

Statement of Faith

We believe that only the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired and, therefore, inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the final authority for all we believe and how we are to live. (Mt. 5:18; Jn.10:35, 17:17; –2 Tim. 3:1617; –2 Pet. 1:2021)

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man; that He was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a penal, substitutionary sacrifice for sinners. By His bloodshed at the cross, He obtained for us eternal redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. He was raised bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for the saints forever. (–Mt. 1:1825; –Jn. 1:118; Rom. 8:34; –1 Cor. 15:128; 2 Cor. 5:21; –Gal. 3:1014; Eph. 1:7; –Phil. 2:611; –Col. 1:1523; Heb. 7:25, –9:1315, 10:19; –1 Pet. 2:2125; –1 Jn. 2:12)

We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. No ordinance, ritual, work, or any other activity on the part of man is required or accepted in order to be saved. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight in order that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ. (–Jn. 1:1213, –6:3744, –10:2530; –Acts 16:3031; –Rom. 3:14:23, –8:117, –3139, –10:810; –Eph. 2:810; –Phil. 2:1213; –Titus 3:37; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit, in whom we are also sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit regenerates, forever indwells, and graciously equips the Christian for godly living and service. Subsequent to conversion, the Spirit desires to fill, empower, and anoint believers for ministry and witness. We also believe that signs and wonders, as well as all the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament, are operative today and are designed to testify to the presence of the kingdom and to empower and edify the Church to fulfill its calling and mission. (Mt. 3:11; –Jn. 1:1213, –3:115; –Acts 4:2930; Rom. 8:9, –12:38; –1 Cor. 12:1213; –2 Cor. 1:2122; –Gal. 3:15; –Eph. 1:1314, 5:18)

We believe that the one true God exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and that these, being one God, are equal in deity, power, and glory. We believe that God not only created the world but also now upholds, sustains, governs, and providentially directs all that exists and that He will bring all things to their proper consummation in Christ Jesus to the glory of His name. (–Ps. 104:135, –139:124; –Mt. 10:2931, 28:19; –Acts 17:2428; 2 Cor. 13:14; –Eph. 1:912, –4:46; –Col. 1:1617; –Heb. 1:13; –Rev. 1:46)

We believe that when Christians die, they pass immediately into the blessed presence of Christ, there to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and the glorious transformation of their bodies. The saved will then forever dwell in blissful fellowship with their great triune God. We also believe that when unbelievers die, they are consigned to hell, there to await the Day of Judgment when they shall be punished in the lake of fire with eternal, conscious, and tormented

separation from the presence of God. (Mt. 25:46; –Lk. 16:1931; –Jn. 5:2529; –1 Cor. 15:3558; –2 Cor. 5:110; –Phil. 1:1926, –3:2021; –2 Thes. 1:510; –Rev. 20:1115, –21:122:15)

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances of the Church to be observed until the time of Christ's return. They are not a means of salvation but are channels of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to the faithful in Christ Jesus. (–Mt. 26:2629, 28:19; –Rom. 6:311; –1 Cor. 11:2334; 1 Pet. 3:21)

We believe in the literal second coming of Christ at the end of the age when He will return to earth personally and visibly to consummate His kingdom. We also believe in and are praying for a great end-time harvest of souls and the emergence of a victorious Church that will experience an unprecedented unity, purity, and power in the Holy Spirit. (–Ps. 2:79, –22:2728; Jn. 14:12, –17:2026; –Rom. 11:2532; –1 Cor. 15:2028, –5058; –Eph. 4:1116; –Phil. 3:2021; –1 Thes. 4:135:11; –2 Thes. 1:312; –Rev. 7:914)

We believe that Adam was originally created in the image of God, righteous and without sin. As a consequence of his disobedience, Adam's posterity is born subject to both imputed and inherent sin, and all humans are therefore, by nature and choice, the children of wrath, justly condemned in the sight of God, wholly unable to save themselves or to contribute in any way to their acceptance with God. (–Gen. 1:13:22; Ps. 51:5; Isa. 53:5; –Rom. 3:918, –5:1221; –Eph. 2:13)

We believe that the Church is God's primary instrument, through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes in the earth. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, God has given the Church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. We also affirm the priesthood of all believers and the importance of every Christian being joined with and actively involved in a local community of the saints. We believe that women, no less than men, are called and gifted to proclaim the gospel and do all the works of the kingdom. (–Mt. 16:1719; –Acts 2:1718, 42; –Eph. 3:1421, –4:1116; –1 Tim. 2:1115; –Heb. 10:2325; –1 Pet. 2:45, –910)

We believe that God has called the Church to preach the gospel to all nations, to especially remember the poor and to minister to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. This ministry is an expression of the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ and is an essential part of the kingdom of God. (–Isa. 58:612, 61:1; –Mt. 5:17:28; –28:1820; Lk. 4:18, –21:14; Gal. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:8)

We believe that Satan, originally the great and good angel Lucifer, rebelled against God, taking a multitude of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish his counter-kingdom of darkness, evil, and unrest on earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels. (–Isa. 14:1017; –Ezek. 28:1119; –Mt. 12:2529, 25:41; Jn. 12:31, 16:11; –Eph. 6:1020; Col. 2:15; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; –Rev. 12:79, 20:10)