

THE TENETS OF THE FAITH

The Bible

We believe the entire Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, to be verbally inspired of God, without error in the original writings, and that they are our supreme and final authority in faith and life (II Tim. 3:15-17, II Pet. 1:20-21).

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations - the Law, the Church, and the Kingdom are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; I Cor. 9:17; II Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).

The Godhead

We believe there is but one true and living God (Deut. 6:4, I John 5:20). He is eternal, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the Creator of all things, visible and invisible (Gen. 1:1). In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons--the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (I John 5:7).

We believe Jesus Christ to be the eternal Son of God (Heb. 1:1-3), who became flesh (I John 1:14, Col. 2:9), who was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man (Luke 1:35, Heb.4:14-16); that He died for our sins upon the Cross (I Pet. 2:24) according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice (II Cor. 5:21); and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood, not of their own works (Col. 1:14, Eph. 2:8-9). We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord (I Cor. 15:3-20), in His ascension into Heaven (Acts 1:9), and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate (I John 2:1-2).

We believe the Holy Spirit to be co-equal with the Father and the Son (I John 5:7), He is a person; He is come as the fulfillment of Christ's promise (John 16:7). He regenerates (John 3:3-5), indwells (I Cor. 6:19), seals (Eph. 1:13-14), infills (Eph. 5:18), empowers (Rom. 8:2), and guides the believer (Gal. 5:16, 25).

Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24 hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1:1-2; Ex. 20:11).

Satan

We believe that Satan, a fallen angel, is the author of sin and the Tempter behind the Fall of man: that he is the god of this world (John 14:30), the adversary of Christ and His Church (I Pet. 5:8), and that his destiny is eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Rev.20:10).

Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27); that he sinned (Rom. 3:23, 5:12) and thereby incurred, not only physical death (I Cor. 15:21-22), but also spiritual death which is not annihilation (Luke 16:23, Rev. 21:8), but eternal separation from God (Rev. 20:11-15). We believe that all men are born with a sinful nature, totally depraved, and that all who reach moral responsibility and are not born again, are eternally lost (Rom. 6:23, John 3:18).

Salvation

We believe salvation is by grace through faith plus nothing; works have no part or lot with regeneration (Rom. 3:20-21). We are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8), through faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross (Eph. 1:7). All who are granted saving faith (Phil.1:19; 2 Peter1:1) in Christ, as a gift of God, are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God (John 1:12, 3:5-6). Those born again possess eternal life and are eternally secure (John 5:24, 10:28-29).

We believe that every true believer should apply his life in service for Jesus Christ. Works are the outgrowth of our salvation (Eph. 2:10). While we are saved apart from works, this does not give license to sin. Grace teaches good works (Tit. 2:11-12), and over and above the gift of salvation believers will receive rewards for all work that shall abide (I Cor. 3:12-15).

We believe that those born again possess two natures and that they may be victorious over the old through the power of the new, but that the eradication of the old nature is unscriptural (Rom. 7:15, 8:17).

The Church

We believe that all in this dispensation who have repented and trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, are members of the church, the Body of Christ, that Christ is the Head (Col.1:18) and we are members of His Body, the Church (I Cor. 12:12-27, Eph. 5:25-32).

We believe every believer should unite with a local visible church which we believe is an assembly of baptized believers (I Cor. 1:2, Acts 2:41,47), associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ (I Cor. 11:25); governed by His laws (Matt. 28:20); exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, that its only Scriptural officers are Elders and Deacons, whose qualification, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus(1 Tim.3:1-13; Tit. 1:6-9; Phil.1:1). We believe in the principle of separation of church and state (Matt. 22:21).

We believe that the ordinances of the church are baptism, which is the immersion in water of the believer, in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; (Matt. 28:19-20) (Acts 2:14, 46-47), thus portraying the believers union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4); and the Lord's Supper, which is a provision of bread and wine, representing Christ's broken body and shed blood, partaken of by believers, commemorating the death of their Lord, showing their faith and participating in the merits of His sacrifice, and their dependence on Him for spiritual life. It is to be

preceded by faithful self-examination (I Cor. 11:23-34). We believe the Lord's Supper; also designated 'the breaking of bread ' is to be a weekly remembrance, on every Lord's Day (Acts 20:7).

Future Events

We believe in the "blessed hope," the personal (Acts 1:11), premillennial (II Thess. 2:1-4), and imminent (Matt. 24:26) return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for His saints, in the air (I Thess. 4:14-18). We believe in the personal, visible, and glorious return of Christ to the earth, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel.

We believe that between these events shall occur the seven years of Daniel's seventieth week (Dan. 9:27), the last three and one half years of which mark "The Great Tribulation," culminating in the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-16, 7:14).

The Eternal State

We believe that at death the souls of those who have trusted Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and remain there in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at Christ's coming for the Church (at the " Rapture") , when soul and body will be reunited. We then shall be with Him forever in glory.

We also believe that at death the souls of unbelievers remain in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium when the soul and body will be reunited and cast into the lake of fire -- not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God forever in conscious punishment (Lk. 16:19-26; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23; Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:11-15).