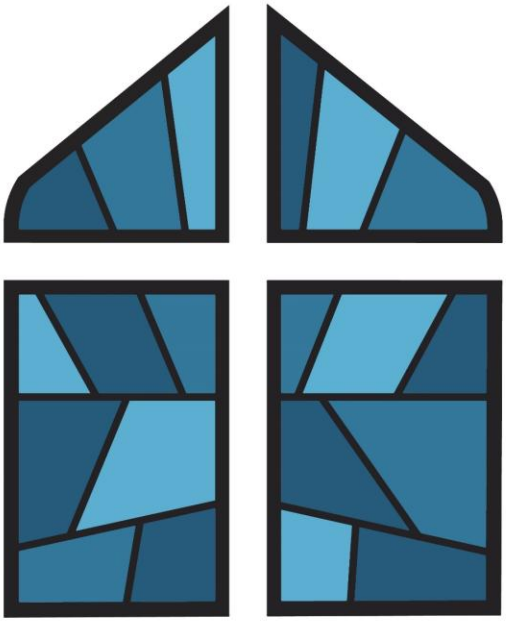

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1.0 SCRIPTURE

INSPIRATION

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THE WORDS OF THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS WERE GOD-BREATHED AND COMMUNICATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HOLY MEN. THIS PROCESS WE CALL "DIVINE INSPIRATION."

> ***2 Timothy 3:16**, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*
>
> ***2 Peter 1:20-21**, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF INSPIRATION IS PLENARY AND VERBAL. PLENARY INSPIRATION ASSERTS THAT THE ENTIRETY OF SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED. VERBAL INSPIRATION ASSERTS THAT THE VERY WORDS OF SCRITURE ARE INSPIRED.

> ***2 Timothy 3:16**, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*
>
> ***John 6:63**, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."*

INERRANCY

WE BELIEVE THESE INSPIRED WORDS ARE INERRANT; THIS INERRANCY EXTENDS EQUALLY TO ALL PARTS OF THE BIBLE AS THEY APPEARED IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

> ***John 17:17**, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*
>
> ***2 Timothy 3:16**, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*
>
> ***Hebrews 6:18**, "So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us."*

CLARITY

WE BELIEVE THAT SCRIPTURE IS OPEN AND TRANSPARENT TO EARNEST READERS, INTELLIGIBLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO ATTENTIVE READERS. THE DOCTRINE OF THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE IS ABUNDANTLY INTIMATED IN THE BIBLE.

> ***Psalm 119:105**, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
>
> ***Psalm 119:130**, "The unfolding of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*
>
> ***2 Timothy 3:15**, "and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

ALL SCRIPTURE POINTS TO JESUS

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL SCRIPTURE CENTERS ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: HIS PERSON, HIS WORK, HIS FIRST AND SECOND COMING; THUS, NO PORTION OF THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT CAN BE PROPERLY READ OR UNDERSTOOD UNTIL WE SEE HOW IT LEADS TO HIM.

> ***Luke 24:27, 44**, "Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures…Now He said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'"*
>
> ***John 5:39**, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me"*
>
> ***Acts 17:2-3**, "And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.'"*
>
> ***Acts 18:28**, "for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ."*

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AUTHORITY

WE ALSO BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES ARE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN ALL MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE, ARE GIVEN FOR OUR PRACTICAL AND SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTION, AND ARE ESSENTIAL FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

> ***1 Thessalonians 2:13****, "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."*
>
> ***2 Timothy 3:16****, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."*

SUFFICIENCY

WE BELIEVE THAT SCRIPTURE CONTAINS ALL THE WORDS OF GOD HE INTENDED HIS PEOPLE TO HAVE AT EACH STAGE OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY. IT CONTAINS EVERYTHNG WE NEED GOD TO TELL US FOR SALVATION, TRUSTING HIM PERFECTLY, AND OBEYING HIM PERFECTLY. THE DOCTRINE OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS OF THEOLOGY AND ETHICS FROM SCRIPTURE.

> ***Deuteronomy 4:2****, "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I am commanding you."*
>
> ***Psalm 19:7-9****, "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether."*

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2.0 GOD

TRINITY

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, CREATOR OF ALL THINGS, INFINITELY PERFECT AND ETERNALLY EXISTING IN THREE PERSONS, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, AND THAT THESE THREE DISTINCT PERSONS ARE IN FACT ONE GOD.

> ***Deuteronomy 6:4**, "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"*
>
> ***Matthew 3:16-17**, "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"*
>
> ***2 Corinthians 13:14**, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."*

2.1. FUNCTIONAL ROLES IN THE TRINITY

EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY FULFILLS A UNIQUE FUNCTIONAL ROLE IN THE WORK OF REDEMPTION.

- **GOD THE FATHER** PLANNED REDEMPTION AND SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD.

> ***John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believe in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*
>
> ***Ephesians 1:4-5**, "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."*
>
> ***2 Timothy 1:8b-9**, "God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity."*
>
> ***Titus 1:2**, "In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."*

- **GOD THE SON** ACCOMPLISHED REDEMPTION FOR US BY HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS.

> ***Isaiah 53:4-6**, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."*
>
> ***1 Peter 2:24**, "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."*

- **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** APPLIES REDEMPTION BY MEANS OF REGENERATION AND SANCTIFICATION OF THE BELIEVER.

> ***John 3:5-8**, "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"*
>
> ***Titus 3:5**, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."*

2.2. GOD THE FATHER

WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD (*a*). HE IS INFINITE IN BEING AND PERFECTION, PURE SPIRIT, COMPLETELY WISE AND HOLY, COMPLETELY FREE, AND ABSOLUTE. HE WORKS EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS OWN RIGHTEOUS WILL, AND FOR HIS OWN GLORY. HE IS ALTOGETHER LOVING, COMPLETELY GRACIOUS, MERCIFUL, HOLY, JUST, AND LONG-SUFFERING. HE IS SOVEREIGN, NOT DEPENDENT UPON ANY CREATED THING (*b*).

a) ***Deuteronomy 4:39***, *"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other."*
Deuteronomy 32:39, *"See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand."*
Isaiah 44:6-8, *"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to Me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'"*

b) ***Exodus 34:6***, *"Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.'"*
Isaiah 42:5-9, *"Thus says God the LORD, 'Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.'"*
Isaiah 43:10-13, *"'You are My witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange god among you; so you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, and I am God. Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?'"*
Jeremiah 23:23-24, *"Am I a God who is near,' declares the LORD, 'and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?' declares the LORD. 'Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?' declares the LORD."*
Jeremiah 32:17-18, *"Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name."*

GOD'S SOVEREIGN PROVIDENCE

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD, WHO CREATED EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING, NOW UPHOLDS EVERYTHING BY HIS POWER, IN ACCORD WITH HIS WILL AND HOLY PURPOSE.

1 Corinthians 8:6, *"Yet for us this is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."*

- HE USES ORDINARY MEANS TO WORK OUT HIS SOVEREIGN WILL THOUGH HE MAY AS HE PLEASES, WORK OUTSIDE OF OR CONTRARY TO WHAT WE UNDERSTAND AS "ORDINARY".

Job 42:2, *"I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."*

Psalm 103:19, *"The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all."*

Ecclesiastes 7:13, *"Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent?"*

Isaiah 46:10, *"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'"*

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN CANNOT DIVERT GOD FROM CARRYING OUT HIS PERFECT PURPOSES (*a*). ON THE CONTRARY, HE ORDERS ALL THINGS SUCH THAT HE MAKES GOOD COME OUT OF EVIL, NEVERTHELESS, MAN'S SIN BELONGS ONLY TO MAN AND DOES NOT PROCEED FROM GOD, WHOSE HOLY NATURE CAN NEITHER CAUSE NOR APPROVE OF SIN (*b*).

a) ***Romans 8:28***, *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*

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b) ***Habakkuk 1:13**, "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor."*
***James 1:13-17**, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."*

2.3. GOD THE SON

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY (*a*), AND HE IS TRULY GOD AND TRULY MAN (*b*).

a) ***Isaiah 7:14**, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."*
***Matthew 1:23**, "'BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,' which translated means, 'GOD WITH US.'"*

b) ***Luke 1:35**, "The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.'"*
***John 1:1**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*
***John 1:14**, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*
***John 8:58**, "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'"*
***John 10:30**, "'I and the Father are one.'"*
***John 14:9**, "Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?'"*
***Philippians 2:5-7**, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."*

THE FIRST COMING

WE BELIEVE THAT, AS PURPOSED BY GOD AND ANNOUNCED THROUGH THE PROPHECIES OF SCRIPTURE, JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL AND ONLY SON OF GOD CAME INTO THIS WORLD IN ORDER TO REVEAL GOD TO MEN (*a*), THAT HE MIGHT FULFILL PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIMSELF (*b*), AND THAT HE MIGHT LIVE AND DIE ON EARTH AS THE PERFECT AND ONLY ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS (*c*) TO REDEEM A LOST AND FALLEN WORLD (*d*).

a) ***John 1:14, 18**, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth…No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."*

b) ***Luke 4:18, 21**, "'THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.' And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

c) ***Isaiah 53:4-6**, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."*
***John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
***2 Corinthians 5:21**, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
***1 Peter 2:24**, "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."*

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d) ***Mark 10:45**, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
***Luke 19:10**, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*
***John 12:27**, "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour."*

THE SON'S HUMANITY

WE BELIEVE THAT JUST AS HE WAS A SINLESS MAN THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE (*a*). DURING HIS LIFE ON THIS EARTH, THOUGH HE FUNCTIONED WITHIN THE HUMAN REALM WITH ITS LIMITATIONS (*b*), YET AS SON OF GOD HE CONTINUALLY DREW UPON HIS RELATIONSHIP TO HIS FATHER AND DEPENDED UPON THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN HIM (*c*).

a) ***Hebrews 4:15**, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."*

b) ***Philippians 2:5-7**, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men."*

c) ***Matthew 4:1**, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."*
***Luke 4:14**, "And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district."*
***Hebrews 9:14**, "How much more with the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*
***Romans 1:4**, "Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

THE SON'S DEITY

WE BELIEVE JESUS IS DIVINE, AND THE BIBLE GIVES EVIDENCE TO HIS DIVINITY, BEING PREDICTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT *(a)*, USING GOD'S COVENANT NAME FOR HIMSELF *(b)*, TITLES RESERVED FOR GOD ARE USED OF CHRIST *(c)*, DOING WORKS THAT ONLY GOD CAN DO *(d)*, AND JESUS CLAIMED THAT HE WAS DIVINE *(e)*.

a) ***Psalm 2:7,** "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord; He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"*
***Isaiah 7:14**, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."*
***Isaiah 9:6**, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."*
***Micah 5:2**, "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you one will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."*

b) ***Psalm 23:1,** "The Lord is my shepherd." **John 10:11,** "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."*
***Isaiah 40:3**, "A voice is calling, clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God." **John 1:23**, "He said, 'I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."*
***Joel 2:32**, "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls." **Romans 10:9, 13**, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved…for whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

c) ***Isaiah 10:20**, "Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy one of Israel." **Acts 3:13-14**, "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you."*
***Isaiah 43:11**, "I, even I, am the Lord, and there is no savior like Me." **Titus 2:11-13**, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live*

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sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."
***Isaiah 44:6**, "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and the last, and there is no God besides Me."* ***Revelation 22:13**, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*
***Zechariah 12:10**, "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whome they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will week bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."* ***John 19:34-37**, "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, 'Not a bone of Him shall be broken.' And again another Scripture says, 'They shall look on Him whom they pierced.'"*

d) ***John 1:3**, "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."*
***Mark 2:5-12**, "And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 'Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?' Immediate Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, 'Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.' And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'"*

e) ***John 5:17-18**, "But He answered them, 'My Father is workig until now, and I Myself am working.' For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."*
***John 10:30-33**, "I and the Father are one. The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?' The Jews answered Him, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.'"*
***John 14:8-9**, "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

THE SON'S MISSION

WE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN OUR LORD'S COMING TO THIS EARTH THAT JESUS CAME FIRST TO ISRAEL AS HER MESSIAH-KING BUT WAS REJECTED BY HER *(a)*. SUBSEQUENTLY, STILL ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL PLAN OF GOD, THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS, HE BECAME THE RANSOM PAID TO GOD FOR THE REDEMPTION OF ALL WHO BELIEVE *(b)*.

a) ***John 1:11**, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."*

b) ***Acts 2:22-24**, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."*
***1 Timothy 2:6**, "who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."*

THE SON'S DEATH

WE BELIEVE THAT, IN HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS, THE SON WAS GOD'S ONLY ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICIAL LAMB, AND AS SUCH HE BORE IN HIS OWN BODY GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT UPON SIN. THUS HIS DEATH WAS SUBSTITUTIONARY — THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST — BY WHICH HE BECAME THE SAVIOR OF ALL WHO BELIEVE. HE IS THEREFORE, THE ONLY SALVATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF ADAM.

New American Standard Bible used for scripture references

***John 1:29**, "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

***Romans 3:25-26**, "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; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

***1 Peter 3:18**, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."*

THE SON'S RESURRECTION

WE BELIEVE IN THE HISTORIC BODILY RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THE FUTURE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD *(a)*, OF THE BELIEVER TO EVERLASTING BLESSEDNESS AND JOY WITH THE LORD, AND OF THE UNBELIEVER TO EVERLASTING SEPARATION FROM GOD AND CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT *(b)*.

a) ***Luke 24:4-7**, "While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee?'"*
***1 Corinthians 15:3-8**, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also."*

b) ***Daniel 12:2**, "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."*
***John 5:28-29**, "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 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."*

THE RESURRECTION'S SIGNIFICANCE

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD DEMONSTRATES THAT THE FATHER WHOLLY APPROVED OF CHRIST'S LIFE AND WORK OF SALVATION AND THAT THIS APPROVAL GIVES US ASSURANCE THAT HIS REDEEMING WORK WAS PERFECTLY ACCOMPLISHED.

***Romans 4:25**, "He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification."*

***Hebrews 5:8-9**, "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"*

GLORIFICATION

WE BELIEVE THAT, ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, HE AROSE FROM DEATH AND THE TOMB IN THE SAME BODY — THOUGH NOW GLORIFIED — IN WHICH HE HAD LIVED ON THIS EARTH *(a)*, AND THAT THIS GLORIFIED BODY IS THE PATTERN FOR THE GLORIFIED BODY WHICH ALL BELIEVERS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE TIME OF HIS RETURN *(b)*.

a) ***John 20:20**, "And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord."*

b) ***1 Corinthians 15:20-22**, "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."*
***1 Corinthians 15:45**, "So also it is written, 'The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."*
***1 Corinthians 15:49**, "Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly."*

New American Standard Bible used for scripture references

ASCENSION AND ADVOCACY

WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN HE ASCENDED BODILY INTO HEAVEN, HE BECAME THE ONLY ADVOCATE (*a*) AND MEDIATOR FOR ALL BELIEVERS (*b*), AND THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (*c*).

a) ***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."*

b) ***1 Timothy 2:5****, "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

c) ***Ephesians 1:22-23****, "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

2.4. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

BAPTISM AND INDWELLING

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY, BAPTIZED BELIEVERS ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AS DIVINELY PROMISED (*a*). HE INDWELLS EACH BELIEVER, UNITING HIM TO JESUS CHRIST (*b*), AND HE BESTOWS ALL SPIRITUAL POWER AND GIFTS (*c*). HE IS ALWAYS THERE TO INTERCEDE FOR THE BELIEVER IN HIS PRAYER (*d*). HE TESTIFIES OF JESUS CHRIST (*e*). HE ALSO SEEKS TO CAUSE BELIEVERS TO GLORIFY CHRIST AND TO YIELD THEIR BODIES TO HIM IN SERVICE (*f*).

a) ***John 16:7****, "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."*
Acts 1:4-5*, "Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"*

b) ***Ephesians 1:13-14****, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*

c) ***1 Corinthians 12:7****, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

d) ***Romans 8:26****, "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

e) ***John 15:26****, "The Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me."*

f) ***Ephesians 5:18****, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."*

MINISTRIES

WE BELIEVE THE MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INCLUDE THE RESTRAINING OF EVIL AS GOD WILLS (*a*), THE CONVICTING OF THE WORLD RESPECTING SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND JUDGMENT (*b*), THE REGENERATION OF ALL BELIEVERS (*c*), TEACHING BELIEVERS THE TRUTH OF GOD AND REVEALING GOD TO THEM (*d*), AND THE SEALING OF BELIEVERS UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION (*e*).

a) ***2 Thessalonians 2:7****, "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way."*

b) ***John 16:8****, "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."*

c) ***Titus 3:5****, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."*

d) ***John 16:13****, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."*

e) ***Ephesians 4:30****, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

New American Standard Bible used for scripture references

SANCTIFICATION

WE BELIEVE THAT SANCTIFICATION IS A TRINITARIAN WORK OF SETTING APART THE BELIEVER UNTO GOD FOR THE WORK AND LIFE OF HOLINESS TO WHICH THE BELIEVER IS CALLED.

> ***John 17:17****" "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*
>
> ***2 Corinthians 3:18****, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*
>
> ***1 Thessalonians 5:23-24****, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."*
>
> ***Hebrews 10:10****, "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."*

- WE BELIEVE THAT ALL BELIEVERS ARE CALLED INTO A LIFE OF SEPARATION FROM ALL WORLDLY AND SINFUL PRACTICES AND TO A POSITIVE, SANCTIFIED, CONSISTENT LIFE.

> ***Romans 12:1-2****, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*
>
> ***2 Corinthians 6:14-18****, "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,' says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 'And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' says the Lord Almighty."*
>
> ***James 4:4****, "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*

- IN HIS DAY-TO-DAY WALK, THE BELIEVER IS THUS ENCOURAGED TO GROW IN GRACE AND TO BE CHANGED UNDER THE POWER AND GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

> ***2 Corinthians 7:1****, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*
>
> ***Ephesians 4:22-24****, "that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*
>
> ***Philippians 2:12-13****, "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."*

- THE TIME WILL COME WHEN GOD'S WORK OF SANCTIFICATION WILL BE COMPLETE, AND THE BELIEVER WILL SEE HIS LORD AND WILL BE LIKE HIM.

> ***1 John 3:2-3****, "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

3.0 CHURCH

WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRUE CHURCH IS SPIRITUAL AND UNIVERSAL, COMPOSED OF ALL BELIEVERS AND BUILT BY JESUS CHRIST (*a*). WE BELIEVE THAT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ALL BELIEVERS ARE BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY (*b*),

THAT IS, CHRIST'S BODY, WHICH IS THE CHURCH (*c*); HIS BRIDE. AND AS WE ARE ALL MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER, WE HAVE THE DUTY TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE (*d*). WE BELIEVE THAT THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY EXISTS TO WORSHIP HIM, TO NURTURE BELIEVERS, AND TO PROCLAIM HIM TO THE WORLD (*e*).

a) ***Matthew 16:16-18**, "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."*

b) ***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."*

c) ***Ephesians 1:22-23**, "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

d) ***Ephesians 4:3**, "being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

e) ***John 4:23-24**, "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
***Acts 2:42**, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*
***Ephesians 4:11-16**, "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*
***Philippians 3:3**, "For we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh."*

4.0 SATAN

WE BELIEVE THAT SATAN IS THE ENEMY OF GOD AND ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS AND IS AT WORK IN THE WORLD TODAY THROUGH DEMONIC EMISSARIES WHO ATTACK THE MIND, BODY, WILL, HEART, AND CONSCIENCE. SATAN IS LIKE A ROARING LION SEEKING TO DECEIVE, DESTROY, RULE, AND ACCUSE.

***John 8:44**, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

***1 Peter 5:8**, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

SATAN, UNDER THE PERMISSION OF GOD, WHO TEMPTED THE FIRST HUMANS, ADAM AND EVE TO SIN (*a*). BY THEIR CHOICE THEY FELL AND SUBJECTED THEMSELVES AND THEIR POSTERITY TO HIS POWER (*b*).

a) ***Genesis 3:1-6**, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."*

b) ***Romans 5:12**, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."*

SATAN IS THE ENEMY OF BOTH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, CONTINUALLY ATTEMPTING TO EXALT HIMSELF ABOVE GOD.

> ***2 Thessalonians 2:4****, "Who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."*

HE CAN APPEAR AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT, EVEN IMITATING THE WORKS OF GOD IN SUCH THINGS AS RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS AND SYSTEMS OF DOCTRINE (*a*). THESE ARE OFTEN CHARACTERIZED BY A DENIAL OF THE EFFICACY OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, OF CHRIST'S DEITY, AND OF CHRIST'S GOSPEL: SALVATION BY GOD'S GRACE ALONE (*b*).

a) ***2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 11:13-15****, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God…For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds."*

b) ***1 Timothy 4:1-3****, "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."*

SATAN'S AUTHORITY

WE BELIEVE THAT SATAN WAS JUDGED AT THE CROSS OF OUR LORD, ALTHOUGH THE FINAL CONSEQUENCES OF THIS JUDGMENT HAVE NOT YET BEEN EXECUTED (*a*). HE NOW EXERCISES POWER BY GOD'S PERMISSION AS THE GOD OF THIS PRESENT WORLD (*b*). HE ALSO ACCUSES BELIEVERS BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD (*c*).

a) ***John 12:31; 16:11****, "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out…concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."*
Colossians 2:15*, "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."*

b) ***John 14:30****, "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me"*
2 Corinthians 4:4*, "In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*
1 John 5:19*, "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*

c) ***Revelation 12:10****, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."*

SATAN'S DESTINY

AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO EARTH, SATAN WILL BE BOUND AND CAST INTO THE ABYSS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. AFTERWARD HE WILL BE LOOSED FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE WHERE HE WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER.

> ***Revelation 20:1-3, 10****, "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time…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."*

5.0 MAN

CREATION

WE BELIEVE THAT MAN WAS CREATED BY GOD IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS AND WITH A SINLESS NATURE WHICH ALLOWED INTIMATE COMMUNION WITH HIS GOD.

***Genesis 1:26-27**, "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.' God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

THE FALL

THROUGH DISOBEDIENCE MAN FELL FROM THIS INTIMACY, BECOMING SPIRITUALLY DEAD AND SUBJECT TO THE POWER OF SATAN (*a*). WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THIS SPIRITUAL DEATH HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE EXCEPT FOR THE MAN CHRIST JESUS; AND THUS EVERY CHILD OF THIS FIRST MAN ADAM IS BORN INTO THE WORLD WITH A DEPRAVED NATURE WHICH DOES NOT POSSESSES DIVINE LIFE AND IS ESSENTIALLY AND UNCHANGEABLY SINFUL (*b*).

a) ***Ephesians 2:1-3**, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."*

b) ***Romans 5:12-14**, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come."*

SANCTITY OF LIFE

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED AND CREATED BY GOD IN HIS IMAGE. HUMAN LIFE IS OF INESTIMABLE WORTH IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS, INCLUDING PRE-BORN BABIES, THE AGED, THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY CHALLENGED, AND EVERY OTHER STAGE OR CONDITION. WE ARE THEREFORE CALLED TO DEFEND, PROTECT, AND VALUE ALL HUMAN LIFE.

***Genesis 9:3-6**, "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man."*

***Psalm 139:13-16**, "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."*

***Exodus 21:22-23**, "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life."*

VICTORY OVER THE FLESH

WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE BOTH FLESH AND SPIRIT (BODY AND SOUL). THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS WITHIN US IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR TRUE SELF, WHICH IS SPIRIT. IN OUR DAILY WALK, WE ARE TO TURN FROM THE THOUGHTS AND DESIRES WHICH ORIGINATE IN OUR "FLESH," AND INSTEAD, LIVE OUT, IN OUR FLESH, THE NEW PERSON WHICH WE ARE IN OUR SPIRIT (*a*). WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND WALK, "NOT ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT" (*b*). WE ARE TO RELY BY FAITH ON THE POWER OF GOD'S INDWELLING SPIRIT SO THAT WE WILL NOT FULFILL THE DESIRES OF OUR SINFUL FLESH (*c*).

a) ***Ephesians 4:1**, "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."*

b) ***Ephesians 5:18**, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."*

c) ***Galatians 5:16-17**, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."*
***Ephesians 4:22-24**, "That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

New American Standard Bible used for scripture references

MARRIAGE

WE BELIEVE GOD CREATES EACH PERSON AS MALE OR FEMALE. THESE TWO DISTINCT, COMPLEMENTARY GENDERS TOGETHER REFLECT THE IMAGE OF GOD (*a*). WE BELIEVE THAT MARRIAGE IS THE JOINING TOGETHER OF ONE BIOLOGICAL MAN AND ONE BIOLOGICAL WOMAN IN A SINGLE EXCLUSIVE UNION AS DELINEATED IN SCRIPTURE (*b*).

a) ***Genesis 1:26-27**, "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 things that creeps on the earth.' God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."*

b) ***Matthew 19:4-6**, "And He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God joins together, let no man separate.'"*

WE BELIEVE GOD INTENDS MARRIAGE TO LAST AS LONG AS THEY BOTH SHALL LIVE.

***Genesis 2:23-24**, "Then man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."*

***Romans 7:2-3**, "For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning her husband. So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress*

WE BELIEVE GOD INTENDS SEXUAL INTIMACY ONLY TO OCCUR BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN WHO ARE MARRIED TO EACH OTHER.

***1 Corinthians 6:18**, "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body."*

***1 Thessalonians 4:3**, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality."*

***Hebrews 13:4**, "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."*

WE BELIEVE ANY FORM OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY (E.G., ADULTERY, FORNICATION, HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR, BISEXUAL CONDUCT, INCEST, AND USE OF PORNOGRAPHY) IS SINFUL AND OFFENSIVE TO GOD.

***1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."*

WE BELIEVE CHRISTIANS SHOULD MARRY ONLY OTHER CHRISTIANS.

1 Corinthians 7:39**, "A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord."

BIBLICAL SEXUALITY[1]

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD CREATED TWO DISTINCT SEXES, MALE AND FEMALE, AND THAT DIVINELY ORDAINED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE REFLECT GOD'S ORIGINAL CREATION DESIGN AND ARE GOOD.

***Genesis 1:27**, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

[1] We appreciate the important work done by those who crafted the Nashville Statement: A Coalition for Biblical Sexuality which served as one of the sources from which we crafted these doctrinal statements. You may read the entire Nashville Statement here.

New American Standard Bible used for scripture references

WE BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES IS INTEGRAL TO GOD'S DESIGN FOR SELF-CONCEPTION[2] AS MALE OR FEMALE.[3]

> ***Genesis 1:27**, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*
> ***Genesis 2:18, 22-23**, "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'. . . The Lord fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'"*

WE BELIEVE THAT SELF-CONCEPTION AS MALE OR FEMALE SHOULD BE DEFINED BY GOD'S HOLY PURPOSES IN CREATION AND REDEMPTION AS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE, AND HOMOSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER SELF-CONCEPTION IS INCONSISTENT WITH GOD'S HOLY PURPOSES IN CREATION AND REDEMPTION.

> ***Matthew 19:4-5**, "And He [Jesus] answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"*
> ***Romans 1:25-27**, "For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error."*

WE BELIEVE THAT THE GRACE OF GOD IN CHRIST ENABLES BELIEVERS TO FORSAKE TRANSGENDER SELF-CONCEPTIONS TO ACCEPT THE GOD-ORDAINED LINK BETWEEN ONE'S SEX AND ONE'S SELF-CONCEPTION AS MALE OR FEMALE.

> ***1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."*
> ***Ephesians 4:17-24**, "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

TRIALS

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD ALLOWS HIS CHILDREN TO UNDERGO SEVERE TRIALS (*a*), SOME OF WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THEIR OWN PERSONAL SIN (*b*), AND OTHERS FROM THE FALLEN NATURE OF THIS WORLD (*c*). IN ALL, HIS PURPOSE IS TO

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[2] Refers to the mental image one has of oneself. Also known as self-identification.

[3] We believe that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about "eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's wombs" (Mt. 19:12). With all others they are welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their sex insofar as it may be known. We do not believe that ambiguities related to a person's sex render one incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.

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STRENGTHEN THEM, TO DRAW THEM TO HIMSELF, TO PRODUCE IN THEM MORE AND MORE OF HIS RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER, ALL TO HIS GLORY (*d*).

a) ***James 1:2-4**, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

b) ***Hebrews 12:6, 11**, "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives…All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."*

c) ***2 Timothy 3:12**, "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*

d) ***Genesis 50:20**, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*
***Romans 8:28**, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*
***1 Peter 5:10**, "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."*

6.0 SALVATION

NEW BIRTH

WE BELIEVE THAT, BECAUSE THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, NO MAN CAN ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD UNLESS HE IS SPIRITUALLY BORN AGAIN AND THUS MADE ALIVE TO GOD.

***Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

***John 3:5**, "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.'"*

IMPUTATION

NO WISDOM, MORALITY, NOR ORDINANCE OF MAN CAN POSSIBLY BRING HIM TO THE KINGDOM OF THE HOLY GOD, BUT ONLY THAT LIFE, WHICH IS IMPUTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BRINGS SALVATION AND ESTABLISHES HIM AS A CHILD OF GOD.

***Isaiah 53:4-6**, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."*
***2 Corinthians 5:21**, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
***1 Peter 3:18**, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."*

APART FROM WORKS

WE BELIEVE, FURTHER, THAT OUR REDEMPTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED SOLELY THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST — HIS DEATH IN OUR PLACE — WHOSE SHED BLOOD IS COMPLETELY EFFICACIOUS; NOTHING THAT MAN OR HUMAN INSTITUTION CAN DO WILL INCREASE ITS VALUE OR MERIT ITS WORTH.

***Ephesians 1:7**, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."*

***Titus 3:5**, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."*

***1 Peter 1:18-19, 23**, "Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless,*

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the blood of Christ…for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

BY FAITH ALONE

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT GOD HIMSELF GIVES US THE FAITH TO BELIEVE IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS (*a*). THIS BELIEF IS NOT MERELY MENTAL ASSENT, BUT INCLUDES SINCERE HEART REPENTANCE OF SIN AND CONFESSING JESUS CHRIST AS LORD (*b*). HENCE, GOD ALONE BRINGS US TO SALVATION (*c*). NO INSTITUTIONAL ACTS SUCH AS FAITHFUL SERVICE, PRAYER, CONFESSION, OR BAPTISM MAY BE ADDED AS A CONDITION OF SALVATION (*d*).

a) ***Ephesians 2:8****, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

b) ***James 2:19****, "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder."*
Romans 10:9-10*, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*

c) ***1 Corinthians 1:30****, "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption."*

d) ***Romans 3:20****, "Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."*

REPENTANCE

WE BELIEVE THAT A CALL TO REPENTANCE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL ALONG WITH THE CHALLENGE TO PLACE ONE'S FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST (*a*). BY REPENTANCE, THE UNSAVED RECOGNIZES THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS SIN AND HIS VIOLATION OF THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS LAW OF GOD SUCH THAT AS HE IS LED TO SEE THE MERCY OF JESUS CHRIST, HE MAY GRIEVE FOR AND HATE HIS SINS, TURNING FROM THEM TO GOD (*b*). REPENTANCE IS NOT A SATISFACTION FOR SIN, NOR IS IT A CAUSE FOR PARDON. FORGIVENESS IS GOD'S FREE ACT OF GRACE; NEVERTHELESS, NONE MAY EXPECT PARDON WITHOUT REPENTANCE. NO SIN IS SO SMALL THAT IT DOES NOT DESERVE DAMNATION, OR SO VILE THAT IT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN WHEN THE SINNER TRULY REPENTS (*c*).

a) ***Luke 24:47****, "and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."*
Acts 26:20*, "but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."*

b) ***2 Corinthians 7:10****, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

c) ***1 John 1:8-10****, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."*

ASSURANCE

WE BELIEVE IT IS THE PRIVILEGE AND COMFORT OF EVERY BELIEVER TO BE ASSURED OF HIS SALVATION (*a*). THIS ASSURANCE RESTS WHOLLY ON THE TESTIMONY OF GOD IN HIS WRITTEN WORD AND THE BELIEVER'S CONSISTENT PURSUIT OF GODLINESS (*b*).

a) ***1 John 5:13****, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

b) ***2 Peter 1:10****, "Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble."*

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SECURITY

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL TRUE BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE, ONCE SAVED, SHALL BE KEPT SAVED FOREVER (*a*). THIS BELIEF RESTS UPON THE VERY NATURE AND MEANING OF ETERNAL LIFE (*b*), THE PERFECTION OF THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD WHILE HERE ON EARTH (*c*), THE CURRENT INTERCESSION OF JESUS CHRIST IN HEAVEN (*d*) AND THE SEALING OF EVERY BELIEVER BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (*e*). WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IF A CHILD OF GOD PERSISTENTLY SINS, GOD WILL CHASTEN HIM AND CORRECT HIM IN LOVE (*f*), IN ORDER THAT IN THE END, JESUS CHRIST WILL PRESENT EVERY SON OF GOD FAULTLESS BEFORE GOD'S PRESENCE (*g*).

a) ***1 Peter 1:3-5****, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

b) ***John 17:11****, "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are."*

c) ***Hebrews 10:14****, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."*

d) ***Hebrews 7:25****, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

e) ***Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30****, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory…Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

f) ***Hebrews 12:6****, "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son who He receives."*

g) ***Hebrews 12:11****, "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."*
Jude 24*, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy."*

SERVICE

WE BELIEVE THAT DIVINE GIFTS FOR SERVICE ARE DISTRIBUTED TO BELIEVERS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HE WILLS AND THAT THESE GIFTS SHOULD BE EXERCISED BY EACH BELIEVER UNDER HIS ENERGY AND DIRECTION (*a*). ALL BELIEVERS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST TO RECEIVE REWARDS ACCORDING TO THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN HIS SERVICE (*b*).

a) ***Romans 12:1-2, 6-8****, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect…Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*

b) ***2 Corinthians 5:10****, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

EVANGELISM

WE BELIEVE THAT BY DIRECT COMMAND OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ALL BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN SENT FORTH BY HIM, EVEN AS HE WAS SENT FORTH OF HIS FATHER, TO BE AMBASSADORS AND WITNESSES WITH THE PURPOSE OF MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO THE WHOLE WORLD. WE BELIEVE THAT, AS JESUS SAID, THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM MUST BE PREACHED TO ALL NATIONS BEFORE HE RETURNS TO EARTH .

Matthew 28:18-19*, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the*

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Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

***2 Corinthians 5:18-20**, "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 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. 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."*

7.0 END TIMES

We recognize that many who love God and are devoted students of the Bible hold divergent views about the End Times. Although what follows is a summary of what we believe the Bible teaches about the End Times, embracing a different view does not preclude one from membership or service in the church in any office or ministry.

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN IN THE CLOUDS TO THE EARTH.

***John 14:3**, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*

***Acts 1:11**, "They also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'"*

***Revelation 1:7**, "BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."*

THE TIME OF CHRIST'S RETURN

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR LORD WILL RETURN PERSONALLY TO THIS EARTH AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION, WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY, TO INTRODUCE THE MILLENNIUM (*a*). AT THAT TIME HE WILL ALSO RESTORE ISRAEL TO HER OWN LAND, IN FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES (*b*). HE WILL BIND SATAN AND CAST HIM INTO THE ABYSS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS AND WILL BRING THE WHOLE WORLD TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, LIFTING THE CURSE WHICH NOW RESTS UPON THE WHOLE OF CREATION (*c*).

a) ***Revelation 19:11-16**, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (see also Revelation 20:1-4)*

b) ***Ezekiel 37:11-14**, "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord, have spoken and done it,' declares the Lord.'"*
***Amos 9:14-15**, "'Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,' says the Lord your God."*

c) ***Revelation 20:1-4**, "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him*

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for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

OUR BLESSED HOPE

WE BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL COME TO RECEIVE TO HIMSELF BOTH HIS OWN WHO ARE ALIVE AND ALL WHO HAVE DIED IN CHRIST. THIS EVENT IS THE BLESSED HOPE (*a*) COMMONLY CALLED THE RAPTURE (*b*). SUBSEQUENTLY ALL BELIEVERS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (*c*). WE BELIEVE THAT AFTER THE RAPTURE, THERE WILL BE A GREAT TRIBULATION, AND THAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL BRING TO AN END THAT TERRIBLE TIME OF JUDGMENT UPON THE WHOLE EARTH BY HIS OWN GLORIOUS RETURN, CALLED THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (*d*).

a) ***Titus 2:13**, "Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."*

b) ***1 Corinthians 15:51-52**, "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."*
***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**, "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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

c) ***2 Corinthians 5:10**, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

d) ***Matthew 25:31-32**, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."*

7.1. ETERNAL STATE

BELIEVERS

WE BELIEVE THAT AT DEATH THE SPIRITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE TRUSTED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR SALVATION PASS IMMEDIATELY INTO HIS PRESENCE WHERE THEY REMAIN IN CONSCIOUS BLISS UNTIL THE RESURRECTION OF THEIR GLORIFIED BODY WHEN CHRIST COMES FOR HIS OWN. THEN, WITH SPIRIT AND GLORIFIED BODY UNITED THEY SHALL BE WITH HIM FOREVER IN GLORY.

***Luke 23:42-43**, "And he was saying, 'Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!' 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*

UNBELIEVERS

BUT THE SPIRITS OF THE UNBELIEVERS REMAIN AFTER DEATH, CONSCIOUS OF CONDEMNATION, AND IN MISERY UNTIL THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF GOD AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE AT THE CLOSE OF THE MILLENNIUM (*a*). AT THAT TIME SPIRIT AND BODY OF THE UNBELIEVERS WILL BE REUNITED AND CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE, NOT TO BE ANNIHILATED, BUT TO BE PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING SEPARATION FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD (*b*).

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a) ***Luke 16:19-26****, "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'"*

b) ***Revelation 20:11-15****, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

NEW HEAVENS & EARTH

WE BELIEVE THAT AFTER THE FINAL JUDGMENT AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, THE PRESENT HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED AND THAT A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL BE CREATED BY GOD WHICH WILL BE THE ETERNAL HOME OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS.

2 Peter 3:9-13*, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."*

Revelation 21:1-2*, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."*

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