# **Statement of Faith**

A brief statement on what we believe



**Psalms 124:8** "Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth."



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### The Bible is God's Word

All scripture is given by inspiration of God (<u>2 Timothy 3:16</u>), meaning the authors were "moved" by The Holy Spirit at the time of writing (<u>2 Peter 1:20-21</u>). We believe the King James Bible (KJV) to be our most faithful and trustworthy Bible translation, purified seven times as quoted by scripture and the final authoritative book for mankind in the last days (<u>Psalms 12:6-7</u>).

### God is Triune in nature

There is only one God who exists simultaneously in three distinct persons (<u>Isaiah 44:6-8</u>; <u>1</u> <u>John 5:7</u>). The Godhead is mentioned in scripture and believers commonly refer to this as the Trinity (<u>Matthew 3:16-17</u>; <u>1 Thessalonians 1:3-6</u>). They are coequal, copowerful, coeternal, and of the same nature {one in essence}.

#### The Father

God the Father is in Heaven upon His throne (<u>Matthew 23:22</u>; <u>Hebrews 12:2</u>). He is Omnipotent (<u>Jeremiah 32:17</u>, <u>32:27</u>), Omnipresent (<u>Psalms 139:7-10</u>; <u>Jeremiah 23:23-24</u>) and Omniscient (<u>1 John 3:20</u>), meaning He is all powerful, He is everywhere and He knows all things. He has sent His Son and the Holy Spirit to administer His salvation to us (<u>John 3:16-18</u>, <u>14:26</u>) and our duty as mankind is to trust and obey God (<u>Ecclesiastes 12:13-14</u>).

#### The Word (The Lord Jesus Christ)

Jesus existed before creation as the Word (<u>John 1:1-4</u>; <u>Colossians 1:16-17</u>) and is the only begotten Son of God the Father (<u>John 1:14</u>). He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary (<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>). He was crucified upon a cross, buried in a tomb and was resurrected on the third day (<u>1 Corinthians 15:1-4</u>). After being carried up into Heaven (<u>Luke 24:50-53</u>), He now sits at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us as our Great High Priest and Advocate (<u>1 Timothy 2:5</u>). He has been given all power in Heaven and on earth and all that is under the earth (<u>Philippians 2:10-11</u>; <u>Hebrews 1:1-5</u>; <u>Revelation 5:1-14</u>).

### The Holy Ghost (Spirit)

The Holy Spirit was sent by God (<u>John 14:26</u>) to convince the world of sin, righteousness and the coming judgment (<u>John 16:7-15</u>). The Holy Spirit will indwell the believer (<u>Romans 8:11</u>), revealing to them the things of God (<u>John 14:26</u>; <u>1 Corinthians 2:12-13</u>) and will continue to work in them to bring about sanctification {the on-going process of being made holy or perfect} (<u>Romans 15:16</u>). He is our Comforter (<u>John 14:16-18</u>).

## Mankind is Sinful by nature

Death entered the world because of Adam's sin and all people have inherited this sinful nature (Romans 5:12). Sin separates us from a Holy God and is best described as man's rebellion against the Creator (Isaiah 59:2). There is no one righteous in God's sight and we have all fallen short of the glory of God (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23). We have broken His law's and have not lived life in accordance to His righteous standards. The consequence of sin is death (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22); sinners will face judgment (Hebrews 9:27; John 3:18, 5:28-29); and the penalty will be eternal separation from God in a place the bible calls "the lake of fire" (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8, 20:11-15).

## Hell is a real place (and can be avoided)

Originally, hell was a place prepared for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41-46), however it is now also a place of eternal damnnation for human sinners (Matthew 23:33; Revelation 21:8). Hell is mentioned many times in scripture and is described as a place of everlasting fiery punishment, torment and destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:10). In the end, God will give sinners what they want ...an eternity without Him. Those who do not believe God's plan of salvation and reject Jesus' sacrifice on the cross are destined to spend eternity in hell, specifically referred to as "the lake of fire" (John 3:18, 3:36; Revelation 20:11-15). This is a serious issue and is the reason for spreading the Gospel of salvation, and that is to save people from going to this place!

### The Resurrection

Jesus was crucified and buried in a tomb (Matthew 27:32-66; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:28-42). He rose from the dead in His physical body on the third day (Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12, 24:39; John 2:19-22, 20:25-29) and appeared to many witnesses (Matthew 28:9-20; Mark 16:9-18; Luke 24:13-49; Acts 1:3, 10:39-41) before being carried up into Heaven (Luke 24:50-53). Salvation is received by confession and believing in the resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

## Saved by Grace through Faith

Salvation is not of works. That is to say, a person can not earn their way into heaven by their own merit, good deeds or by following the law (Romans 3:20, 4:1-5, 6:14, 8:1, 11:6; Galatians 3:13-14, 3:21, 5:4; Ephesians 2:8-9). God's word makes it clear that if we break just one law, we are guilty of all (James 2:10).

Salvation is a free gift (Romans 5:9-18, 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9) and it is by God's Grace through our Faith alone that we are saved {by believing that the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay for our sins} (John 1:12; Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 8:12). His sacrifice was a substitution for us where He suffered God's full wrath on our behalf (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 5:21; Hebrews 9:28, 10:12; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18-20; 1 John 2:2).

Even though we are all sinners, anyone that calls on the name of the Lord (<u>Acts 2:21</u>) and puts their trust and faith in Him will be counted as righteous before God because it is His blood that redeems us (<u>Romans 3:23-26</u>; <u>Ephesians 1:6-7</u>; <u>Colossians 1:14</u>, 1:20-21). If you believe in your heart that He died upon the cross as an atonement for your sin; that He was buried; and on the third day God raised Him to life again, you will be forgiven (<u>1 Corinthians 15:1-4</u>). This results in you being born again (<u>John 3:3-5</u>; <u>1 Peter 1:19-23</u>) and becoming a member of the body of Christ known as the Church (<u>1 Corinthians 12:12-27</u>; <u>Ephesians 4:1-16</u>, <u>5:23</u>; <u>Colossians 1:18</u>). The Holy Spirit will indwell you (<u>Romans 8:11</u>) and will lead and guide you until the day of redemption (<u>Romans 15:16</u>; <u>1 Corinthians 2:12-13</u>, <u>6:11</u>; <u>Ephesians 1:13-14</u>; <u>Philippians 1:6</u>).

## Eternal Security (Once saved, Always saved)

Believers can know that they are saved (1 John 5:13).

Once saved, the Holy Spirit will convict a person of their sin, leading them to a natural desire of wanting to live a life free from sin (<u>John 16:8-13</u>; <u>Romans 6:18-22</u>). Even though a Christian can and still does commit sin, their spirit is saved (<u>1 Corinthians 3:10-15</u>, 5:1-5). The Lord Jesus died for ALL our sins - past, present and future (<u>Acts 13:39</u>; <u>2 Corinthians 5:14-15</u>; <u>Hebrews 10:12</u>; <u>1 John 2:2</u>). A believer has therefore been reconciled by the blood of Jesus through which peace has been made (<u>Romans 3:23-26</u>; <u>Ephesians 1:6-7</u>; <u>Colossians 1:14</u>, 1:20-21). They have been justified and sanctified by the Holy Spirit (<u>1 Corinthians 6:9-11</u>), and are sealed by God until the day of redemption (<u>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</u>; <u>Ephesians 1:10-14</u>, 4:30; <u>Philippians 1:6</u>).

A believer cannot lose their salvation. Saved or unsaved, everyone is guilty of sin. Trusting in Jesus and His shed blood on the cross to pay for your sins, is what saves you from hell (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:22).

## Dispensationalism

We believe there are seven dispensations throughout history (<u>Ephesians 1:10</u>), both past and yet to come. Each time period shows a pattern of how God works with people living in the dispensation. The pattern consistently shows a Responsibility; a Failure; a Judgment; and Grace to move on..

We also believe that the Bible teaches a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. These two groups of people are Jew and Gentile, where the Church {Body of believers} will be grafted in with Israel and be fellow heirs in God's Kingdom (Zechariah 4:11-14; Romans 11:1-36; Ephesians 3:1-13; Galatians 3:29; Revelation 11:4).

## Bible Prophecy (The Last Days)

We believe in literal Hermeneutics regarding the interpretation of scripture as opposed to allegorizing passages. This means to explain the original sense, recognizing poetic, parable, allegory and apocalyptic language as it applies to its biblical context. When literal Hermeneutics is used, it will lead to a "Pre-millennial" standpoint. This view of eschatology {the study of Last Things} simply states that in the last days, Jesus will return prior to establishing His 1,000-year {millennial} Kingdom on earth (<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u>, <u>11:1-16</u>, <u>60:14-22</u>, <u>65:18-25</u>; <u>66:18-24</u>; <u>Ezekiel 39:25-29</u>; <u>Joel 3:16-21</u>; <u>Zechariah 8:1-23</u>, <u>14:6-21</u>; <u>Revelation 20:4-6</u>).

#### The Rapture of the Church

In the last days there will be a great departure from the truth where many people will abandon God's ways (Matthew 24:3-12; Romans 1:18-32; 2 Thessalonians 2:3). At this time, which we believe is very soon, Jesus will return to gather His bride {the Church} (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11). While we do not know the day or the hour, we are told to watch and be ready (Matthew 24:36-51, 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:28, 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:7; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3, 16:15). The dead in Christ will be raised, and believers which are alive and remain will be caught up {raptured} to meet Him in the air and forever be with the Lord (Isaiah 26:19-21; Matthew 24:37-42; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

#### The 7-Year Tribulation (the time of Jacob's trouble)

A seven year Tribulation will commence shortly after the rapture of the church during which time God will deal primarily with His ancient people, Israel (<u>Jeremiah 30:1-</u>

24; <u>Daniel 9:24-27</u>, 12:1-13; <u>Luke 21:24</u>; <u>Revelation 6:1-19:21</u>). The tribulation will be a time of God's wrath upon an unbelieving world (<u>Isaiah 26:21</u>). There will be much distress and wickedness in the hearts of people with catastrophic events, the likes of which the world has never seen (<u>Matthew 24:20-22</u>; <u>Mark 13:19</u>). The Tribulation will culminate in the Battle of Armageddon (<u>Ezekiel 38:1-39:2</u>; <u>Joel 3:1-15</u>; <u>Zechariah 14:1-2</u>; <u>Revelation 16:12-16</u>), which will be cut short by the second advent of Christ.

#### The Second Advent (The Return of Jesus)

Jesus will return to earth as The Messiah, feet touching down on the mount of Olives, along with His saints and Holy Angels where every eye shall see Him. He will make war against the Anti-Christ and the ungodly nations (<u>Isaiah 2:6-22</u>, <u>13:9-12</u>, <u>66:15-17</u>; <u>Ezekiel 39:3-6</u>; <u>Joel 2:1-11</u>; <u>Zechariah 14:3-5</u>; <u>Matthew 25:31-46</u>; <u>Revelation 6:12-17</u>, <u>19:11-21</u>) and then establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom. During this dispensation He will rule and reign for a literal 1,000 year period {millennium} and it will be a time of peace and righteousness (<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u>, <u>11:1-16</u>, <u>60:14-22</u>, <u>65:18-25</u>; <u>66:18-24</u>; <u>Ezekiel 39:25-29</u>; <u>Joel 3:16-21</u>; <u>Zechariah 8:1-23</u>, <u>14:6-21</u>; <u>Revelation 20:4-6</u>). Satan will be bound during this time and will be loosed afterwards to deceive the nations once more, and for the last time. This period of rebellious deception will be short lived and the wicked will be destroyed with fire from Heaven (<u>Revelation 20:1-10</u>).

## The Final Judgment

There will be a final "great white throne" judgment (<u>Daniel 12:1-3</u>; <u>Matthew 25:31-46</u>; <u>Hebrews 9:27</u>; <u>2 Peter 3:7</u>; <u>Revelation 20:11</u>) where the dead are judged according to their works (<u>Revelation 20:12</u>). Satan, along with his angels and all the dead whose names are not found written in the Book of Life, will be cast into the lake of fire (<u>Revelation 19:20, 20:10-15</u>). This involves a final resurrection of both the saved and the lost (<u>Acts 24:15</u>). Saved believers will enter into eternal life in God's Kingdom whereas the lost will suffer eternal damnation in the lake of fire (<u>John 5:28-29</u>; <u>Revelation 20:11-15</u>). The earth will be destroyed by fire (<u>Zephaniah 3:8</u>; <u>2 Peter 3:5-12</u>) and there will be a new heaven and a new earth (<u>Isaiah 65:17</u>, <u>66:22</u>; <u>Luke 20:35-36</u>; <u>2 Peter 3:13</u>; <u>Revelation 21:1-4</u>).

#### **Mission Statement**

Our website is dedicated to Christian fundamentals and getting back to basics. However, our goal first and foremost, is the great commission! To spread The Good News of salvation and win {encourage} souls for the Lord.