

# Our Beliefs

## The Scriptures

- ❖ We believe in the authority of the Bible; that it is verbally inspired in all its parts; that it is the product of Spirit-controlled men and is therefore infallible and inerrant in all matters to which it speaks.

## The True God

- ❖ We believe there is one and only one true and living God who is infinite Spirit, Maker and Ruler of heaven and earth, glorious in holiness and worthy of all honor; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who are coexistent, coeternal coequal in every divine attribute and that they exercise distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

## The Holy Spirit

- ❖ We believe in the Holy Spirit, that He is coexistent, coeternal and equal with God the Father and God the Son; that He was active in the Creation; that He restrains evil in the world; that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel; that He is the Agent in new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

## The Devil, or Satan

- ❖ We believe in the reality and personality of Satan; that he was created by God as an angel, but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of the Creator; that he became the god of this age and the ruler of the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire.

## Creation

- ❖ We believe the Biblical account of creation of the physical universe, angels, and man; that this account is the literal and historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve.

## The Fall of Man

- ❖ We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God), but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless estate; that all men sinned in Adam and are therefore sinners by nature and conduct, and are therefore under just condemnation.

## The Virgin Birth

- ❖ We believe that Jesus was conceived in Mary, a virgin, by the Holy Spirit in a supernatural fashion and was born of Mary as no other man was ever born or can be born, and that Jesus is both the Son of God and very God.

## Salvation

- ❖ We believe that salvation from sin is wholly of grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God by the voluntary sacrifice of Himself as our substitute/in our place upon the Cross.

## Resurrection & Priesthood of Christ

- ❖ We believe in the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and that He has ascended to heaven where he now sits enthroned at the right hand of the Father as our Great High Priest.

## Grace & the New Birth

- ❖ We believe in the new birth; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that the one who is born again partakes of the divine nature and receives eternal life; that the new birth is performed by the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth.

## Justification

- ❖ We believe that justification is the act of God whereby He declares the believer to be righteous, not through works, but by faith in the shed blood of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

## Sanctification

- ❖ We believe that sanctification is the setting apart of the believer to God and is accomplished in a three-fold manner: we have been saved from sin's penalty, we are being saved from sin's power, and we shall someday be saved from sin's presence.

## The Security of the Saints

- ❖ We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ so that they are saved once and for all.

## **The Church**

- ❖ We believe in the local church that it is an organized body of immersed believers who are associated with one another for the purposes of spiritual growth and fellowship, observance of the ordinances, the proclamation of the Gospel through its members; that its Biblical officers are pastors and deacons; that it governs itself by congregational rule. We also believe in the unity of all believers in the Church, which is the Body of Christ.

## **Baptism & the Lord's Supper**

- ❖ We believe in two ordinances to be observed by the local church: first, we believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to illustrate our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. We also believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration or remembrance of His death for our sin.

## **Separation**

- ❖ We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and apostasy.

## **Civil Government**

- ❖ We believe that civil government is appointed by God for the good of human society; that we should pray for our governmental officials and conscientiously obey them, except in those things that are opposed to the revealed will of God.

## **Israel**

- ❖ We believe that Israel is the covenant people of God; that she will be gathered from her worldwide dispersion in the Holy Land after the completion of the Church and that she will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

## **Rapture & Subsequent Events**

- ❖ We believe in the Pre-millennial return of Christ, that He will return for His Church and take it to heaven before the Tribulation and that He will return to the earth after the Tribulation to establish His Millennial Kingdom over which He will reign in truth and righteousness.

## **The Righteous & the Wicked**

- ❖ We believe that there is a radical difference between the righteous and the wicked: only those justified by faith in Christ are truly righteous, while those who continue in unbelief live under the wrath of God; following death, the righteous will have everlasting joy, but the wicked will experience eternal suffering.