

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

of

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The Holy Scriptures

I believe the Bible is the Word and Revelation of God. The sixty-six books that make up the Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally written, were verbally and plenary inspired of God, and given through Spirit controlled men. The inspiration of the Bible extends to every detail whether it concerns salvation, morality, history, or prophecy. The Bible is our Supreme and infallible standard for the Christian faith and practice (Matt. 5:18; John 10:35; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 3:15-16).

The Godhead

I believe there is one and only one living, true, and infinitely perfect God, who eternally exists in three persons: The Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. This Godhead is called the trinity, or triunity - the three-in-one God. In the triunity of God, these three eternal persons are equal in every divine perfection, fulfilling distinct but harmonious offices in the great works of creation, redemption and rulership (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:14; Isa. 46:9; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; Acts 17:24-31).

The roles within the triunity is everything of the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit and unto the Father (1 Cor. 8:6; John 3:17; Eph. 3:5; Eph. 2:18).

The Attributes of God include: Omniscience (1 John 3:20); Omnipotence (Rev. 19:6); Omnipresence (Ps. 139:7-12); Eternality (Ps. 90:2); Sovereignty (1 Chron. 29:11-12); Immutability (James 1:17); Love (1 John 4:8); Grace (1 Pet. 5:10); Mercy (Eph. 2:4); Faithfulness (1 Cor. 10:13); Truth (Deut. 32:4); Righteousness (John 17:25); Holiness (Isa. 6:3); Justice (Rom. 3:21-26).

The glory of God is all of creation's highest purpose (Psalm 19:1; 148, 150; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11).

The first person of the triunity is God the Father. He rules the universe and has decreed all things that have come to pass. God the Father has created all things out of nothing simply by the act of His will, and in all His activities He has worked in conjunction with the Son and with the Holy Spirit for His glory (Gen. 1:1-2:3; Ps. 103:19; Rom. 11:33-36; Rev. 4:11).

Jesus Christ

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man. As the Son of God, He is equal to God. In His pre-existence He was the Eternal Word sharing the glory of the Father, equal in nature and power with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:17; John 1: 1; 5:18; 8:58).

In His Incarnation, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin woman named Mary; thereby taking upon Himself manhood, being the Son of man, yet surrendering none of the divine perfection. As the GOD-Man, Jesus Christ was completely sinless in both nature and deed. Because of His infinite love for mankind, He gave Himself as the vicarious sacrificial lamb to take away the sin of the world, by suffering and dying on a Roman Cross (Isa. 9:6; 53:10; Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-20; 19:10; John 1:29; Rom. 3:24-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 2:2).

I believe on the third day after His death and burial, He rose bodily from the grave according to the Scriptures completing His glorious work of salvation. As the Resurrected Savior, He was seen and touched by men, and then He ascended into Heaven and is now seated on the Father's right hand being the mediator between God and man, and the High Priest for the believers (Matt. 20:18-19; John 20; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15: 1-8, 17; 1 John 1:1; Acts 1:9; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1-3; 4:14-16; 12:2; Eph. 1:22-23).

The Holy Spirit

I believe in the personality, deity, and ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Acts 5:3-4).

The Holy Spirit was active in creation (Job 33:4); revelation (2 Pet. 1:21); the life of Christ (Luke 1:35; Acts 10:38; Rom. 1:4); and He restrains the evil one so that God's purposes are fulfilled (Gen. 6:3; 2 Thess. 2:7).

The Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11). On the day of Pentecost, He came to continuously bear witness of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 16:13; Acts 2). Thus, the Holy Spirit became the agent to convict and regenerate the sinner (John 16:7-11; Titus 3:5). For the new believer then, the Holy Spirit baptizes (1 Cor. 12:13) and seals (Eph. 4:30) them into the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit also indwells (1 Cor. 6:19); sanctifies (Rom. 15:16); fills (Eph. 5:18); teaches (John 16:12-15); guides (Rom. 8:14); gives

assurance (Rom. 8:16); prays (Rom. 8:26); gives spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12); and produces our spiritual fruit (Gal. 5:22-25).

Angels

I believe angels are divinely created beings. They are an innumerable company of spirit beings, who possess intelligence, feelings, and a will (Col. 1:16; Heb. 12:22; 1 Pet. 1:12; Luke 2:13; Jude 6).

There are 3 classifications of angels: First, the good angels who have a sinless nature and forever serve God as messengers. Their heavenly organization consists of: Archangels, who protect Israel, announced the birth of Christ, and will announce the return of Christ at the rapture (Dan. 12:1; Luke 2:13; 1 Thess. 4:16); Seraphim who have to do with the worship of God (Isa. 6:1-3); Cherubim who guard the holiness of God (Gen. 3:22-24); Guardian angels who protect believers and children (Heb. 1:13-14; Matt. 18:10); and others such as chief princes (Dan. 10:13); ruling angels (Eph. 3:10); and elect angels (1 Tim. 5:21).

The second group of angels are the evil angels or demons. They possess a sinful nature because of their rebellion against God, thereby serve in opposition to God. They are destined for eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matt. 12:24; 25:41; Dan. 10:10-14; 13:16; 2 Cor. 12:7).

The third classification consists of the personality of Satan. Satan was the highest of God's created angels, but out of pride fell from his state, and became the prince of demons — the other angels who fell with him. Satan is the author of all the powers of darkness, seeking to blind men to the truth, inflict sufferings and cause death. His eternal destiny is eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Ex. 28:14-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Matt. 12:24; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gen. 3:1-6; Acts 10:38; John 8:44; Rev. 20:10).

Man

I believe mankind was created in a completed form by God, not through the process of evolution. Mankind was created in the image of God, male and female, a rational and moral person, having the ability to make a choice for or against God (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15-25; Isa. 43:7).

Adam, the first man, by a voluntary act of his will disobeyed the holy revealed Word of God, and thus he fell from the state of innocence into a state of separation from God. As a result, all mankind since Adam and Eve are born with a sinful nature. Therefore, we are corrupted by sin and that corruption means that mankind is totally depraved as sin affects our whole being – body, soul and spirit (Rom. 3:23; 5:12-29; Ps. 14; 1-3; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 7:18; 1 Tim. 1:13; Eph. 4:18).

Sin

I believe sin is anything that does not conform to the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Sin entered the world through Satan, and by his deception he led Adam and Eve into disobedience against the Word of God (Gen. 3). Thus, through Adam, we have inherited the sin nature (Eph. 2:3; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:12-21).

To sin, means to “miss the mark.” Scripture describes sin as; transgression - a violation of the law (Luke 15:29); iniquity - an evil or wicked act (Acts 8:22-23); disobedience - an unwillingness to obey (Heb. 2:2); trespass - a violation of God’s rights (Eph. 2: 1); lawlessness - a complete denial of any rule of life (1 Tim. 1:9); and unbelief - the denial of the truth of God's Word (Heb. 3:12).

The consequences of sin are: guilt (Rom. 3:19); personal condemnation (John 3:19); physical death (Gen. 3:19); spiritual death (Rom. 5:12); and the second death (Rev. 20:14).

Salvation

I believe salvation is the deliverance from the penalty and power of sin, to the position of being a child of God. Salvation is all from God, for man has no merit in himself or the ability to attain salvation by either good works, reformation, religious ritual or morality (Rom. 3:10-26; Eph. 2:8-9). It is simple faith believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-10). This gift of God is found totally on the vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Isa. 53; John 1:12; 3:3-18; Acts 16:31; Rom. 4:25; 5:8-9; 8:29-30; 10:8-13; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:4-5; Heb. 11:6; 1 John 2:1-2).

The elements of salvation include: satisfaction of divine justice (Rom. 5:19); forgiveness of sins (Rom. 3:25); reconciliation with God (2 Cor. 5:18-21); impartation of Christ's righteousness (Rom. 10:10); the gift of eternal life (John 10:27-29); baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13); and the seal of the Holy Spirit which assures that those who are once truly saved will never perish, but will persevere in the faith (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; John 10:28).

This glorious work of God is accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit when He regenerates the spirit of the elect sinner and applies the Word of God to that sinners' heart, at which time the person through repentance of sin and believing what Christ has done for him, and places personal faith or trust in Christ as his Savior (Titus 3: 5; 2 Thess. 2: 13-14; Rom. 10:8-13; Acts 16 :31).

The Church

I believe the church was born on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the rapture of the saint (Acts 2:1-47; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). The word "church" means "called out ones," consisting of those who have placed their faith in Christ as their Savior. The head of the church is Christ, and the believers are the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23).

The church is universal in that it is made up of all believers in Christ everywhere during its duration (Eph. 5:23-30). It is local in that it consists of a group of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and who have organized themselves together to fulfill the purpose and priorities of the church for the glory of God (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 1:2).

The purpose of the church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Pet. 3:18). The priorities of the church are:

1. Exaltation which is worshiping, praising and glorifying God (Ps. 18:46; 95:6; 99:5; 1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 1:20).
2. Equipping God's people through the study and application of the Word of God (Matt. 28:20; Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:16-17; Heb. 13:21).
3. Edifying the saints by encouraging and building them up in the faith (Acts 9:31; 1 Cor. 8:1, 14:26; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:23-25).
4. Evangelism which is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of the world beginning at home (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 8:12; Rom. 10:9-17; Col 4:3-6; 2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:15).
5. Enlightenment which is to be a light to a dark world by living God's truth and love (Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:13-16; 25:34-36; Rom. 12:21; Gal. 6:10).

The power of the church is that all this is accomplished by God's grace, in God's love, and for God's glory (2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Rom. 11:36).

The church is to observe two ordinances as established by Christ: baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe water baptism by immersion after salvation is for every believer as an outward symbol of the believer's inward faith in the crucified, buried, and resurrected Christ, and a public profession of our faith (Rom. 6:1-4; Acts 2:41; 16:32-33; Matt. 28:19-20). The Lord's Supper is a symbolic remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord to be commemorated until He comes, and can be partaken by all who are born again upon examining themselves (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-33).

Last Things

I believe in the imminent pre-tribulational and pre-millennial coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. This coming event called the rapture will take place when Christ will come in the air to receive His awaiting church by the resurrection of the dead saints and the translation of those who are alive (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53).

After the rapture, the believers of all the ages together in heaven, will face the Judgment Seat of Christ for the judging of our works for rewards, in preparation for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:13; Rev. 19:7-9).

For those who remain on earth after the rapture, they will go into the Tribulation, or the Time of Jacob's Trouble, in which God's righteous judgment will be poured out upon them: the unbelieving, the unregenerate world, and bringing the Jewish people back to God. It will be a period of 7 years, and will conclude with the battle of Armageddon. At which time Christ will return to the earth His second time to establish His Kingdom for a 1000-year reign (Dan. 9; Matt. 24:15-31; Rev. 7; 11:2; 16:16; 19:1-21).

The 1000-year reign of Christ on earth is called the Millennium. During this time Satan is bound in the bottomless pit. The Millennium is a reign of peace and equality and the fulfillment of the promises made to the Jewish nation (Rev. 20:1-7; Isa. 11:2-10). At the close of the Millennium, Satan will be loosed and seek to deceive the nations, but he will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7-10). At which time, the unsaved dead will be raised for the Great White Throne Judgment, and cast then into the lake of fire with the devil and his angels (Rev. 20:11-15).

Finally, I believe that God will create a new heaven and a new earth with the new Jerusalem for all the righteous to live eternally under the glorious reign of the Eternal Son Jesus Christ (Rev. 21:1-22:5).

Marriage and Family

I believe God has established marriage as a lifetime holy covenantal union of one man and one woman (each genetically designed by birth) until death do they part. I believe Christian marriage is the union under God's highest standards of a believing man and a believing woman, until death do they part, for the establishment of a Christian home for the glory of God (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18, 24; Eph. 5:22-33).

I believe God has gifted intimate sexual relations for one man and one woman only within the sanctity of marriage. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of marriage as all other forms of sexual expression are immoral and sinful perversions of God's holy standards (Gen. 19:5-13; Lev. 18:1-30; Matt. 19:6; Rom. 1:26-33; 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

I believe human life is precious and should be protected from beginning, at fertilization, until natural death. That children are a heritage from the Lord and are best raised by a Godly father and a Godly mother together in a Christian home (Ps. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:5; Eph. 6:1-4).

Christian Living

I believe Christians are to live Godly and holy lives, being conformed to the image of Christ (Titus 2:11-14; Phil. 3:10-14). As Christians we should obey the Word of God, be filled with the Holy Spirit, seek the things which are above, pursue a godly lifestyle, abstain from sinful habits, avoid being a stumbling block to others, love and encourage one another, faithfully worship and serve God together, and live and share the gospel with those around us, all for the glory of God (Ex. 20:1-17; Eph. 2:10; 5:18; Col. 3:1-3; Prov. 20:1; 23:29-33; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; Phil. 2:15; 1 Cor. 10:31).