

DOCTRINAL POSITION

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

SECTION 1. The Scriptures.

We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original writings of the sixty-six books of the Bible, the Word of God, and that it is the full and complete revelation of God's will for man, the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20,21; Jude 3).

SECTION 2. The Godhead.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:18,19).

SECTION 3. The Person and Work of Christ.

a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2,14,18; Luke 1:35).

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our complete redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, propitiatory, and substitutional sacrifice, a redemption made sure to us by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; 5:8-10; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7).

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate (Acts 1:9-11; Romans 8:34; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3; 6:19,20; 7:24,25; 9:24; I John 2:1,2).

SECTION 4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, possessing all the attributes of deity; and, that in essence, He is equally God (Acts 5:3,4; II Corinthians 13:14).

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration and sanctification, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling equally and permanently every believer, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:11; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30)

b. We believe that every unregenerate person, the moment he exercises faith in Christ as Saviour, immediately possesses the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 4:6; I Thessalonians 4:8).

d. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; that He sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts upon each believer; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled (controlled) with the Spirit (John 16:13; I Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 5:18).

SECTION 5. The Total Depravity of Man.

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but through Adam's sin the whole race fell, became alienated from God and inherited a sin nature, is totally depraved, possesses no spark of divine life, and of himself, is utterly helpless to remedy his lost condition apart from the grace of God (Genesis 1:25-27; Romans 3:22,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

SECTION 6. Salvation.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to sinful man by grace and received solely by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who accomplished complete redemption by His substitutionary death and shedding of His precious blood (John 3:18; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8,9; Philippians 3:4-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18,19).

SECTION 7. Sanctification.

We believe that sanctification is a setting apart unto God (John 17:17,19). It consists of three steps in the believer's life:

- a. Positional: Every believer, by his being "in Christ" and partaking of all He is, has a complete standing before God (I Corinthians 1:2,30; 6:11; Hebrews 10:10,14).
- b. Progressive: Yet every believer, because he retains a sin nature which cannot be changed nor eradicated in this life, lives in a present state that is imperfect to the extent that he fails to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit by which to live the Christian life, and therefore, he is in need of a progressive sanctification by growing in grace unto spiritual maturity (II Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; Hebrews 12:10).
- c. Ultimate: Every believer will be fully and completely sanctified when he shall see the Lord and shall be like Him (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 5:25-27; II Corinthians 3:18; I John 3:2).

SECTION 8. The Comfort of the Believer.

- a. We believe, because of the eternal purpose of God, because of the nature of the Word and promise of God, and because of the immutability of the covenants of God, that all the redeemed of God are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and interceded for by Christ, and therefore secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 17:11; Romans 8:1,19,30,38,39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24).
- b. We believe that God, as a Holy and Righteous Father of all the redeemed, cannot overlook the sin of His children, and when they persistently sin, will chasten and correct them in infinite love (I Corinthians 11:27-32; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- c. We believe that it is the universal privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word: which truth excites within His children filial love, gratitude and obedience (I John 5:10-13; 3:14; II Corinthians 5:6-8; Romans 13:13, 14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

SECTION 9. The Church.

- a. We believe that the universal church, which is the body and the bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age which began at Pentecost and shall be terminated at the rapture (Ephesians 1:22,23; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 12:5; Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47).
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures, being composed solely of believers (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11). These churches worship on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day (John 20:19,26; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1,2; Hebrews 10:25).

c. We believe baptism by immersion should precede local church membership (Acts 8:35-38).

SECTION 10. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts.

a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelist and pastor-teacher are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; I Corinthians 13:8).

b. We believe that every believer possesses a spiritual gift for the edification of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:20-27; Ephesians 4:12).

SECTION 11. Christian Walk.

a. We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 7:1-13; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16).

b. We believe that the Christian life consists of a positive abiding in union with the living Christ and by living in the power of the indwelling Spirit with the living Christ, and by living in the power of the indwelling Spirit so that the fruit of the Spirit is produced in the life in contrast to lusts of the flesh (John 15:1-16; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24).

c. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1,2; 14:13,21; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

d. We believe that every believer should be a faithful steward of all his substance for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad (II Corinthians 9:6-8; 16:2).

SECTION 12. The Great Commission.

We believe that it is the obligation of all believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scripture and seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19,20; Romans 10:11-17).

SECTION 13. Dispensations.

We believe in the dispensational approach to Scripture and that God, in His progressive revelation, has entrusted man with varying responsibilities in successive periods. These dispensations are divine testing periods in which the failure of man is consistently seen. Although these dispensations span the history of mankind, seven are the subject of extended revelation in Scripture, viz.: the dispensation of God's dealing with the human family in the ages of Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace and the coming age of the Kingdom. Likewise, we reject that teaching known as "Ultradispensationalism" which opposes either the Lord's table or water baptism as church ordinances for the dispensation of the church (Isaiah 61:1,2; Luke 4:16-21; I Corinthians 9:17; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2,9; A.S.V. Colossians 1:25; A.V.S. I Timothy 1:4).

SECTION 14. The Personality of Satan.

We believe that Satan is a personal being, the highest ranking of all angelic creatures; that through pride, thereby becoming the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Genesis 3:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:21; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

SECTION 15. The Blessed Hope.

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the imminent, personal, pre-tribulation return of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself into heaven both His own who are alive and remain unto His coming and also all who have fallen asleep in Him. This event is the blessed hope set before us in Scripture, and for this we should be constantly looking (John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51,52; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10).

SECTION 16. The Tribulation.

We believe that the translation of the church will be followed by the fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1-19,21) during which the church, the body of Christ, will be in heaven. This entire period of seven years will be a time of judgment on the whole earth, at the end of which, the times of the Gentiles will be brought to a close. The latter half of this period will be the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), which our Lord called the great tribulation (Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 6:1; 19:21).

SECTION 17. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the period of great tribulation will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth as He went, in person, on the clouds of heaven, and with great glory to introduce the millennial age, to bind Satan and place him in the abyss, to lift the curse which now rests on the whole creation, to restore Israel to her own land and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises, and to bring the whole world to the knowledge of God (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:4-9; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 14:4; Romans 8:19-23; 11:25-27; Revelation 20:1-3).

SECTION 18. The Eternal State.

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13).
- b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16,17; Revelation 20:4-6).
- c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Revelation 20:11-15).

Section 19. The Historicity of the Bible.

We believe in the full historicity and perspicuity of the Biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel (Gen. 2:7; 2:21-25; 3:1-7; 3:8-19; 7:11-24; 11:1-9).

Section 20. The Creation.

We believe in the Genesis account of Creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically nor figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or developments through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animals and vegetable life were made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind" (Gen. 1:1-2:25; Ps. 8:5; John 1:2-3).