

Doctrines of Proclaim Church

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1. The Bible

1.1 The Bible contains 66 books -- 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament -- inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit and communicated through human authors.¹ The Bible is God's word in written form² true and without error in the original writings.³

1.2 The Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for saving mankind and is the final authority on all matters pertaining to life and death.⁴ The authority of the Bible depends on God alone and not on the testimony of any person or church.⁵

1.3 While our human limitations and sinfulness may keep us from knowing God's truth completely,⁶ through the work of the Holy Spirit,⁷ we can know God's word rightly, in order that we might believe, trust and obey. Wherever the Bible is less clear it must be understood in light of passages which are more clear.⁸ The Bible will stand till the end of time and lacks nothing.⁹

¹ **2 Peter 1:21** - For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

² **2 Timothy 3:16** - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness; **1 Corinthians 2:13** - And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual, **14:37** - If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

³ **Proverbs 30:5** - Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ; **John 17:17** - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.; **Numbers 23:19** - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?; **Psalms 12:6** - The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.; **Titus 1:2** - in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

⁴ **Matthew 4:4** - But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""; **2 Timothy 3:14-17** - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it (15) and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

⁵ **1 Thessalonians 2:13** - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men⁵ but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

⁶ **2 Peter 3:16** - as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

⁷ **1 Corinthians 2:9-16** - But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— (10) these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (11) For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (13) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (14) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (15) The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. (16) "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

; **John 14:26** - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.; **John 16:13-14** - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

⁸ **2 Peter 1:20-21** - knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. The Trinity

2.1 There is one living and true God.¹⁰ He eternally exists as the all-knowing, all-powerful, invisible, immortal¹¹, and infinitely perfect God. God, one in essence, exists in three persons¹² - Father,¹³ Son¹⁴ and Holy Spirit¹⁵ - each person being fully God, co-eternal, co-equal, sharing this essence in its entirety.

2.2 God is self-existent and self-sufficient, having perfect love, joy, and fellowship within the Trinity¹⁶. He is the creator of all things,¹⁷ yet having all life in and of Himself,¹⁸ he has no need of

⁹ **Psalm 119:160** - The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.; **Matthew 5:18** - For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ; **John 10:35** - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken

¹⁰ **Deuteronomy 6:4** - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.; **1 Corinthians 8:4** - Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”; **Jeremiah 10:10** - But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.; **Matthew 16:16** - Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”; **1 Timothy 4:10** - For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.; **Revelation 7:2** - Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea

¹¹ **1 Timothy 1:17** - To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹² **Matthew 28:19** - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; **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.

¹³ **John 5:18** - This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.; **20:17** - Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”; **Romans 1:7** - To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.; **1 Peter 1:3** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

¹⁴ **John 1:1-3** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

¹⁵ **Acts 5:3-4** - But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? (4) While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”; **1 Cor 2:10-11** - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

¹⁶ **John 15:11** - These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.; **17:26** - I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

¹⁷ **Genesis 1** - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.; **Colossians 1:16** - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁸ **John 5:26** - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

His creation.¹⁹ He upholds and sustains all things by His perfect will and rule.²⁰ God deserves all worship and obedience.²¹

God The Father

2.3 God the Father is all loving and all wise.²² He is the first person of the Trinity and all things were created from Him and exist for Him.²³ He wills both creation and redemption.²⁴ He is the ruler of heaven and earth with Jesus Christ seated with him on his royal throne.²⁵

2.4 Though he is Father to all creation,²⁶ he is revealed as father uniquely to his people. First, to the people of Israel,²⁷ and now, to all his children who are adopted through belief in the gospel.²⁸

¹⁹ **Job 22:2, 3** - (2) "Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. (3) Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?"

²⁰ **Colossians 1:17** - And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.; **Hebrews 1:3** - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

²¹ **Revelation 5:12-14** - saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (13) And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (14) And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

²² **Matthew 6:6-9** - But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (7) "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (9) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name., **7:11** - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!, **24:36** - "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.; **Luke 11:13** - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

²³ **Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.; **1 Corinthians 8:5-6** - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— (6) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

²⁴ **Matthew 26:39** - And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ; **Luke 12:32** - "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.; **John 3:35** - The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.; **Luke 10:22** - All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²⁵ **John 1:18** - No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.; **Revelation 3:21** - The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²⁶ **1 Corinthians 8:6** - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.; **Ephesians 4:6** - one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

²⁷ **Exodus 4:22-23** - Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, (23) and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.; **1 Chronicles 29:10** - Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.; **Isaiah 63:16** - For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

²⁸ **Romans 8:14-15** - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"; **Galatians 4:4-5** - But when the fullness of time

God the Son (Jesus)

2.5 Jesus, God the Son,²⁹ was the word at the beginning.³⁰ He is the second person of the Trinity and all things were created and exist through Him.³¹ He is eternal and coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.³² He was born of a virgin and came to earth as a man.³³ Being both fully God³⁴ and fully man,³⁵ he was tempted in every way that we are tempted,

had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

²⁹ **Isaiah 9:6** - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

³⁰ **John 1:1-18** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (7) He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. (8) He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. (9) The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, the gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (15) (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) (16) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (17) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (18) No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

³¹ **1 Corinthians 8:5-6** - For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—(6) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

³² **Colossians 1:15-17** - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (17) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.; **1 Timothy 6:14-15** - to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; **Titus 2:13** - waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

³³ **Matthew 1:18-25** - Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. (19) And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. (20) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (21) She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (22) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). (24) When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, (25) but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.; **Luke 1:34-38** - And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” (35) And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (36) And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. (37) For nothing will be impossible with God.” (38) And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.; **Philippians 2:6-7** - who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

³⁴ **John 10:30-33** - I and the Father are one.” (31) The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. (32) Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” (33) The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”; **14:9** - Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?; **Romans 1:2-4** - which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, (3) concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh (4) and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

³⁵ **John 4:6** - Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.; **19:28** - After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”; **Colossians 2:9** - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

but prevailed against the temptation and lived the only perfect and sinless life in all history.³⁶

2.6 He willingly laid down his life,³⁷ being put to death by Roman crucifixion at the will of his own people.³⁸ On the cross the wrath of God was poured out on him for sin.³⁹ After three days in the grave, Jesus was raised from the dead⁴⁰ after which He walked among his friends and enemies for forty days⁴¹ until he ascended into heaven⁴² where he sits at the right hand of the Father⁴³ as our great high priest and advocate.⁴⁴

³⁶ **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.; **1 Peter 2:22-23** - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly; **Isaiah 53:9** - And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.; **Hebrews 4:15** - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

³⁷ **John 10:18** - No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

³⁸ **Philippians 2:8** - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.; **Isaiah 53:3** - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

³⁹ **1 Corinthians 15:3** - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; **1 Peter 2:24** - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.; **1 John 2:1-2** - My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (2) He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.; **Ephesians 1:7** - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace; **Isaiah 53:4-6** - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all., **11-12** - Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (12) Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.; **Romans 3:23-25** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (25) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

⁴⁰ **1 Corinthians 15:4** - that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

⁴¹ **1 Corinthians 15:5-7** - and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

⁴² **Acts 1:9-11** - And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (10) And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, (11) and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

⁴³ **Romans 8:34** - Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.; **Philippians 2:9-11** - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

⁴⁴ **Hebrews 4:14** - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.; **7:23-25** - The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, (24) but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. (25) Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.; **9:13-15** - For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (15) Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.; **10:19** - Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus

2.7 Jesus is the only way to salvation.⁴⁵

God the Spirit

2.8 The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, being eternal and equally God, present with the Father and Son at creation.⁴⁶ The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus to indwell and empower each believer for the sake of the kingdom of God on earth.⁴⁷

2.9 The Spirit convicts the world,⁴⁸ guides the believer into truth,⁴⁹ gives gifts to aid in the work of the gospel,⁵⁰ gives supernatural power to the believer,⁵¹ reveals the truth of the

⁴⁵ **Colossians 1:19-21** - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (21) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds; **1 Peter 1:3-5** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.; **1 John 3:8** - Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.; **John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me

⁴⁶ **Genesis 1:2** - The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

⁴⁷ **John 14:16-17** - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.; **16:7** - Nevertheless, 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** - And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, **8** - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.; **Romans 8:9** - You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him; **Ephesians 5:18** - And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit; **Matthew 3:11** - I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

⁴⁸ **John 16:8** - And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

⁴⁹ **John 16:13** - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

⁵⁰ **Romans 12:3-8** - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you gnot to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁵¹ **Acts 2:14-21** - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. (15) For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (16) But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: (17) "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (18) even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (19) And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; (20) the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. (21) And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"; **4:29-30** - And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, (30) while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

gospel and the Bible to the church,⁵² and seals the salvation of each believer.⁵³ To those the Spirit chooses, he regenerates, calls, enlightens, convicts, and hardens.⁵⁴

3. God's Eternal Purposes

3.1 God, according to his will,⁵⁵ unchangeably⁵⁶ foreknew and declared everything that occurs.⁵⁷ God upholds and governs all things⁵⁸ according to his purposes in such a way that He never sins⁵⁹ or is unjust.⁶⁰

⁵² **John 14:26** - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

⁵³ **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** - And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, (22) and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee; **Ephesians 1:13-14** - I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. (14) I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

⁵⁴ **2 Corinthians 3:17** - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom; **Galatians 3:2-6** - Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (4) Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? (5) Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— (6) just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁵⁵ **Ephesians 1:11** - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you

⁵⁶ **Hebrews 6:17** - So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath

⁵⁷ **Genesis 15:13** - Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ; **Isaiah 46:10** - declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’; **Proverbs 16:33** - The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.; **19:21** - Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.; **John 6:64** - But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.), **19:36-37** - For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” (37) And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

⁵⁸ **Genesis 50:20** - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.; **Job 9:7** - who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars, **37:6-13** - For to the snow he says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour. (7) He seals up the hand of every man, that all men whom he made may know it. (8) Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens. (9) From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds. (10) By the breath of God ice is given, and the road waters are frozen fast. (11) He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning. (12) They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world. (13) Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen.; **Psalms 33:10-11** - The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. (11) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations., **147:15-18** - He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. (16) He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. (17) He hurls down his crystals of mice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? (18) He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.; **Proverbs 16:9** - The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps., **20:24** - A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?; **21:1** - The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.; **Amos 3:6** - Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?; **Lamentations 3:37-38** - ; **Matthew 10:29-30** - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (30) But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

⁵⁹ **1 John 1:5** - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.; **James 1:13** - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

⁶⁰ **Deuteronomy 32:4** - “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.; **Daniel 4:37** - Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.; **Romans 1:20** - For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. , **2:11-14** - For God shows no partiality. (12) For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged

3.2 God predestined those who would be saved through Jesus Christ,⁶¹ before the foundation of the world,⁶² according to his purpose and grace⁶³ and without regard for any condition or work of the elect.⁶⁴ By this, those who God chose, are delivered from bondage to sin,⁶⁵ brought to repentance,⁶⁶ saved through faith in Jesus Christ,⁶⁷ and enter into His eternal kingdom.⁶⁸

by the law. (13) For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. (14) For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

⁶¹ **John 6:37-39** - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (38) For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. (39) And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day., **10:25-29** - Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, (26) but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. (27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

⁶² **Ephesians 1:4** - and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord

⁶³ **Romans 8:28-30** - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified., **11:5-8** - So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. (6) But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. (7) What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, (8) as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.;" **Ephesians 1:11** - For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you

⁶⁴ **2 Timothy 1:9** - who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began; **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.;" **Romans 9:11-18** - though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— (12) she was told, "The older will serve the younger." (13) As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." (14) What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! (15) For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (16) So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (17) For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (18) So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

⁶⁵ **Romans 6:17** - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, **8:2** - For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

⁶⁶ **Acts 11:18** - When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.;" **2 Timothy 2:24-25** - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth

⁶⁷ **John 6:44** - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day., **65** - And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.;" **Philippians 1:29** - For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake; **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast., **Matthew 16:17** - And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

⁶⁸ **2 Peter 1:10-11** - Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (11) For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

4. God's Creation

4.1 God created the universe and everything in it, both visible and invisible, out of nothing.⁶⁹ All His creation was very good.⁷⁰ God requires nothing,⁷¹ but created everything for His glory.⁷²

4.2 God created mankind⁷³, both male and female, equally in His image⁷⁴ and without sin.⁷⁵

4.3 Adam and Eve were created for God's glory and to live in relationship with one another,⁷⁶ establishing marriage as a one-flesh union between one man and one woman, each with differing and complementary roles which is a reflection of the loving relationship between Christ and the church.⁷⁷

⁶⁹ **Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.; **Hebrews 11:3** - By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.; **John 1:1-3** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.; **Colossians 1:16** - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

⁷⁰ **Genesis 1:31** - And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

⁷¹ **Acts 17:25** - nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything

⁷² **Isaiah 43:7** - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.; **Romans 11:36** - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

⁷³ **Genesis 2:7** - then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

⁷⁴ **Genesis 1:26-27** - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.; **9:6** - "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.; **James 3:9** - With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

⁷⁵ **Genesis 1:31** - And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.; **Ecclesiastes 7:29** - See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

⁷⁶ **Genesis 2:18** - Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."; **Isaiah 43:7** - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

⁷⁷ **Ephesians 5:22-33** - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (24) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (28) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, (30) because we are members of his body. (31) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (33) However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

5. Man's Fall

5.1 Although God created Adam and Eve without sin, they were led astray by Satan⁷⁸ and sinned.⁷⁹ As a result of Adam's direct disobedience of God's command, each person is a sinner by nature and choice⁸⁰ corrupting the fellowship between God, mankind and all creation.⁸¹

5.2 Each person is corrupted in every aspect,⁸² enslaved to sin,⁸³ and are morally unable to delight in God.⁸⁴ Therefore, as children of wrath⁸⁵ mankind is condemned to death and eternal

⁷⁸ **Ecclesiastes 7:29** - See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.; **Genesis 3:1** - Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"; **Genesis 3:13** - Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."; **2 Corinthians 11:3** - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

⁷⁹ **Genesis 2:17** - but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.; **3:6** - So 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

⁸⁰ **Psalms 51:5** - Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.; **Job 14:4** - Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one.

⁸¹ **Genesis 3:7-8** - Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.; **Romans 8:19-23** - For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

⁸² **Titus 1:15** - To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.; **Genesis 6:5** - The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.; **Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?; **Romans 3:10-19** - as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (13) "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." (14) "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) in their paths are ruin and misery, (17) and the way of peace they have not known." (18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (19) Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.; **Ephesians 2:2-3** - in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁸³ **James 1:14-15** - But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (15) Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.; **Romans 6:16** - Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?; **20** - For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

⁸⁴ **1 Corinthians 2:14** - The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.; **Romans 8:7-8** - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.; **Deuteronomy 29:4** - But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

⁸⁵ **Ephesians 2:3** - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

punishment.⁸⁶ Mankind is unable to save themselves or contribute in any way to their acceptance before God.⁸⁷

6. Gospel

6.1 Though everything God created was good,⁸⁸ man destroyed that goodness with sin⁸⁹ and brought himself under the curse of the law.⁹⁰ Even so, God made a way for the restoration of relationships between man, the world and God.⁹¹ This work is revealed in the gospel, the true story of all of creation, with Jesus Christ as the center and it's full revelation.⁹²

6.2 Jesus Christ lived the perfect life we should have lived,⁹³ died the death we should have died,⁹⁴ and rose again, proving his power over sin and death⁹⁵ in order to reconcile sinful man with a

⁸⁶ **Romans 5:12-19** - Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (13) for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. (14) Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. (15) But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. (16) And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. (17) For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (18) Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (19) For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.; **1 Corinthians 15:21** - For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

⁸⁷ **Romans 8:7** - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot; **Colossians 1:21** - And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds

⁸⁸ **Genesis 1:31** - And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

⁸⁹ **Genesis 3:14-19** - The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. (15) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (16) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." (17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

⁹⁰ **Galatians 3:10** - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

⁹¹ **Romans 3:20-21** - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (21) But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it

⁹² **Hebrews 1:1-3** - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (3) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

⁹³ **1 John 3:5** - ; **Hebrews 4:15** - ; **Romans 5:18-19** - Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (19) For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

⁹⁴ **1 Peter 3:18** - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

⁹⁵ **Romans 14:9** - For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

loving God who sacrificed himself to be with us.⁹⁶ Through this good news, Jesus Christ is renewing and redeeming all creation to himself.⁹⁷ All of God's work in Christ will come to completion in eternity and will last for eternity.⁹⁸

7. Salvation

7.1 Mankind cannot save themselves. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.⁹⁹

7.2 Mankind, because they are spiritually dead in sin,¹⁰⁰ cannot obey or please God.¹⁰¹ God calls those He predestined¹⁰² spiritually opening our eyes,¹⁰³ enlightening our minds,¹⁰⁴ and renewing our hearts.¹⁰⁵ This regeneration frees us from slavery to sin¹⁰⁶ into life¹⁰⁷ in Jesus Christ.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁶ **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⁹⁷ **Colossians 1:20** - and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

⁹⁸ **Revelation 21:1-7** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (6) And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. (7) The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and she will be my son.

⁹⁹ **Titus 3:5** - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

¹⁰⁰ **Ephesians 2:1** - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins, **5** - even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

¹⁰¹ **Romans 8:7-8** - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.; **Titus 3:3** - For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.; **John 6:44** - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day; **Romans 3:10-12** - as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; (11) no one understands; no one seeks for God. (12) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

¹⁰² **Romans 8:30** - And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified., **11:7** - What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened; **Ephesians 1:4-5** - even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love (5) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **11** - In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

¹⁰³ **2 Corinthians 4:4-6** - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (5) For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰⁴ **Ephesians 1:17-18** - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints; **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

¹⁰⁵ **Ezekiel 36:26** - And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

¹⁰⁶ **Colossians 1:13** - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son; **John 8:36** - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

7.3 God justifies the elect,¹⁰⁹ declaring righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins¹¹⁰ and submit to Jesus as Lord¹¹¹. Christ takes the punishment for our sin and gives us His righteousness¹¹² by His perfect life and death.¹¹³ Therefore, God's justice and wrath is fully and permanently satisfied on our behalf.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁷ **Romans 3:28** - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law; **4:4-5** - Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. (5) And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness; **Galatians 2:16** - yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

¹⁰⁸ **Ephesians 2:1-6** - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

¹⁰⁹ **Romans 3:24** - and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; **8:30** - And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified, **33** - Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

¹¹⁰ **Luke 13:3** - No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish; **Acts 2:38** - And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ; **3:19** - Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out; **11:18** - When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."; **Romans 2:4** - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?; **2 Corinthians 7:10** - For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death; **Isaiah 55:6-7** - Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; (7) let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

¹¹¹ **Romans 10:9-10** - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.; **1 Corinthians 12:3** - Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is raccursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.; **2 Corinthians 4:5** - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.; **Philippians 2:11** - and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

¹¹² **2 Corinthians 5:21** - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness; **Romans 4:5-8** - And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (6) just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: (7) "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; (8) blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not zcount his sin."; **Ephesians 1:7** - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

¹¹³ **Romans 8:1** - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus., **3** - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh; **Galatians 3:13** - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"; **1 Peter 1:18-19** - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot; **Isaiah 53:5** - But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

¹¹⁴ **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.; **5:9** - For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ; **Romans 5:9-10** - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (10) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life., **8:1** - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus., **38-39** - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.; **1 Corinthians 1:4-8** - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, (5) that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— (6) even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— (7) so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.; **John 5:24** - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

7.4 All who are justified are adopted by God,¹¹⁵ made heirs of God,¹¹⁶ and given the Holy Spirit¹¹⁷ who guarantees our inheritance.¹¹⁸

8. Church

8.1 There is one universal church of all true believers from all time. It consists of those who are chosen in Christ,¹¹⁹ united with Christ through faith by the Spirit,¹²⁰ submitted to Christ,¹²¹ and prepared by Christ for eternity.¹²² The visible or local church is a covenant community of baptized believers who carry out the work designed for the church by God¹²³.

¹¹⁵ **Ephesians 1:5** - he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will; **Galatians 4:4-5** - But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.; **John 1:12** - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

¹¹⁶ **Galatians 4:7** - So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.; **Romans 8:17** - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

¹¹⁷ **Romans 8:15** - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

¹¹⁸ **Ephesians 1:5** - he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **11** - In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **13-14** - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.; **4:30** - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.; **1 Peter 1:5** - who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time; **Jude 24** - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy

¹¹⁹ **John 10:16** - And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd., **15:16** - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

¹²⁰ **1 John 1:3** - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.; **Ephesians 4:3-6** - eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) a one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

¹²¹ **Ephesians 1:22-23** - And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all., **4:15-16** - Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love., **5:23** - For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ; **Colossians 1:18** - And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

¹²² **Ephesians 5:25-27** - Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish

¹²³ **Acts 8:1** - And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.; **1 Corinthians 16:19** - The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

8.2 The purpose of the church is glorify God¹²⁴ and make disciples.¹²⁵ For this reason, the local church is the primary method for offering the gospel to every tribe and tongue and people and nation.¹²⁶

8.3 The Holy Spirit continues to work in and through the church giving spiritual gifts as in the New Testament.¹²⁷ These gifts are neither essential for salvation nor an indication of spiritual maturity, but are designed to empower the church to fulfill its purpose by testifying to the gospel¹²⁸ and building up the church.¹²⁹ They are to be eagerly desired and lovingly practiced.¹³⁰

¹²⁴ **Ephesians 3:10** - so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.; **Matthew 5:14-16** - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹²⁵ **Matthew 28:18-20** - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”; **Acts 1:8** - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

¹²⁶ **Matthew 28:19-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.; **Acts 1:8** - ; **Colossians 1:23** - if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.; **Revelation 5:9** - And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹²⁷ **John 14:12** - ; **Acts 4:29-30** - ; **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (8) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (11) All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

¹²⁸ **Acts 2:14-21** - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. (15) For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (16) But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: (17) ““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;(18) even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.(19) And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;(20) the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. (21) And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”; **9:42** - And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord

¹²⁹ **1 Corinthians 12:7** - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ; **14:3-5** - On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. (4) The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. (5) Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up., **12** - So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church., **26** - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up; **Galatians 3:1-5** - O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. (2) Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (4) Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? (5) Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith

¹³⁰ **Romans 12:3-8** - For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.; **1 Corinthians 12:31** - But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. ; **14:1** - Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

8.4 Each local church should recognize and affirm¹³¹ the calling of spiritually qualified men¹³² to give leadership to the church and oversight to its teaching through the role of pastor-elder.¹³³

9. Ordinances

9.1 There are two Scriptural ordinances which are to be continued until Christ's second coming: Baptism¹³⁴ and the Lord's Supper¹³⁵ (Eucharist).

Baptism

9.2 Baptism is only for those who have repented and come to faith through the gospel.¹³⁶ Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but is the first step of obedience for believers.¹³⁷ Baptism is a public proclamation where we identify ourselves with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.¹³⁸ It represents death to our old life of sin and resurrection to new life in Christ.¹³⁹

¹³¹ **Acts 14:23** - And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.; **Titus 1:5** - This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you

¹³² **1 Timothy 3:1-7** - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. (2) Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,(2) sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. (4) He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, (5) for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (6) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. (7) Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.; **Titus 1:5-9** - This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— (6) if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. (7) For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, (8) but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. (9) He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹³³ **1 Timothy 2:12-13** - I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve

¹³⁴ **Matthew 28:19-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

¹³⁵ **1 Corinthians 11:26** - For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

¹³⁶ **Mark 16:16** - Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned; **Acts 2:41** - So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.; **Acts 8:12** - But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.; **Acts 18:8** - Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

¹³⁷ **Acts 22:16** - And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

¹³⁸ **Galatians 3:27** - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.; **Colossians 2:12** - having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³⁹ **Romans 6:3-8** - Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (6) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (7) For zone who has died has been set free from sin. (8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9.3 Proclaim does not baptize infants of believing families. Though we welcome children into our visible covenant community, true membership is for believers who have made a public confession of faith by water baptism. The mode of baptism follows what is found in the Scripture, full immersion in water,¹⁴⁰ whenever possible.

The Lord's Supper

9.4 The Lord's Supper, also known as communion or the Eucharist, is for gathered believers¹⁴¹. Prior to his crucifixion, Christ ate his last meal with his disciples and commanded them to remember his body given and blood shed for his people. Therefore, the Lord's Supper is a time of remembrance for the believer.¹⁴²

9.5 When believers participate in communion they share, not physically, but spiritually, in the body and blood of Christ to their spiritual benefit.¹⁴³ There is no sacrifice of Christ in the observance of communion. Rather, it is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ once for all¹⁴⁴ and a proclamation of Christ's death until He comes.¹⁴⁵ Therefore, each believer should prepare their heart before partaking in communion, confessing and repenting of any sin in their life.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁰ **Matthew 3:16** - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **John 3:23** - John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized; **Acts 8:36-39** - And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (38) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (39) And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

¹⁴¹ **1 Corinthians 11:17-20** - But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. (18) For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, (19) for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. (20) When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat., **22** - What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

¹⁴² **1 Corinthians 11:24-25** - and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

¹⁴³ **1 Corinthians 10:16-17** - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (17) Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.; **John 6:53-57** - So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. (54) Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. (56) Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. (57) As the Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. , **63** - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

¹⁴⁴ **Hebrews 9:25-28** - Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, (26) for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (27) And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (28) so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

¹⁴⁵ **1 Corinthians 11:26** - For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

¹⁴⁶ **1 Corinthians 11:27-29** - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (28) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

10. Christian Living

10.1 Redeemed people are to live in a redeeming way in all areas of life.¹⁴⁷ Indeed, the faith by which the elect receive redemption necessarily produces, by the Holy Spirit and the Word,¹⁴⁸ transformed lives¹⁴⁹ as their minds are renewed by faith in Christ.¹⁵⁰

10.2 Christians are marked by the pursuit of reconciliation and the Fruit of the Spirit.¹⁵¹ We are to live in love¹⁵² and unity, generosity and hospitality,¹⁵³ forgiving one another,¹⁵⁴ and meeting regularly.¹⁵⁵ We care for the poor and marginalized and are marked as distinctly different than the rest of fallen mankind.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁷ **Matthew 5:23-26** - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (25) Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. (26) Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.; **Luke 17:3** - Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; **James 2:17** - So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead., **26** - For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

¹⁴⁸ **2 Thessalonians 2:13** - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

¹⁴⁹ **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.; **Acts 26:18** - to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

¹⁵⁰ **Romans 12:1-2** - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.; **Ephesians 4:20-24** - But that is not the way you learned Christ!— (21) assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, (22) to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (23) and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, (24) and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

¹⁵¹ **Galatians 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

¹⁵² **1 Peter 4:8** - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

¹⁵³ **Acts 20:35** - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.; **1 Timothy 6:18-19** - They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.; **1 John 3:17** - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?; **2 Corinthians 9:7** - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.; **Romans 12:13** - Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.; **15:2-3** - Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (3) For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.;" **Hebrews 13:2** - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

¹⁵⁴ **Ephesians 4:32** - But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,; **Colossians 3:13** - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁵⁵ **Hebrews 10:25** - not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

¹⁵⁶ **James 1:27** - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.; **1 Peter 2:12** - Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.; **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (4) that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, (5) not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; (6) that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is

10.3 Though we cannot achieve perfection on earth,¹⁵⁷ we strive to be holy¹⁵⁸ and join with the Holy Spirit in our sanctification.¹⁵⁹

11. Eternal State

11.1 At an appointed time that no man will know,¹⁶⁰ Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth,¹⁶¹ in the flesh¹⁶² and in power,¹⁶³ to renew all things.¹⁶⁴

an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. (7) For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. (8) Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

¹⁵⁷ **Romans 7:18** - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out., **23** - but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.; **Philippians 3:12** - Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹⁵⁸ **Hebrews 12:14** - Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

¹⁵⁹ **Philippians 2:12-13** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (13) for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.; **1 Corinthians 15:10** - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹⁶⁰ **1 Thessalonians 5:1-4** - Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. (2) For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (4) But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.; **Matthew 24:42-44** - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (43) But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. , **50** - the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.; **Mark 13:32-33** - "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (33) Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.; **Luke 12:40** - You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

¹⁶¹ **Revelation 1:7-8** - Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (8) "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

¹⁶² **Luke 24:39-43** - See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." (40) And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. (41) And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" (42) They gave him a piece of broiled fish, (43) and he took it and ate before them.; **Acts 1:11** - and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹⁶³ **Philippians 3:20-21** - But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹⁶⁴ **Acts 3:19-21** - Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, (21) whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.; **Revelation 21:1** - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.; **Rev 22:20-21** - He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

11.2 Jesus will raise the dead¹⁶⁵ and judge everyone who has ever lived¹⁶⁶: God's people to eternal joy with their Creator¹⁶⁷ and God's enemies (those who did not believe the gospel) to eternal punishment in hell.¹⁶⁸ Heaven and hell are literal places that last for eternity.¹⁶⁹

11.3 After the final judgement, Christ will usher in His final and earthly kingdom, bringing heaven on earth.¹⁷⁰ For all eternity we will worship Him for His mercy toward us and His justice against sin.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁵ **Acts 24:15** - having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.; **John 5:28-29** - Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

¹⁶⁶ **1 Corinthians 4:5** - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.; **Acts 17:31** - because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.; **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.; **2 Timothy 4:1** - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom; **Revelation 22:12-13** - "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."; **2 Corinthians 5:10** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.; **Ecclesiastes 12:14** - For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.; **Matthew 12:36** - I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak; **Romans 14:10** - Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God, **12** - So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹⁶⁷ **Colossians 3:4** - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.; **Matthew 25:34-40** - Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (35) For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, (36) I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (37) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (38) And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? (39) And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' (40) And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'; **Psalms 16:11** - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

¹⁶⁸ **Matthew 25:41-46** - (41) "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (42) For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, (43) I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' (44) Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' (45) Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' (46) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."; **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10** - (7) and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (10) when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.; **Mark 9:48** - 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

¹⁶⁹ **2 Corinthians 5:1** - For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.; **Matthew 25:46** - And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."; **Revelations 14:9-11** - And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, (10) he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (11) And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

¹⁷⁰ **Isaiah 65:17** - "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.; **2 Peter 3:13** - But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁷¹ **Romans 9:22-23** - What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (23) in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

