



Statement of Faith

I. The Scriptures

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God", by which we understand the whole of the Book called the Bible. We do not take the statement in the sense in which it is sometimes foolishly said that works of human genius are inspired, but in the sense that the Holy Ghost gave the very words of the sacred writings to holy men of old. His control is not in different degrees but extends equally and fully to all parts of these writings: historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic, and to the smallest word, and inflection of the word, provided such a word is found in the original manuscript.

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:13; Mark 12:26,36; Mark 13:11; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Rom. 3:4; 1 Peter 1:2-3; Rev. 22:19; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; John 5:45-47; Ps. 119:105; Ps. 119:130; Ps. 119:160.

II. Of the Trinity

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

Mark 12:29; John 1:1,4; Matt. 28:18,20; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1,3; Rev. 1:4-6; Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3:22; Isa. 44:6; Ps. 110:1; Isa. 48:16; Isa. 61:1; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8; John 5:23; John 4:24; Rev. 17:11; 1 Tim. 1:17; John 10:20; Phil. 2:5-6.

III. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Ps. 2:7; Mark 1:1; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 5:20; 1 Cor. 15:47.

IV. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, not as an influence, but as a Divine Person, the source and power of all acceptable worship and service, is our abiding Comforter and Helper, that He never takes His departure from the church, nor from the feeblest of the saints, but is ever present to testify of Christ, seeking to occupy us with Him, and not with ourselves nor with our experiences.

John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:9; Phil. 3:3; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; Gen. 1:1-3; Acts 5:1-4; 5:30-32; Eph. 1:13-19; Matt. 3:11; Acts 11:16; Rom. 8:9; 8:14; 8:16; 8:26-27; 1 Peter 1:2.

V. Of the Devil or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, the prince of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

Matt. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10; Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9-10; Jude 6; 1 John 3:8; 4:3; Rev. 20:1-3; 13:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11; 19:16,20; 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

VI. Of Creation

We accept the Genesis account of Creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution.

Gen 1:2; Col 1:16-17; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; Heb 11:3; Rev 10:6; Rom 1:20; Acts 17:23-26.

VII. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also the spiritual death which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

Gen. 3:6,24; Rom. 5:12; 5:19; Eph. 2:1,3; Rom. 1:18; 1:32; 3:10-19; 1:20; 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

VIII. Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of Grace, through the office of the Son of God as mediator, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature (yet without sin); honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust.

Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, having risen from the dead, is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21.

For the purpose of clarity, we include the following on atonement:

A. Necessity of New Birth

We believe that, owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can enter into the Kingdom of God unless born again; and that no degree of reformation however great, no attainment in morality, however high, no culture, however attractive, no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes and society, however useful, no baptism or other ordinances, however ministered, can help the sinner to take even one step toward heaven. A new nature imparted from heaven, a new life implanted by the Holy Ghost through the Word, are absolutely essential to salvation.

Isa. 64:6; John 3:3,5,18; Gal. 6:16; Phil. 5:4-9; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; Acts 2:41; 16:30-33; 2 Peter 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12,13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

B. Means of New Birth

1. Salvation By Blood

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, made a curse for us, dying in our room and stead. No repentance, no feeling, no faith, no resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to the rules and regulations of any church or of all the churches that have existed since the day of the Apostles, can add in the very least to the value of that precious blood, or to the merit of that finished work, wrought for us by Him who united in His person true and proper deity with perfect, sinless

humanity.

Lev. 17:11; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:6-9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 2:1-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

2. Christ Received by Faith

We believe that Christ, in the fullness of the blessings He has secured by His obedience unto death, is received by faith alone. The moment we trust in Him as our Savior, we pass out of death into everlasting life, being justified from all things, accepted before the Father according to the measure of His acceptance, loved as He is loved, and having His place and portion, as linked to Him, and one with Him forever.

John 5:24; 17:23; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:4-6; 1 John 4:17; 5:11-12.

C. Results of New Birth

1. Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to those who believe in Him is justification. We believe (a) that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; (b) that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. His righteousness is imputed to us, not earned by us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Rom. 5:1,9; 8:1; Titus 3:5-7; Heb. 1:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

2. Security of Believers

We believe: (a) that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; (b) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; (c) that a special Providence watches over their welfare; (d) and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Places in the Bible where taught: (a) John 3:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18; (b) 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; (c) Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Ps 121:2; Ps 91:11-12; (d) Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24:25; Heb. 1:14; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4.

3. Walk of Believers

We believe that we are called with an holy calling to walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit that we should not fulfill the lusts of the flesh; but the flesh being in us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage needs to be kept constantly in subjection to Christ, or it will surely manifest its presence to the dishonor of His dear name.

Rom. 8:13; 13:13-14; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:14,16; 1 John 3:5-9.

IX. Of the Church

A. Universal Church

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into the Body, whether we be Jew or Gentile; and thus being members one of another, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry, and loving one another with a pure heart fervently.

Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 2:32-47; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 3:14-15.

B. Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant in faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word: that its officers (Item II), their qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have the opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute

right of self-government, free from the domination of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit: that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation.

1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:11; Acts 20:17-18; 1 Tim. 3:17; Eph. 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18.

X. Of Ordinances of the Church

A. Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a local church membership.

Acts 8:35-39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; Matt. 3-6; 28:19; Acts 2:41-42.

B. The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death till He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

1 Cor. 11:23-28

XI. Of the Righteous and Wicked

We believe that the souls that have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be forever with Him in glory; but the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final Judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15; Rom. 6:17-18; 1 Peter 4:18; Rom. 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 7:6; 6:23; Matt. 25:34,41.

XII. Of the Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the imminent coming of Christ for the Church: (a) to be followed by a period called the Great Tribulation; (b) after which He will return with His saints to this earth, where He will sit on the throne of David, and will subdue all enemies and reign in righteousness for a thousand years; and that (c) after this shall be the Judgment of the Great White Throne when the wicked dead shall be raised and condemned to eternal punishment in the lake of fire which is the second death. The righteous shall then enjoy eternal glory with God.