

DOCTRINAL BELIEFS (The expression of our faith)

- i) **THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is 100% the Word of God. It, alone, is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths.

“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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

(Proverbs 30:5), (Psalm 1), (Psalm 119:105)

- ii) (**THE TRINITY (The Eternal Godhead):** WE BELIEVE in the unity of the true and living God who is the ETERNAL, self-existent one, who has revealed himself as ONE BEING in THREE PERSONS – *THE FATHER, THE SON (Jesus) AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*, and Who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible. (**Deut. 6:4**), (**Mark 12:29**), (**Matthew 28:19**), (**Genesis 1:1**), (**Psalm 86:9-10**), (**Isaiah 43:10-11**), (**John 1:1-3**))

- iii) **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who was and is the eternal Son of God; that he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. (Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary’s womb) On earth He was 100% God and 100% man. (**Isaiah 7:14**), (**Matthew 1:23**)

WE BELIEVE in His sinless life (He was the only man to ever live a sinless life) (**Heb. 7:26**, **1 Peter 2:22**, **2 Corinthians 5:21**), *miraculous ministry* (**Acts 2:22**, **Acts 10:38**), substitutionary atoning death (**Hebrews 9:12**), *bodily resurrection* (**Luke 24:39**, **1 Corinthians 15:4**), glorious ascension (**Acts 1:9**) and *abiding intercession* (**Hebrews 7:25**).

- i) **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting (**John 16:7-11**) and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding (**Romans 8:14**) the believer into all truth (**John 14:26**, **John 16:13**). (**Sanctification** is the ongoing process of yielding to God in order to become more and more like Christ) (**Romans 12:1-2**, **2 Corinthians 3:18**, **1 Thessalonians 4:3**, **Romans 8:29**, **1 Thessalonians 5:23**)

- ii) **THE ATONEMENT:** WE BELIEVE that God's answer to man's sinful state is in the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made full atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that there is no other ground for salvation. (2 Cor. 5:18-21, Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:20, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, Coloss. 1:14, Heb. 9:25-28, 1 Peter 1:18-20, 1 John 1:7)

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to forgive man of all sins. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for the sins we had committed, giving all mankind the opportunity of being free from the penalty of sin, (which is death). Each person after reaching an age of reasoning must however make a response of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ to receive God's forgiveness and gift of eternal life. (John 1:29, Rev. 1:5 & 5:9)

- iii) **SALVATION OF MAN:** WE BELIEVE salvation is received through **repentance** toward God and **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth {Being Born Again} (Jn 3:3) and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit, whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God, and becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17) and an heir of eternal life. (Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:23)

REPENTANCE is a commitment to turn from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ. (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19)

SALVATION is a gift from God and cannot be earned. It is not based on our good works or human efforts. "For by grace you have been saved through faith (in Jesus Christ and His death burial and resurrection), and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- iv) **THE DEVIL:** WE BELIEVE in the personality of the devil, who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Gen 3:1-15, Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, James 4:7, John 13:2, 1 Peter 5:8, John 13:2)

- v) **THE FALL OF MAN:** WE BELIEVE that man was created by God by a specific immediate act and in His image and likeness, morally upright and perfect, but fell by voluntary transgression. Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being depraved and without spiritual life. (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3:1-7, Rom. 5:12-21)

ix) **THE CHURCH:** The church is the *body of Christ*, the habitation of God, through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfilment of her great commission. *Each believer*, born of the Spirit, is an *integral part* of the *general assembly and church* of the first-born, which are written in heaven. (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 12:23**)

x) **WATER BAPTISM:** WE BELIEVE that baptism, by single *immersion*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is required of all who have repented and believed in Christ as *Saviour* and *Lord*, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Following believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be water baptized by full immersion.

The Christian Water Baptism is an outward act of obedience by which a *believer* confesses and confirms, the *inward righteousness* he already enjoys in his heart through faith in Christ's atoning death and resurrection, by openly acknowledging their allegiance to Christ. (**Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:4-5, Colossians 2:12, Mark 16:16**)

xi) **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** WE BELIEVE the Lord's supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:4**), and a memorial of His sufferings and death (**1 Corinthians 11:26**), and is enjoined upon all believers "until He comes". (**Luke 22:14-20, Acts 20:7, Matthew 26:26-28**)

The Lord's Supper is a unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and wine (representing the broken body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ), are taken in remembrance of His sacrifice on the cross for us. (**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**)

xii) **SANCTIFICATION:** Sanctification is an act of *separation* from that which is *evil*, and of *dedication unto God*. WE BELIEVE it is the glorious provision for *every* believer in Christ to be made *pure in heart* and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the Blood of Jesus and the Word of God. (**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**) (**John 17:15-19, Acts 15:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Hebrews 2:11, Hebrews 10:16-19, Romans 12:1-2**)

- xiii) **THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT:** WE BELIEVE that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power *to be an effective witness for Christ*. This experience is **distinct** from, and **subsequent** to, the new birth; *is received by faith*, and is accompanied by the manifestation of *speaking in tongues* as the spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 1:8, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:17-18, Mark 16:17 Acts 8:15-19, Acts 11:14-17, Acts 19:1-7, Matthew 3:11)

Given at Pentecost, it was the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension, to *empower* the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth, to edify believers (1 Corinthians 14:4), to enhance the prayer life of believers and as a sign to unbelievers. (1 Cor. 14:22)

- xiv) **GIFTS:** WE BELIEVE in the **present day** operation of the **nine** *supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit*, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12. (*The word of wisdom, The word of knowledge, The gift of faith, Gifts of healing, The working of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of spirits, Different kinds of tongues and Interpretation of tongues*). We also believe in the **five** ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Ephesians 4:11-13. (*Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers*)

OTHER GIFTS FROM THE FATHER INCLUDE: Prophecy, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Ministry and the gift of Teaching (Regardless of Public Office) (Romans 12:3-8) Helps and Administrations are two other gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:28) WE MUST HOWEVER NEVER FORGET THAT WHATEVER WE DO IN LIFE MUST BE DONE IN LOVE. (The Apostle Paul emphasised this in chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians) (See also Romans 12:9-21)

- xv) **DIVINE HEALING:** In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. (Isaiah 53:5) WE BELIEVE that divine healing for the body, as with all *redemptive blessings of God*, has been provided for us by the *atonement and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ*; it is the privilege of *all* believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises. (Exodus 15:26, Matt. 8:16-17, Ps. 103:3, 1 Peter 2:24, James 5:14-15, Mark 16:17-18, John 14:12-14)

- xvi) **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** WE BELIEVE in the premillennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather his people unto Himself. Having this glorious hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth a second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures. (Matthew 24:36)

THE RAPTURE (PROPHECY): There are several different theological views on the timing of the rapture of true believers.

The Premillennial midtribulation view: sees all believers being “raptured” after 42 months (1,260 days) of the 7-year Great Tribulation, with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events.

The Premillennial Prewrath Rapture View: sees all believers being “raptured” during the Great Tribulation, but prior to the “day of God’s wrath” (Rev. 6:17), with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events. This view states that true believers will be raptured *prior to the “day of God’s wrath”*, as believers have *not been appointed to wrath*, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **(1 Thessalonians 5:9)**

If Chapter 24 of Matthew is to be interpreted in light of Chapter six of Revelations, the rapture could take place Mid-Tribulation (Matthew 24:31) *after* the cosmic disturbances mentioned both in **Rev. 6:12** and **Matt. 24:29**, just prior to the great day of His wrath. (*Revelation 6:17*)

The Dispensational Interpretation, (Pre-Tribulation), sees the rapture of all true believers (**Rev. 4:1**) taking place prior to the Anti-Christ rising to power. *This interpretation* sees him as the Conqueror in the First Seal, and the Great Tribulation commencing with the first seal. (**Rev. 6:1**)

The Premillennial Pretribulation Partial Rapture View: sees only some believers being “Raptured” before the Great Tribulation. Those who are “unready” must be martyred to verify their faith, with the Rapture and the Second Coming being separate events.

There are also other theological views on the timing of the rapture and which deal with the “last things” (Eschatology)

HOWEVER, for those who are faithful in their Christian walk, the Bible promises that they will be kept from the hour of trial, which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth. (**Revelation 3:10**)

WE MUST SIMPLY BE READY TO MEET THE LORD AT ANY TIME.

xvii) **THE MILLENNIUM:** WE BELIEVE in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth. (**Zechariah 14:5, Daniel 7:22, Revelation 5:9-10, Ps. 96:10-13, Revelation 20:1-10**)

- xviii) **THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED:** WE BELIEVE in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who wilfully reject and despise the love of God, manifested in the great sacrifice of his only Son upon the cross for their salvation. (**Romans 6:23, Matthew 25:46, Matthew 13:49-50, Luke 12:47-48, 2 Thess. 1:8-9, Revelation 20:11-15**). We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the book of life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake, which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (**Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:10-15**)
- xix) **THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH:** “We according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (**2 Peter 3:13, Revelation Chapters 21 and 22.**)
- xx) **RESURRECTION:** WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. One day all believers who have died in Christ, will also be physically resurrected in their glorified bodies and will be judged to determine their eternal rewards in heaven, where they will dwell with God forever. (**Luke 24:36-40, 1 Cor. 15:42,44, John 20:26-28, John 21:4, Luke 24:15-18**)

The final resurrection at the close of the millennium will be mainly for those who have rejected Christ, and they will be judged for what they did while in the body. Following this judgment, those who rejected Christ will be consigned to the lake of fire (spirit, soul and body). (**Revelation 20:13-14**)

Two categories of people in the final resurrection, who will come forth to the resurrection of life and not condemnation, are people such as the queen of the South (Sheba) and the men of Nineveh referred to by Jesus, who were not granted a revelation of Christ’s atoning sacrifice in which they could trust for salvation, (Luke 11:31-32) and the righteous who died during Christ’s millennial reign on earth. (One of the purposes of Christ’s return is for the national salvation of Israel.)

- xxi) **CREATION:** WE BELIEVE that the heavens and earth and all original life forms, including man, were made by the specific immediate creative acts of God as described in the account of origins presented in Genesis, and that all biological changes which have occurred since creation are limited to variation within each species.