

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17, 2 Peter 1:19 - 21, Jeremiah 11:1, Ezekiel 26:1, 27:1)

GOD AND THE DEITY OF CHRIST

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."* (2 Corinthians 13:14, Titus 1:3, 4, 2:10, 13, 3:4, 3, Isaiah 43:10, 11, Acts 5:3 - 9). In effect, the Lord Jesus Christ is both fully God who must be honored as the Father is honored (John 5:22, 23) and fully man, when He, the Word, temporarily laid aside His Glory, to be made flesh so that He may become our Savior. (John 1:14, 29)

SIN AND DEATH

We believe the Bible teaches us of our ruined condition by sin. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5, Isaiah 53:6, 64:6) When that "one man" sinned he immediately died spiritually. Their offspring, both those close to him and generations following were all born in sin and possessed the same spiritual deadness. The Lord set out the two forms of death in Luke 9:60. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12, 13, we are reminded that man is made up of spirit, soul & body. Jeremiah spoke of the soul of God. (Jeremiah 5:9, 29). After the physical death of man, the believer goes immediately to be with the Lord which is far better. (2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:21 - 23). The unbeliever, who dies, is conscious in hell (Luke 16:23 - 31, Matthew 26:63 - 64). After the final judgment, the spiritually dead

will be put in the lake of fire with the beast & the false prophet. (Matthew 11:21 - 24, Jude 7, Revelation 20:10 - 15, 21:8)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE AND WORKS

We believe the Bible tells us of God's generous gift of love in Christ. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:1 - 8, Romans 6:23, Galatians 2:16). Eternal life is a gift without any works to obtain it or to retain it. If one has to work (or to keep the law) to maintain eternal life, it's a reward and not a gift. (Romans 3 & 4). Acts of righteousness after salvation is a normal work of the spirit in showing forth the praises of God. (Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:13) In their willful dishonoring of our Father, He chastises us, but we cannot lose the eternal life. (Hebrews 12:5 - 13, I Corinthians 11:27 - 32). However, for work of true service, there are rewards. The rewards are for the saved and does not impact our salvation. (1 Corinthians 3:11 - 15, 9:24 - 27, 2 Timothy 4:7 - 8)

A SECURE SALVATION

We believe the Bible tells of the complete salvation for all who will put their trust in Him and the condemnation of those who will not. (John 3:18, 36; Romans. 10:9-10; John. 5:24, John 6:47, I John 5:12, Colossians 2:9-10) The only hope for man is to personally believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as Savior. *"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12, John 14:6) It is amazingly simple to obtain salvation (Acts 16:30-31). The operation on God's part is so marvelously wonderful, that many words are used to describe what occurs the moment we trust the Savior. Here are some of those irreversible operations that occur. The believer in Christ is:

Regenerated (born into the family of God - John 1:12 - 13, 1 Peter 1:23 - 2:2),

Adopted (brought into the family with full rights - Galatians 4:1 - 7, Romans 8:14 - 17).

Redeemed (the Lord avenged us, by His death, thus defeating the devil who caused our death. He, by his death, delivered us and made us free [the same Hebrew word is translated redeemer & avenger] - **Hebrews 2:14 - 15, Joshua 20:1 - 6, John 8:44, Romans 7:9 - 11, Galatians 4:4 - 5**)

Justified (declared righteous - **Romans 3:24, 28, 4:22 - 5:1**)

Sanctified (separated unto the Lord or made holy - **1 Corinthians 1:2, 30, 6:11**)

Sealed (Marked with God's seal for security - **2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**)

THE BIRTH, WORK AND RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the virgin born Son of God, took upon Himself the punishment for our sins and died on the cross shedding His blood. (**Matthew 1:18 - 25; 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21**) We believe in the bodily Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His victorious ascension into Glory where he is now at God's right hand. (**1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Luke 24: 33 - 43, Mark 16:19, Acts 3:13 - 15, 5:28 - 32, Hebrews 1:1 - 3**) We believe in the personal return of Christ, first in the air for the Church and then later to earth. "*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;*" (**Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 19:11 - 16**)

THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit indwells each believer.

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (**1 Corinthians 6:19, Romans 8:9, 14, John 14:16, 17**) We believe the Bible is a sufficient guide for the Christian and a unique charter for Christ's church.

THE BAPTISM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Bible teaches there is only one Church, the Body of Christ. All, who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into one united, Spiritual

Body. "*And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.*" (**Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians. 12:12 & 13**)

THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

We believe that Christ is the head of the Church.

"And He is the head of the body, the Church." (**Col 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 4:15-16, 5:22-33**) Christ Jesus is also the chief cornerstone upon which the building, the church, with its apostles & prophets is built. All other saints are the living stones in that holy temple. (**Ephesians 2:19 - 22, 1 Peter 2:1 - 8**) Besides, He is both the great shepherd and chief shepherd of His flock. (**Hebrews 13:20, 1 Peter 5:4**) His flock is left in the care of elders who are required to feed the flock as shepherds or pastors (the same Greek word) and to guard the flock as bishops or overseers (**Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Philippians 1:1 Note, however, Revelation 2:6, 15**) - *The Lord hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans - Nico = above + laitans /laity = people.* In each assembly, there were multiple elders (bishops, shepherds **Titus 1:5**) Peter considered himself as an elder. **1 Peter 5:1**) The Lord Jesus is also our unchangeable, High Priest, after the Order of Melchisedec, who save to the uttermost and makes intercession for them who come to God by Him. (**Heb 7:24 -25**) All believers are priests to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God. (**1 Pet 2:5-9**)

THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church started on the Day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-47**) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own in the rapture.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (**1 Thessalonians 4:14 -17.**) This wonderful event will occur before the tribulation which will try all the world. The church will be kept from this trial. **Revelation 3:10.** Pictures of God's keeping the church from the time of Jacob's trouble (**Jeremiah 30:7**) are seen in the deliverances of Noah from the flood & Lot from Sodom before His wrath was poured on the wicked & rebellious. (**2 Peter 2:4 - 9**) The church is not Israel nor has it replaced the descendants of Jacob. It stands separately (**1 Corinthians 10:31, 32, Romans 11**)

God is continuing to fulfill every promise made to physical descendants of Abraham. After the rapture of the church, the Lord will chastise Israel for its unbelief & judge the peoples of the world for their wickedness (**Revelation 9:20 - 21**) At the end of that seven-year tribulation period under the beast, the anti-christ, the Lord will return in glory, deliver Israel who will then accept Him (**Zechariah 12:10**), set of His kingdom of peace & prosperity as He rules the world with a rod of iron and in righteousness (**Isaiah 9:6 -7, 11 Revelation 19:11 - 16**). At the end of that millennium, Satan who will be bound in the bottomless pit, shall be released & he will then lead his final rebellion against the Lord, The Lord will crush, then judge the wicked at the great white throne judgment. (**Revelation 20**) The existing Heaven & earth will pass away & not be remembered. A new heaven & new earth will be created. His own ones will continue to reign with the Lamb whom all must worship. (**Isaiah 11:1 - 9, 65:1, Revelation 20:6, 22:5**)

THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SAINTS

We believe and teach that the establishment and continuity of the local church is defined and clearly taught in the New Testament scriptures. (**Galatians 1:2; Acts 14:23-27; Acts 20: 17, 28; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1**) We believe that the members of this Spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves in local assemblies. "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" (**Heb. 10:25**) This Church is expressed in a local assembly of believers. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ gather in His name alone for worship, bible study, prayer and evangelism. It has no enrolled membership, but seek to receive into fellowship all whom Christ has received to the Glory of God.

MARRIAGE

We believe and teach that God established marriage as a lifelong relationship between one man and one woman (**Genesis 2:23-25; Matthew 19:6**) for the purposes of fellowship and mutual aid (**Genesis 2:18**), reproduction (**Genesis 1:28**) and sexual intimacy (**1 Corinthians 7:2-5**). The marriage relationship between man and

woman is to reflect the spiritual relationship that exists between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:22-32).

THE ORDINANCES

We observe in simplicity the ordinances as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ namely:

1. BAPTISM BY IMMERSION FOR BELIEVERS

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (**Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:37, 38; Rom 6:3-5**) Baptism, in effect, does not give anyone eternal life. Eternal life is a gift through faith in the Christ Jesus who died for sins & rose again. Baptism is the response, the testimony of one who has trusted in Christ & has already passed from death unto life. (**Acts 10:47**)

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: This do in remembrance of me..." (**Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**) It is not the reenactment of the sacrifice at the cross. It is not the offering of the body & blood of Jesus. That was done once and is efficacious today. (**Hebrews 10:10 - 14**)