

## Statement of Beliefs

### **The Bible**

The sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testament, as originally given, are inerrant in all that they affirm and are the final authority for the church in all matters of faith and practice (John 10:35, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Matt 4:4).

### **God**

There is only one true God, who is the Creator and Ruler of all things. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, eternal, and perfect in character. Scripture teaches the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; they are distinct from one another, yet there is only one God (Deut 4:35, 32:4, Jer 23:24, Isa 40:28, 1 Pet 1:2, John 14:26, 1 Cor 8:4).

### **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, died for the sins of humanity, and was bodily resurrected after three days. He is the Head of the church and the High Priest of all believers (Col 1:18, 2:9, Matt 1:18, Heb 4:15, Luke 24:39, 1 Cor 15:3-4).

### **Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God. He is distinct from the Father and the Son and yet is the Spirit of both. He is the effective agent in our regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. He is responsible for the inspiration of Scripture, the illumination of believers, and the giving of spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (Act 5:3-4, Rom 8:9, 11, Tit 3:5, Gal 5:22-23, 2 Pet 1:21, John 16:13, 1 Cor 12:7, 11).

### **Humanity**

God created humanity in His image, but because of Adam's sin, humanity became spiritually corrupt, cut off from God, and doomed to death. Apart from Jesus Christ, every human being shares this fate and stands in need of God's grace and salvation (Gen 1:26, Jer 17:9, Isa 59:2, Rom 5:12, 6:23).

### **Satan**

Satan is a fallen angel, who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. Together with the demons, he seeks to deceive, tempt, accuse, and destroy all of humanity. They will be cast into the lake of fire and suffer eternal damnation (2 Pet 2:4, Eph 2:2, 1 Pet 5:8, Rev 12:9-10, 20:10, Matt 25:41).

### **The Church**

The church is composed of all true believers who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The church exists to proclaim the gospel, nurture disciples, and glorify God in all things. The elders of the church are responsible for doctrine, administration, and discipline (1 Cor 12:13, Matt 5:16, 28:19-20, Act 20:28, 1 Tim 5:17, Tit 2:15).

### **Salvation**

Salvation is by grace and not by works. Faith and repentance are necessary for salvation and are expressed through actions; therefore, obedience and good works are the inevitable result of

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saving faith. While believers are not saved by works, they will be judged and rewarded according to their works (Eph 2:8-10, James 2:17, 2 Cor 5:10).

### **Baptism**

Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins is a sign and seal of the New Covenant. It is performed by an agent of the church upon repentance and confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is followed by the laying on of hands with prayer for the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 8:18, 38, 10:44, 48, 19:5-6).

### **The Mosaic Law**

The Mosaic Law is an important revelation of moral and spiritual truth. While many of these laws were limited to the nation of Israel living in the Promised Land under the terms of the Old Covenant, the underlying principles of this code are universally valid and applicable. Therefore, while the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant, the Mosaic Law has abiding significance as a guide to sanctification for all humanity (Jer 31:33, Matt 5:17-20, Rom 3:31).

### **The Sabbath and Holy Days**

God alone has the power to sanctify time for holy purposes. He enjoined the observance of the seventh day Sabbath on all humanity at Creation and has never abrogated that command. He expects His people to observe the annual Sabbaths and Festivals in this age and in the millennial kingdom of His Son (Gen 2:3, Lev 23, Mark 2:27-28, Zech 14:16-17, 1 Cor 5:7-8).

### **The Lord's Supper**

The annual observance of the Lord's Supper on the night of the 14th of Abib includes foot washing as an ordinance of humility and partaking of unleavened bread and wine as symbols of our Lord's body and blood (John 13:14-15, 1 Cor 11:23-26).

### **Tithing**

The biblical practice of tithing is an act of worship and faith to the Creator God who gives us life and provides for our every need. God's work in every age has been supported by contributions from His people; therefore, tithes and offerings are given to the church to accomplish the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ (Prv 3:9-10, Gen 14:20, Num 18:21, 1 Cor 9:14).

### **Food Laws**

God has determined which items are acceptable as food for His people. Animals were classified as clean or unclean before the Flood, and these designations continued after Christ's death and resurrection (Lev 11:2, Gen 7:2, 2 Cor 6:17, Rev 18:2).

### **Anointing the Sick**

The anointing of the sick by the elders of the church is an act of faith and intercessory supplication to the great God who is able to deliver us from every distress (Ps 103:2-3, Eph 3:20, James 5:14-15).

### **Military Service**

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Military service is incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ, and Christians should refuse to come under military authority or engage in military conflict (John 18:36, Php 3:20, 1 Cor 7:23, 2 Cor 6:14, 10:3-4).

### **The Intermediate State**

The dead are unconscious until the resurrection of the body. They do not suffer pain or loneliness and are not aware of the passing of time (Ps 6:5, 115:17, Eccl 9:5, 10).

### **The Second Coming**

The return of Jesus Christ will be personal, visible, and pre-millennial. He will come again to set up His earthly kingdom and judge the living and the dead (Act 1:11, Rev 1:7, 11:15).

### **The Resurrections**

God will resurrect everyone who has ever lived according to a set plan. Those who belong to Christ will be resurrected to eternal life at His return; they will reign with Christ as kings and priests for a thousand years. After Christ's millennial rule is over, all of the dead will be restored to physical life and judged according to their works (Dan 12:2-3, John 5:28-29, 1 Cor 15:22-23, 50-52, 1 Thes 4:16-17, Rev 20:4-6, 11-12).

### **Final Judgment**

God will provide an opportunity for salvation to every human being. Those who did not have an opportunity in this life, will receive their one and only chance at the second resurrection after Christ's millennial rule. Those who reject salvation will be destroyed by a second death in the lake of fire from which there will be no resurrection. (John 12:32, Ezek 37:13-14, Mal 4:1, Matt 10:28, Heb 10:26-27, Rev 20:13-15)