is actively involved in His creation at all times (Matthew 10:29), that He sustains all things by His powerful Word (Hebrews 1:3), and that His providential will is that all things will work together for His glory, our good (Romans 8:28), and that no purpose of His will be withheld from Him (Job 42:2).

Sovereignty of God

God is in total, absolute, irresistible control of His creation. He brings about all things for His glory (Isaiah 42:8) and our good (Romans 8:28). Although God uses man and creation to bring about His will, it is by His power (Isaiah 40:10) and His Spirit that all events come to pass (Zechariah 4:6). In perfect faithfulness to His own will (Ephesians 1:11) God performs marvelous deeds (Isaiah 26:3) beyond anything we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). God answers to no one (Romans 11:34-35); His judgments are unsearchable and His paths are beyond tracing out (Romans 11:33); for by Him and through Him and to Him are all things that He may receive the glory (Romans 11:36). Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account (Hebrews 4:12-13).

Providence of God

God created and preserves all things (Nehemiah 9:6); and moment by moment sustains them by His powerful word (Hebrews 1:3). He not only creates and sustains, but governs (Isaiah 9:7) His creation, making known and bringing about His purposes from beginning to end, from ancient times (Isaiah 46:9-10). God does whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). He has established His throne in heaven (Psalm 115:3) and His kingdom rules (Psalm 103:19) over every creature (Job 12:10); over every nation (Job 12:23); and over every individual life (Ester 4:14). Within His providential will God uses secondary agents, i.e., His creation and the willful choices of men, to bring about His purposes, none of which will be withheld from Him (Job 42:2).

Motive of God

God's ultimate purpose in creation was, is, and always will be to bring glory to Himself; a glory that He will not share with another (Isaiah 42:8). By His sovereign will (Ephesians 1:3-6), for His glory (Isaiah

48:11) and by His unmerited favor (Ephesians 2:8-9) God chose to elect a people out of fallen humanity for His very own; heirs of all He has to offer (Galatians 2:20; 4:6-7). By His own hand (Isaiah 59:16), through His immeasurable love (1 John 3:1) and irresistible grace (Romans 9:22-23) God elected a people that would "know Him," "be known by Him," "see Him face to face" and "be like Him" (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2; Hebrews 12:23) and give Him glory.

Doctrine of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was the "Incarnate" Word of God (John 1:1), meaning that the eternal Son of God left heaven, came to earth (John 3:13) and took on human flesh (John 1:14), but remained fully God (John 8:58), yet was also fully man (Hebrews 4:15).

We believe that Christ's birth was a unique work of God the Holy Spirit in which Christ was born of a virgin mother, having no biological earthly father (Luke 1:35). While living a sinless human life (2 Corinthians 5:21) Christ revealed (John 14:9) and brought glory to God the Father as He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross (Philippians 2:6-11).

We believe Christ's shed blood was and is a substitutionary and satisfactory payment for the sins (Romans 3:25) of all people in all generations who put their trust in God's promised salvation (Galatians 3:16); turning God's wrath away from His children forever (Ephesians 2:3-5).

We believe that through Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 9:28) God's righteousness was imputed to every believer (Romans 10:4); assuring that every nation, tribe, people and tongue will be represented at the throne of God for eternity (Revelation 7:9-10).

We believe that Jesus Christ bodily rose from the dead (Mark 16:6), ascended into heaven (Acts 1:11) and is currently at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3). He is our Great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 9:24), our only intercessor (1 Timothy 2:5), always interceding for us (Hebrews 7:25) as we approach the throne of grace with confidence, able to sympathize with our weaknesses, as we receive mercy and find grace in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

We believe the Spirit of God revealed in Scripture (John 16:13) possesses the attributes of God (Hebrews 9:14), is doing the work of God (John 14:26), is revealing the words of God (Acts 28:25), is receiving honor as God (Acts 5:3-4), and is therefore, God the Holy Spirit. His ministry is to glorify Christ (John 16:14) by convicting sinners of their need for a savior (John 16:8-9). After repentance and submission to Christ (Acts 20:21), He seals them securely for the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

We believe the Holy Spirit lives within each genuine believer (1 Corinthians 6:19) empowering them (Ephesians 3:20) to walk in the light rather than darkness (John 8:12).

We believe the Holy Spirit will continue a purification process within each believer (Titus 2:14) that He began when they were reborn of His Spirit (Titus 3:4-5); that this sanctification process is ongoing (John 17:17) and will result in changed lives (Philippians 2:12-13).

Doctrine of Man

We believe the human race came into being when God created man in His own image, after His likeness (Genesis 1:26) for the purpose of bringing glory to Himself (Exodus 8:1) and that man became a living being when God breathed the breath of life into his nostrils (Genesis 2:7).

We believe Adam was the first man created (Genesis 2:15-19) and was, as every other thing God created, "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Adam freely chose to rebel against God (Genesis 2:16; 3:4-6); as a result sin and death entered into the world (Genesis 3:17-19). Because of Adam's sin, condemnation came to all mankind (Romans 5:12). But God who is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4) set eternity in the heart of men (Ecclesiastes 3:11) so they may know He exists (Romans 1:18-20) and knowing that, respond to the message of His grace (Titus 2:11).

We believe man is inherently sinful by nature (Romans 3:23), unable to save himself (Psalm 22:29), desperately in need of a Savior (Romans 6:23), and individually responsible to respond to God's offer of salvation (John 3:36).

We believe man comes to faith by God's grace, apart from works (Ephesians 2:8-9), through the knowledge of truth (Romans 10:17) as revealed in God's general (Psalm 19:1-4) and specific revelation of Himself (Isaiah 45:5). Then and only then, through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained (Titus 3:5-7).

Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that salvation, a work begun by God before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) was, is and always will be a free gift from God (Romans 6:23), by His grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) apart from any righteous acts of our own (Titus 3:5). And that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved (Romans 10:9-10). This salvation is available to anyone who puts their faith and trust in God's promise of redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 10:11-12).

We believe "there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We acknowledge that Christ's shed blood on the cross was complete payment for the sins of everyone who puts their faith in Him (Romans 3:23-26). As a result "anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame" (Romans 10:11), nor will they ever experience God's condemnation (Romans 8:1-2), but rather are able to fully experience true "peace" and "fellowship" with God (Romans 5:1-2; 1 John 1:3).

We believe Christ's work on the cross cannot be realized or acknowledged apart from recognizing our own sinfulness and need for a savior leading to repentance and forgiveness of sins (2 Corinthians 7:10).

We believe at the instant we trust Christ in response to the Gospel of grace we are reborn as children of God (1 John 5:1) and adopted into His family; being heirs of all He has to offer (Galatians 2:20).

We believe our new birth changes our legal standing before God, that is, we are "justified" in His sight, meaning we are no longer "children of wrath," but rather declared righteous before God (Romans 5:9-10).

We believe this "justification" is a finished work of God completely separate from any works of our own (Romans 4:3-5), and that His Spirit, now living in us (1 John 4:4), empowers us to "work out our salvation" according to His will and good pleasure (Philippians 2:12-13).

We believe that genuine faith will respond in obedience (Matthew 3:8) and love for Christ (John 14:23) and be characterized by the new life eager to do what is good (Titus 2:14).

Eternal Security and Perseverance

Eternal life is "knowing" the only true God and his Son Jesus Christ (John 17:17) and is a gift from God (1 John 5:11-12), not by works so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). A redeemed sinner is no more capable of losing his/her salvation (eternal life) than he/she was of earning it. It's a gift from God (Romans 6:23) to anyone who trusts in Christ (Romans 10:11) and that gift is given by the One and only God (Isaiah 43:11-12) who searches the heart, examines the mind (Jeremiah 17:10), understands every motive behind the thought (1 Chronicles 28:9) and cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7).

Your eternal life is further secured by the fact that it is not only a gift to you, but more importantly is a gift to Christ from God the Father (John 17:6, 9, 24; John 6:37) and neither God the Son nor the Father will ever let you get away (John 10:27-30). Bringing glory to Himself was the very purpose for which he created (Isaiah 43:7, Psalm 115:1) and saved us (Ephesians 1:11-13) making us his own possession - to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:13-14). The redeemed will be kept in faith (Jude 24-25; Hebrews 7:25) persevering until the very last day (John 6:40). Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as He is pure (1 John 3:3) enabled by His power in us (Ephesians 3:20).

We can be confident of this because "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" and "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purposes" (Philippians 2:13).

Doctrine of Sanctification (Obedience of Faith)

We believe that genuine faith in Christ works itself out in sincere obedience to His will (1 John 2:3-5). That sincere love for Christ demonstrates itself in obedience to His commands (John 14:15, 23) by walking in the light (1 John 1:7) even as He walked (1 John 2:6).

We believe that Jehovah M'Kaddesh, the Lord who sanctifies will assure that His children "work out their salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) as they strive to be imitators of Christ (Philippians 2:1) and ambassadors for His sake (2 Corinthians 5:20). True believers will walk in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25) over the course of their lives; be conformed to the image of Christ over time (Romans 8:29) and be transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory which comes from God, who is the Spirit (Ephesians 3:17-18). We understand that the full realization of our sanctification will not take place until that time in which we meet Christ face to face (1 John 3:2; Hebrews 9:28; 12:23).

Doctrine of the Church

We believe the true church is made up of all persons who have put genuine faith and trust in Christ for salvation (1 Corinthians 12:12-13); that we are the Body (Ephesians 4:16) and Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2) and that He is the Head of His church (Ephesians 5:23).

We believe in full equality within the Body of Christ; neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female (Galatians 3:28-29), but that Scripture mandates an order of headship within the church (1 Corinthians 11:3) to which all believers must submit to preserve order and unity within the Body (1 Corinthians 14:33).

We believe the purpose of the Church is to make disciples of all nations by spreading the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20) and building the Kingdom of God (Ephesians 4:11-13) until Christ returns (Revelation 22:12-13) and that every believer is responsible to participate in that endeavor with whatever gifts God has given each of us (Romans 12:4-8).

We believe the local church should meet as a body (Hebrews 10:25) to worship and glorify God (John 4:23-24), to proclaim God's Truth and message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), to teach and encourage every believer (2 Timothy 3:16-17) in their pursuit of holiness (1 Peter 1:16) and to discipline its members as established by Scripture (Matthew 18:17).

We believe the two ordinances of the church, baptism (Matthew 28:19) and the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-25), are to be observed by every believer until the Lord returns (Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 11:26); water baptism after conversion as an outward expression of the new believer's faith in Christ (Acts 10:47-48); and the Lord's Supper as believers partake in the symbolic observance and thankful remembrance of the New Covenant made available to the world by way of Christ's sacrifice on the cross (Hebrews 9:15).

Doctrine of Last Things

We believe in and eagerly anticipate Christ's return to earth (Philippians 3:20) to claim His Bride, the true Church (Revelation 19:7).

We believe that upon His return, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11). Christ's second coming will result in the bodily resurrection of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:51-53) and the end of death (1 Corinthians 15:26) and suffering (Revelation 21:4). Those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 21:27) will spend eternity with God (Revelation 21:3) experiencing His perpetual grace and blessings (Revelation 22:5). Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will spend eternity under the wrath of God (Revelation 20:15) reserved for those who reject His Son (John 3:36); an eternal existence separated from God. Therefore, "what manner of persons ought ye to be" (2 Peter 3:11)? Having received such a great salvation (Hebrews 2:3) we should live holy and godly lives, as we look forward to the day of God and speed it's coming (2 Peter 3:12). We should lead lives worthy of the calling we've received, being completely humble and gentle; patient, bearing with one another in love, keeping the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)