

DOCTRINAL

STATEMENT



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# Scripture

We teach that all Scripture (the 66 book canon) is given by inspiration of God,<sup>1</sup> by which we mean that God superintended human authors so that using their individual human personalities they composed and recorded without error<sup>2</sup> His message to man in the words of the original autographs.

We teach that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice,<sup>3</sup> being fully sufficient for every human need and all that pertains to life and godliness.<sup>4</sup> In matters not addressed by the Bible, what is true and right must be assessed by criteria consistent with the teachings of Scripture.

We teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true contextual and/or prophetic interpretation. The precise meaning is to be found as one diligently applies the literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the leading of the Holy Spirit.<sup>5</sup> It is the responsibility of all believers to give themselves to the diligent study of the word of God in order to be able to ascertain the true intent and meaning

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

<sup>2</sup> Peter 1:20-21 <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 30:5 <sup>5</sup> Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

John 10:35 <sup>35</sup> "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

John 17:17 <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Titus 1:1-2 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 5:18 <sup>18</sup> "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 24:35 <sup>35</sup> "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

John 10:35 <sup>35</sup> "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

<sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

<sup>2</sup> Peter 1:3 <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

<sup>5</sup> John 16:12-15 <sup>12</sup> "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

1 Corinthians 2:7-16 <sup>7</sup> but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; <sup>8</sup> *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; <sup>9</sup> but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." <sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. <sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

of the Scripture,<sup>6</sup> recognizing that proper, accurate application is binding on all generations. However, this personal responsibility does not change the fact that the truth of Scripture always stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

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<sup>6</sup> 2 Timothy 2:15 <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

# The Trinity

We teach that there is one<sup>7</sup> living,<sup>8</sup> sovereign,<sup>9</sup> all-glorious<sup>10</sup> God who is an infinite, all-knowing<sup>11</sup> spirit,<sup>12</sup> perfect in all His attributes and substance, one in essence, eternally existing<sup>13</sup> in three Persons:<sup>14</sup> God the Father, fountain of all being;<sup>15</sup> God the Son, eternally begotten, not made, without beginning, being of one essence with the Father;<sup>16</sup> God the Holy Spirit, proceeding in the full, divine essence, as a person, eternally from the Father and the Son;<sup>17</sup> all of whom are one God deserving precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

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<sup>7</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4 <sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

1 Corinthians 8:4 <sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 16:16 <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>9</sup> Psalm 115:3 <sup>3</sup> But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Isaiah 45:5-7 <sup>5</sup> "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; <sup>6</sup> That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, <sup>7</sup> The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.

<sup>10</sup> Psalm 138:5 <sup>5</sup> And they will sing of the ways of the LORD, For great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> Psalm 139:1-6 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. <sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. <sup>5</sup> You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

<sup>12</sup> John 4:24 <sup>24</sup> "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

<sup>13</sup> Psalm 93:2 <sup>2</sup> Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

Revelation 1:8 <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 28:19 <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 13:14 <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

<sup>15</sup> John 1:18 <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

Acts 2:33 <sup>33</sup> "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

1 Corinthians 8:6 <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 1:23 <sup>23</sup> "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

John 1:14 <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

John 10:30 <sup>30</sup> "I and the Father are one."

Colossians 1:15-16 <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.

<sup>17</sup> Acts 5:3-4 <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? <sup>4</sup> "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

1 Corinthians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

John 14:26 <sup>26</sup> "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:26 <sup>26</sup> "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

# God the Father

We teach that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and directs all things according to His own purpose and grace.<sup>18</sup> By His will all things were created and they continue to exist according to His good pleasure.<sup>19</sup>

We teach that God the Father upholds and sustains all things – from galaxies<sup>20</sup> to subatomic particles,<sup>21</sup> from the forces of nature<sup>22</sup> to the movements of nations,<sup>23</sup> and from the public plans of politicians<sup>24</sup> to the secret acts of solitary persons<sup>25</sup> – all in accord with His eternal, all-wise<sup>26</sup> purposes to glorify Himself, yet in such a way that He never sins,<sup>27</sup> nor ever condemns a person unjustly;<sup>28</sup> but that His ordaining and governing all things is compatible with the moral accountability<sup>29</sup> of all persons created in His image.

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<sup>18</sup> Psalm 145:8-9 <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. <sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

Isaiah 46:9-11 <sup>9</sup> "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; / *am* God, and there is no one like Me, <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; <sup>11</sup> Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it, surely* I will do it.

1 Corinthians 8:6 <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is *but* one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

Ephesians 1:11 <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

<sup>19</sup> Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:31 - 2:1 <sup>1</sup> God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. <sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

Ephesians 3:9 <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things.

Revelation 4:11 <sup>11</sup> "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

<sup>20</sup> Isaiah 40:26 <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these *stars*, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power, Not one *of them* is missing.

<sup>21</sup> Matthew 10:29-30 <sup>29</sup> "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

<sup>22</sup> Psalm 147:15-18 <sup>15</sup> He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. <sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes. <sup>17</sup> He casts forth His ice as fragments; Who can stand before His cold? <sup>18</sup> He sends forth His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.

<sup>23</sup> Psalm 33:10-11 <sup>10</sup> The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. <sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Lamentations 3:37-38 <sup>37</sup> Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded *it*? <sup>38</sup> *Is it* not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?

<sup>24</sup> Revelation 17:16-17 <sup>16</sup> "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. <sup>17</sup> "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

<sup>25</sup> Proverbs 20:24 <sup>24</sup> Man's steps are *ordained* by the LORD, How then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 16:9 <sup>9</sup> The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

<sup>26</sup> Romans 16:27 <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

<sup>27</sup> Deuteronomy 32:4 <sup>4</sup> "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

1 John 1:5 <sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

<sup>28</sup> Romans 1:20 <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 2:11-12 <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God. <sup>12</sup> For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;

<sup>29</sup> Romans 3:19 <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

We teach that His Fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with His elect. As Creator, He is the God of all men,<sup>30</sup> but He is spiritual Father only to believers.<sup>31</sup> He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own.<sup>32</sup> He saves from sin and adopts as His own all who come to Him through Jesus Christ and He becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Romans 1:18-25 <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>31</sup> Romans 8:14 <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

2 Corinthians 6:18 <sup>18</sup> "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

<sup>32</sup> Ephesians 1:4-6 <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

<sup>33</sup> John 1:12-13 <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *EVEN* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 8:15 <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:5 <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Hebrews 12:3-9 <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. <sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; <sup>5</sup> and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; <sup>6</sup> FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

## God the Son

We teach that in the fullness of time<sup>34</sup> God sent forth His eternal Son, the second person of the Godhead, as Jesus the Messiah,<sup>35</sup> conceived by the Holy Spirit,<sup>36</sup> born of the virgin Mary.<sup>37</sup> We teach that, when the eternal Son became flesh,<sup>38</sup> He took on a fully human nature,<sup>39</sup> so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one Person, without confusion or mixture. Thus the Person, Jesus Christ, was and is truly God<sup>40</sup> and truly man,<sup>41</sup> yet one Christ and the only Mediator between God and man.<sup>42</sup>

We teach that Jesus Christ lived without sin, though He endured the common infirmities and temptations of human life.<sup>43</sup> Throughout His ministry He preached and taught with truth and authority unparalleled in human history<sup>44</sup> and worked miracles, demonstrating His divine right and power over all creation.<sup>45</sup>

We teach that His life was governed by His Father's providence with a view to fulfilling Old Testament prophecies concerning the One who was to come.<sup>46</sup> We teach that Jesus Christ suffered voluntarily<sup>47</sup> in fulfillment of God's redemptive plan,<sup>48</sup> that He was crucified under

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<sup>34</sup> Galatians 4:4 <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

<sup>35</sup> John 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Matthew 16:16 <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>36</sup> Luke 1:34-35 <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

<sup>37</sup> Matthew 1:23 <sup>23</sup> "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

<sup>38</sup> John 1:14 <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>39</sup> Hebrews 2:14 <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Hebrews 2:17 <sup>17</sup> Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

<sup>40</sup> John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>41</sup> Philippians 2:6-8 <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>42</sup> 1 Timothy 2:5 <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

<sup>43</sup> Hebrews 4:15 <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

<sup>44</sup> John 7:46 <sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."

Mark 1:27 <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

<sup>45</sup> Matthew 11:4-6 <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. <sup>6</sup> "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

Mark 4:39 <sup>39</sup> And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

<sup>46</sup> Luke 24:25-27 <sup>25</sup> And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>

"Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

<sup>47</sup> John 10:18 <sup>18</sup> "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

<sup>48</sup> Acts 2:23 <sup>23</sup> this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Pontius Pilate,<sup>49</sup> that He died,<sup>50</sup> was buried<sup>51</sup> and on the third day rose from the dead<sup>52</sup> to vindicate the saving work of His life and death<sup>53</sup> and to take His place as the invincible, everlasting Lord of glory<sup>54</sup> guaranteeing the future resurrection to life for all believers.<sup>55</sup> He gave many compelling evidences of His bodily resurrection<sup>56</sup> and then ascended bodily into heaven,<sup>57</sup> where He is seated at the right hand of the Father,<sup>58</sup> interceding for His people<sup>59</sup> on the basis of His all-sufficient sacrifice for sin. He will one day return judging all men, both the saved and unsaved in every generation.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Acts 4:27 <sup>27</sup> "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

<sup>50</sup> John 19:30 <sup>30</sup> "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:3 <sup>3</sup> "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

<sup>51</sup> John 19:40-42 <sup>40</sup> "So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

<sup>52</sup> Matthew 28:6 <sup>6</sup> "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

1 Corinthians 15:4 <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

<sup>53</sup> Romans 4:25 <sup>25</sup> *He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

<sup>54</sup> Philippians 2:9-11 <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 17:31 <sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

<sup>55</sup> John 5:26-29 <sup>26</sup> "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; <sup>27</sup> and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup> and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

Romans 6:5-8 <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

1 Corinthians 15:23 <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

<sup>56</sup> Acts 1:3 <sup>3</sup> To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

<sup>57</sup> Acts 1:9-11 <sup>9</sup> And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

<sup>58</sup> Acts 2:33 <sup>33</sup> "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>59</sup> Romans 8:34 <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

<sup>60</sup> Matthew 25:31-32, 46 <sup>31</sup> "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats... <sup>46</sup> "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Revelation 20:11-15 <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

# God the Holy Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of deity and personality including intellect,<sup>61</sup> emotions,<sup>62</sup> will,<sup>63</sup> eternity,<sup>64</sup> omnipresence,<sup>65</sup> omniscience,<sup>66</sup> omnipotence,<sup>67</sup> and truthfulness.<sup>68</sup> In all the divine attributes He is co-equal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son.<sup>69</sup>

We teach that the Holy Spirit has always been at work in the world, sharing in the work of creation,<sup>70</sup> awakening faith in the remnant of God's people,<sup>71</sup> performing signs and wonders,<sup>72</sup> giving triumphs in battle,<sup>73</sup> empowering the preaching of prophets,<sup>74</sup> and inspiring the writing of Scripture.<sup>75</sup> Yet, when Christ had made atonement for sin, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, He inaugurated a new era of the Spirit by pouring out the promise of the Father on His Church.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 <sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

<sup>62</sup> Ephesians 4:30 <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>63</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:11 <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

<sup>64</sup> Hebrews 9:14 <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

<sup>65</sup> Psalm 139:7-10 <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

<sup>66</sup> Isaiah 40:13-14 <sup>13</sup> Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? <sup>14</sup> With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?

<sup>67</sup> Romans 15:13 <sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>68</sup> John 16:13 <sup>13</sup> "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

<sup>69</sup> Acts 5:3-4 <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? <sup>4</sup> "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

2 Corinthians 13:14 <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

<sup>70</sup> Genesis 1:2 <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Psalm 104:30 <sup>30</sup> You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.

<sup>71</sup> Romans 8:7-9 <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

<sup>72</sup> Judges 14:6 <sup>6</sup> The Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

<sup>73</sup> Judges 3:10 <sup>10</sup> The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

<sup>74</sup> 1 Samuel 10:6 <sup>6</sup> "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man.

<sup>75</sup> 2 Peter 1:21 <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Matthew 22:43-45 <sup>43</sup> He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, <sup>44</sup> 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET "'? <sup>45</sup> "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

<sup>76</sup> Luke 24:49 <sup>49</sup> "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Acts 2:33 <sup>33</sup> "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

We teach that the present ministry of the Holy Spirit inaugurated at Pentecost consists of restraining sin in the world and convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.<sup>77</sup> He also, in the present age, regenerates believers in Christ,<sup>78</sup> baptizes them into the church,<sup>79</sup> the body of Christ, indwells them permanently,<sup>80</sup> illuminates them in their study of Scripture, seals them unto the day of redemption,<sup>81</sup> and bestows spiritual gifts upon each one.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> John 16:7-11 <sup>7</sup> "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

<sup>78</sup> John 3:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

<sup>79</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:13 <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>80</sup> John 14:16-17 <sup>16</sup> "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Romans 8:9 <sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

<sup>81</sup> Romans 8:11 <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Ephesians 4:30 <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>82</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

# Man

We teach that man was created in the image and likeness of God,<sup>83</sup> apart from any evolutionary process.<sup>84</sup> We teach that, although God created man morally upright, he was led astray from God's Word and wisdom by the subtlety of Satan's deceit,<sup>85</sup> and chose to take what was forbidden,<sup>86</sup> and thus declared his independence from, distrust for, and disobedience toward his all-good and gracious Creator. Thus, our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original innocence and communion with God.<sup>87</sup>

We teach that God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify Him, enjoy fellowship with Him, live his life according to His will, and by this accomplish His purpose for man in the world.<sup>88</sup>

We teach that in Adam's sin<sup>89</sup> of disobedience to the revealed will and word of God, man lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death,<sup>90</sup> became subject to the wrath of God,<sup>91</sup> and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace.<sup>92</sup> Man possesses no ability to recover

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<sup>83</sup> Genesis 1:26-27 <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 9:6 <sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

<sup>84</sup> Genesis 2:7 <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

<sup>85</sup> Ecclesiastes 7:29 <sup>29</sup> "Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices."; Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Genesis 3:13 <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

2 Corinthians 11:3 <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

<sup>86</sup> Genesis 2:17 <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:6 <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

<sup>87</sup> Genesis 3:7-8 <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. <sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 5:12 <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

<sup>88</sup> Colossians 1:16 <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Revelation 4:11 <sup>11</sup> "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

<sup>89</sup> Romans 5:12 <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Romans 5:19 <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

<sup>90</sup> Romans 6:23 <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:15 <sup>15</sup> Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Revelation 21:8 <sup>8</sup> "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

<sup>91</sup> Ephesians 2:3 <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

<sup>92</sup> Jeremiah 13:23 <sup>23</sup> "Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.

Romans 8:6-8 <sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

himself, and thus he is hopelessly lost. Man will never seek after God on his own,<sup>93</sup> he is enslaved to sin,<sup>94</sup> spiritual things are complete foolishness to him,<sup>95</sup> his heart is deceitful and desperately sick<sup>96</sup> and will only do evil continually.<sup>97</sup> Therefore, man's salvation is nothing of himself, but wholly by the sovereign act of God through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>98</sup>

We teach that because all men were in Adam, his guilt was justly imputed to every man, and a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages,<sup>99</sup> Jesus Christ being the only exception.<sup>100</sup> All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration.<sup>101</sup> Although man is radically and pervasively depraved, he, by the common grace of God, does not always fulfill his full potential to sin.<sup>102</sup>

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1 Corinthians 2:14 <sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised;

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,; Titus 3:5 <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>93</sup> Romans 3:10-11 <sup>10</sup> as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

<sup>94</sup> John 8:34 <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.;

Romans 6:17 <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

<sup>95</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:18 <sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 <sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

<sup>96</sup> Jeremiah 17:9 <sup>9</sup> "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

<sup>97</sup> Genesis 6:5 <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>98</sup> John 1:13 <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 6:44-45 <sup>44</sup> "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

2 Timothy 2:25 <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

Acts 13:48 <sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

<sup>99</sup> Romans 5:18-19 <sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

<sup>100</sup> Hebrews 4:15 <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

<sup>101</sup> Psalm 14:1-3 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

Romans 3:9-18 <sup>9</sup> What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; <sup>10</sup> as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." <sup>13</sup> "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; <sup>14</sup> "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; <sup>15</sup> "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, <sup>16</sup> DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, <sup>17</sup> AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." <sup>18</sup> "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

# Salvation

We teach that salvation is the free gift of God brought to men by His grace and received by faith alone in Christ, who died for our sins and rose again, apart from any sacraments, good works or human merit.<sup>103</sup>

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Romans 5:10-12 <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

<sup>102</sup> Luke 11:13 <sup>13</sup> "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Romans 1:26-27 <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Romans 2:14-16 <sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, <sup>16</sup> on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

<sup>103</sup> John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 <sup>12</sup> "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 13:38-39 <sup>38</sup> "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup> and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Acts 16:31 <sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Romans 4:4-5 <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## Election

We teach that election is the sovereign act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He will graciously call, regenerate, save, sanctify, and glorify.<sup>104</sup> The basis of God's choosing was His own good pleasure and was not based on anything He saw in man.<sup>105</sup> He did not choose certain men because He saw their faith or knew they would

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<sup>104</sup> Romans 8:28-30 <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:4-11 <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

2 Thessalonians 2:13 <sup>13</sup> But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 Timothy 2:10 <sup>10</sup> For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

<sup>105</sup> John 6:37-39 <sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

John 10:25-29 <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. <sup>26</sup> "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. <sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Romans 9:6-24 <sup>6</sup> But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." <sup>8</sup> That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. <sup>9</sup> For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON." <sup>10</sup>

And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup> for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." <sup>16</sup> So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." <sup>18</sup> So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" <sup>20</sup> On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? <sup>21</sup> Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no man may boast before God. <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

believe. Faith is the gift of God.<sup>106</sup> He did not choose because He saw any goodness in man – “There is none righteous, not even one.”<sup>107</sup> He eternally chose men according to His own will, totally independent of anything in man and to the praise of His glory.<sup>108</sup>

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2 Timothy 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity

<sup>106</sup> Ephesians 2:8 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

Philippians 1:29 <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, Acts 14:27 <sup>27</sup> When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

<sup>107</sup> Romans 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

<sup>108</sup> Ephesians 1:5-6 <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

# Atonement

We teach that the ultimate moving cause of the atonement is found in the good pleasure of God.<sup>109</sup>

God's good pleasure to save sinners by a substitutionary atonement<sup>110</sup> served to express His love and justice. It was the justice of God that required the demands of the law to be met<sup>111</sup> and His love that provided a way of escape for lost sinners.<sup>112</sup> Considering the extent of the sacrifice which Christ paid, the atonement must indeed be the only possible means to the salvation of sinful man.<sup>113</sup> If there were any other way to satisfy the justice of God, it would have been rendered.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Isaiah 53:10 <sup>10</sup> But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. Matthew 11:25-26 <sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. <sup>26</sup> "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. Luke 2:14 <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Ephesians 1:3-14 <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory. Colossians 1:19-20 <sup>19</sup> For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

<sup>110</sup> Isaiah 53:4-6 <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 3:18 <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

<sup>111</sup> Romans 3:21-26 <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>112</sup> Romans 5:8-9 <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.

1 John 4:9-10 <sup>9</sup> By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>113</sup> Luke 24:26 <sup>26</sup> "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

Galatians 3:21-24 <sup>21</sup> Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. <sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

The atonement made propitiation (a wrath satisfying payment) to God, reconciling elect sinners to Himself who were the objects of His judicial wrath. This was accomplished by the sacrificial covering of their sin in satisfaction of God's justice and the righteous demands of His law. The Scripture sets forth the atoning work of Christ as being fully sufficient to accomplish its eternal purpose. Scripture affirms the comprehensive atoning work of Christ as fully accomplishing all that was necessary for the wrath of God to be satisfied (propitiation),<sup>115</sup> our sins to be removed (expiation),<sup>116</sup> our souls to be declared righteous (justification), our relationship restored (reconciliation),<sup>117</sup> and our person to be redeemed (redemption).<sup>118</sup>

Understanding its purpose and effect, the atonement cannot be universal with regard to its redemptive design, but has as its objects those who are brought into the saving grace of God according to the kind intention of His will.<sup>119</sup>

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Hebrews 2:10<sup>10</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Hebrews 9:11-14<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;<sup>12</sup> and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

<sup>114</sup> Matthew 26:38-39<sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."<sup>39</sup> And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:52-54<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."<sup>53</sup> "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"<sup>54</sup> "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, *which say* that it must happen this way?"

Luke 24:26<sup>26</sup> "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

<sup>115</sup> Romans 3:24-25<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;<sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>116</sup> Hebrews 7:26-27<sup>26</sup> For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;<sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Hebrews 9:11-14<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;<sup>12</sup> and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

<sup>117</sup> Romans 5:10<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19<sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,<sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:21-22<sup>21</sup> And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,<sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--.

<sup>118</sup> Matthew 20:28<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Romans 3:24<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:30-31<sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,<sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Ephesians 1:7<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

1 Peter 1:18-19<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

<sup>119</sup> Matthew 1:21<sup>21</sup> "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 20:28<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

# Regeneration

We teach that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the soul is born again and divine life is imparted.<sup>120</sup>

We teach that, apart from the effectual work of the Spirit, no one would come to faith,<sup>121</sup> because all are dead in trespasses and sins.<sup>122</sup> Man is hostile to God,<sup>123</sup> morally unable to submit to God or please Him,<sup>124</sup> because the pleasures of sin appear greater than the pleasures of God.<sup>125</sup> Thus for God's elect, the Spirit triumphs over all resistance,<sup>126</sup> awakens the dead,<sup>127</sup> removes the

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John 10:11, 26 <sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep... <sup>26</sup> "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.

John 15:13-14 <sup>13</sup> "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

Acts 20:28 <sup>28</sup> "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Revelation 5:9 <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Ephesians 1:5-11 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

<sup>120</sup> John 3:3-7 <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Titus 3:5 <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

<sup>121</sup> Acts 11:18 <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Philippians 1:29 <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

<sup>122</sup> Ephesians 2:4-6 <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

<sup>123</sup> Romans 8:7 <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,

Colossians 1:21 <sup>21</sup> And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,

<sup>124</sup> Romans 8:7-8 <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>125</sup> Mark 4:19 <sup>19</sup> but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

<sup>126</sup> Romans 6:17 <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

Romans 8:7-9 <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

<sup>127</sup> Ephesians 2:4-7 <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

blindness,<sup>128</sup> and manifests Christ in such a compellingly beautiful way through the Gospel that He becomes irresistibly attractive to the regenerate heart.

We teach the Holy Spirit does this saving work in connection with the presentation of the Gospel of the glory of Christ.<sup>129</sup> Thus neither the work of the Father in election, nor the work of the Son in atonement, nor the work of the Spirit in regeneration is a hindrance or discouragement to the proclamation of the gospel to all peoples and persons everywhere. On the contrary, this Divine saving work of the Trinity is the warrant and the ground of our hope that our evangelization is not in vain in the Lord. The Spirit binds His saving work to the gospel of Christ, because His aim is to glorify the Christ of the Gospel.<sup>130</sup>

Genuine regeneration will manifest itself in fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct<sup>131</sup> as the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>129</sup> Acts 16:14 <sup>14</sup> A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:1 <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>130</sup> John 16:14 <sup>14</sup> "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

<sup>131</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 <sup>18</sup> Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Galatians 5:17-25 <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. <sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

<sup>132</sup> Ephesians 5:17-21 <sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Philippians 2:12 <sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Colossians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2 Peter 1:4-11 <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. <sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

## Justification

We teach that the justification of sinners is an act of God<sup>133</sup> by which He legally declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins<sup>134</sup> and confess Him as Sovereign Lord.<sup>135</sup> This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man,<sup>136</sup> and involves the imputation of our sins to Christ,<sup>137</sup> and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us.<sup>138</sup> By this means God is enabled to be "just, and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> Romans 3:21-26 <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 8:33 <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

<sup>134</sup> Isaiah 55:6-7 <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Luke 13:3 <sup>3</sup> "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Acts 2:38 <sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19 <sup>19</sup> "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 11:18 <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

Romans 2:4 <sup>4</sup> Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 7:10 <sup>10</sup> For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

<sup>135</sup> Romans 10:9-10 <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:3 <sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:5 <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

Philippians 2:11 <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>136</sup> Romans 3:20 <sup>20</sup> because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 4:6 <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works.

Galatians 2:16 <sup>16</sup> nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

<sup>137</sup> Isaiah 53:11 <sup>11</sup> As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

2 Corinthians 5:21 <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Colossians 2:14 <sup>14</sup> having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

1 Peter 2:24 <sup>24</sup> and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

<sup>138</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:30 <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

2 Corinthians 5:21 <sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

<sup>139</sup> Romans 3:25-26 <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

# Sanctification

We teach that every believer is promised positional, progressive, and ultimate eternal sanctification.<sup>140</sup>

We teach that every believer is sanctified (set apart) unto God by justification and is therefore declared to be holy and identified as a saint. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous, having to do with the believer's standing, not his present walk or condition, and should not be confused with progressive sanctification.<sup>141</sup>

We teach also a progressive sanctification beginning at the point of conversion by which the practice of the believer is continually brought closer to the position he enjoys through justification. Through the empowering of the Spirit and the grace of God the believer is both enabled and compelled to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>142</sup> In this respect, we teach that every saved person is involved in a

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<sup>140</sup> John 17:14-17 <sup>14</sup> "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. <sup>16</sup> "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1 Corinthians 6:11 <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 5:26 <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

Hebrews 10:10-14 <sup>10</sup> By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup> Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; <sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.;

1 John 3:2 <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

<sup>141</sup> Acts 20:32 <sup>32</sup> "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Corinthians 1:2 <sup>2</sup> To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:30 <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

1 Corinthians 6:11 <sup>11</sup> Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 <sup>13</sup> But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Hebrews 2:11 <sup>11</sup> For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 10:10 <sup>10</sup> By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 13:12 <sup>12</sup> Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

1 Peter 1:2 <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

<sup>142</sup> John 17:17-19 <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.;

Romans 6:1-13, 22 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive

daily conflict--the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh—yet adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.<sup>143</sup> Hence, we do not teach a sinless perfection on this earth, but we do teach that the believer's life will necessarily be characterized by the pursuit of holiness.<sup>144</sup>

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to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, <sup>13</sup>and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God... <sup>22</sup>But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.;

Romans 8:29 <sup>29</sup>For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Romans 12:2 <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.;

2 Corinthians 3:18 <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 <sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 5:23 <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>143</sup> Romans 7:14-25 <sup>14</sup>For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. <sup>15</sup>For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. <sup>17</sup>So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. <sup>19</sup>For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. <sup>20</sup>But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>21</sup>I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. <sup>22</sup>For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, <sup>23</sup>but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 5:16-25 <sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. <sup>19</sup>Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:20-24 <sup>20</sup>But you did not learn Christ in this way, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup>and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Philippians 3:12 <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

1 John 3:5-9 <sup>5</sup>You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup>the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup>No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

<sup>144</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 <sup>9</sup>I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup>I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup>But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup>For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup>But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

Titus 1:16 <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

We also teach an ultimate eternal sanctification wherein the believer will experience complete freedom from sin, being transformed in all ways into what he has been declared to be positionally.<sup>145</sup>

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1 John 2:3-6 <sup>3</sup> By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1 John 3:9-10 <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

<sup>145</sup> Hebrews 12:23 <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, Revelation 21:27 <sup>27</sup> and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

# Assurance

We teach that all who are born of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ can have assurance of salvation and are eternally secure in Christ.<sup>146</sup>

We teach that all who are justified will win the lifelong fight of faith. They will persevere in faith and never surrender to the enemy of their souls.<sup>147</sup> This perseverance is the promise of the New Covenant,<sup>148</sup> obtained by the blood of Christ,<sup>149</sup> and worked in us by God Himself.<sup>150</sup> This God-worked perseverance does not serve to diminish our vigilance but only to empower and encourage it.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>146</sup> John 6:37 <sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out; John 10:27-29 <sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

John 17:12 <sup>12</sup> "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:30 <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Timothy 1:12 <sup>12</sup> For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

1 John 5:13 <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

<sup>147</sup> Mark 13:22 <sup>22</sup> for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

Luke 22:31-32 <sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

John 10:27-30 <sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> "I and the Father are one."

Romans 8:29-30 <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Hebrews 3:14 <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

1 John 2:19 <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup> who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 1:6 <sup>6</sup> *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 <sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Peter 1:5 <sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>148</sup> Jeremiah 32:40 <sup>40</sup> "I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

<sup>149</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:25 <sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

<sup>150</sup> Hebrews 13:20-21 <sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, <sup>21</sup> equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>151</sup> Philippians 2:12-13 <sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup> in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

1 Corinthians 15:10 <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

# The Church

We teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one universal Church,<sup>152</sup> the Body and Bride of Christ,<sup>153</sup> with Christ Himself as the all-supplying, all-sustaining, all-supreme, and all-authoritative Head.<sup>154</sup>

We teach it is God's will that the universal Church find expression in local churches<sup>155</sup> in which believers agree together to hear the Word of God proclaimed,<sup>156</sup> to engage in corporate worship,<sup>157</sup> to practice the ordinances of baptism<sup>158</sup> and the Lord's Supper,<sup>159</sup> to build each other's faith through the manifold ministries of love,<sup>160</sup> to hold each other accountable in the

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<sup>152</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 <sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>153</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:2 <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.

Ephesians 5:23-32 <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <sup>29</sup> for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup> FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:7-8 <sup>7</sup> "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." <sup>8</sup> It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

<sup>154</sup> Ephesians 1:22 <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, Ephesians 4:15 <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, Colossians 1:18 <sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

<sup>155</sup> Acts 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.;

1 Corinthians 16:19 <sup>19</sup> The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

<sup>156</sup> Ephesians 4:11-12 <sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

<sup>157</sup> Ephesians 5:18-20 <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Colossians 3:15-16 <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>158</sup> Matthew 28:19 <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

<sup>159</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

<sup>160</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Romans 12:6-8 <sup>6</sup> Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

obedience of faith through Biblical discipline,<sup>161</sup> and to engage in local and world evangelization.<sup>162</sup> The Church is a body in which each member should find a suitable ministry for His gifts;<sup>163</sup> it is the household of God in which the Spirit dwells;<sup>164</sup> it is the pillar and bulwark of God's truth in a truth-denying world,<sup>165</sup> and it is a city set on a hill so that men may see the light of its good deeds and give glory to the Father in heaven.<sup>166</sup>

We teach that Christian baptism by immersion<sup>167</sup> is the solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to new life.<sup>168</sup> It is also a sign of fellowship and

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<sup>161</sup> Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

James 5:19-20 <sup>19</sup> My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 11-13 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst...<sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup> But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 <sup>14</sup> If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. <sup>15</sup> *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

<sup>162</sup> Matthew 28:18-20 <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.";

Colossians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

3 John 1:7-8 <sup>7</sup> For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup> Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

<sup>163</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:13-19 <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be?

<sup>164</sup> Ephesians 2:20 - 3:1 <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

<sup>165</sup> 1 Timothy 3:15 <sup>15</sup> but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

<sup>166</sup> Matthew 5:14-16 <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>167</sup> Acts 8:36-39 <sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> *And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* <sup>38</sup> And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>168</sup> Romans 6:1-11 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

identification with the visible body of Christ,<sup>169</sup> and is a pledge in the presence of God and His saints to live a life of good conscience before Him.<sup>170</sup> Baptism has absolutely no saving merit or regenerative power; salvation is entirely the work of Almighty God in accordance with the eternal decree of the Father,<sup>171</sup> as accomplished on the cross by the Son,<sup>172</sup> and applied by the Holy Spirit.<sup>173</sup>

We teach that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of Christ's death until He comes as the elements are a representation of the flesh and blood of Christ. The Lord's Supper is reserved for those who have been born of the Spirit of God and must always be preceded by sober self-examination.<sup>174</sup> The Lord's Supper is an actual communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way in fellowship with His people.<sup>175</sup>

We teach each local church should recognize and affirm the divine calling of spiritually qualified men to give leadership to the church through the role of pastor-elder in the ministry of the Word and prayer.<sup>176</sup> Additionally, God has also appointed deacons and deaconesses to the operational and administrative responsibilities of the body.<sup>177</sup> Women are not to fill the role of

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Colossians 2:12 <sup>12</sup> having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

<sup>169</sup> Acts 2:41-42 <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>170</sup> 1 Peter 3:21 <sup>21</sup> Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

<sup>171</sup> Ephesians 1:3-6 <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

<sup>172</sup> Romans 5:9-10 <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

<sup>173</sup> Titus 3:5 <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

<sup>174</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28-32 <sup>28</sup> But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. <sup>30</sup> For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

<sup>175</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:16 <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

<sup>176</sup> Acts 6:2-4 <sup>2</sup> So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. <sup>4</sup> "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."; Acts 14:23 <sup>23</sup> When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed

Ephesians 4:11-13 <sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

1 Timothy 5:17 <sup>17</sup> The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

Titus 1:5 <sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

<sup>177</sup> Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 <sup>8</sup> Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, <sup>9</sup> *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. <sup>11</sup> Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. <sup>13</sup> For

pastor-elder nor are they to teach or exercise authority over a man in the local church, but are encouraged to use their gifts in appropriate roles that edify the body of Christ and spread the gospel.<sup>178</sup>

We teach that the early church was given two classes of spiritual gifts: 1) miraculous gifts given primarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles' message; 2) ministering gifts given to equip believers for edifying one another and for accomplishing every facet of the work of the ministry. With the New Testament revelation now complete, Scripture is the sole test of the authenticity of a man's message. The ministering gifts are spiritual graces essential to the life and health of the Church, and will continue to operate until the Lord's return at the end of the age.<sup>179</sup>

We teach that according to clear biblical instruction unrepentant habitual sin should not be tolerated within God's church. Every believer is subject to the body of Christ and every believer is to strive to turn a sinner from the error of his ways. If a person does not repent, upon following the biblical pattern, they are to be put out of the church and treated as an unbeliever.<sup>180</sup>

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those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>178</sup> Acts 9:36, 39 <sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did...<sup>39</sup> So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

1 Corinthians 14:34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

1 Timothy 2:12 <sup>12</sup> But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

Titus 2:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, <sup>4</sup> so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

<sup>179</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 <sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Romans 12:6-8 <sup>6</sup> Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Hebrews 2:3-4 <sup>3</sup> how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup> God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

2 Corinthians 12:12 <sup>12</sup> The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

<sup>180</sup> Matthew 18:15-20 <sup>15</sup> "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. <sup>16</sup> "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. <sup>17</sup> "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. <sup>20</sup> "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

James 5:19-20 <sup>19</sup> My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 11-13 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst...<sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup> But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

Nevertheless the goal of church discipline is to seek the repentance and restoration of the sinning brother.

The mission of the Church is threefold:

1. Exalting the Lord

We teach that it is the primary mission of the church to bring glory to God consistent with His ultimate purpose for all of the created order. The corporate gathering of the Church is primarily and ultimately the exaltation of God in worship, prayer, and the preaching of His word.<sup>181</sup>

2. Edifying the Saints

We teach that the saints are edified through the means of grace by the instruction of the Word,<sup>182</sup> by biblical fellowship,<sup>183</sup> and by the corporate observance of the ordinances.<sup>184</sup>

3. Evangelizing the Lost

We teach that Jesus Christ has given the church an enduring commission to evangelize the lost, with this responsibility extending to every believer. Biblical evangelism must involve

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2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 <sup>14</sup> If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. <sup>15</sup> *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

<sup>181</sup> Romans 11:36 <sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 14:23-25 <sup>23</sup> Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? <sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; <sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you

Ephesians 3:21 <sup>21</sup> to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>182</sup> Ephesians 4:13-16 <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

2 Timothy 2:2 <sup>2</sup> The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:15 <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

<sup>183</sup> Acts 2:42, 46-47 <sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... <sup>46</sup> Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:23-25 <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.;

1 John 1:3 <sup>3</sup> what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

<sup>184</sup> Luke 22:19-20 <sup>19</sup> And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>20</sup> And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Acts 2:41-42 <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

both the spoken word and the unspoken testimony of a life transformed by the grace of God in Christ.<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>185</sup> Matthew 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 <sup>5</sup> for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Peter 2:12 <sup>12</sup> Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:1-2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if *any of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

1 Peter 3:15-16 <sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

## The Christian Life

We teach that believers should be set apart unto the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>186</sup> and affirm that the Christian life is a life of obedient righteousness demonstrated by a continual pursuit of holiness.<sup>187</sup>

We teach that this pursuit of holiness is awakened and sustained by God's Spirit through His Word<sup>188</sup> and prayer.<sup>189</sup> The pursuit of holiness is seen in such practices as prayer, meditation,<sup>190</sup> memorization,<sup>191</sup> evangelism,<sup>192</sup> fasting,<sup>193</sup> and Bible study.

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<sup>186</sup> Ephesians 4:17-24 <sup>17</sup> So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you did not learn Christ in this way, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>187</sup> Matthew 5:2-12 <sup>2</sup> He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:14 <sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Titus 2:11-14 <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1 John 3:1-10 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. <sup>4</sup> Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

<sup>188</sup> John 17:17 <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1 Peter 2:2 <sup>2</sup> like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

<sup>189</sup> Ephesians 6:18-19 <sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Philippians 4:6 <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>190</sup> Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he

In this pursuit of holiness the believer is not to withdraw in isolation from the world; rather the world is his God-ordained place of ministry as he exposes the deeds of darkness and brings the gospel message to the whole world.<sup>194</sup>

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prosper.; Psalm 119:48 <sup>48</sup> And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Your statutes.

Psalm 119:78 <sup>78</sup> May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; *But* I shall meditate on Your precepts.

Philippians 4:8 <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

<sup>191</sup> Psalm 37:30-31 <sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. <sup>31</sup> The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.; Psalm 119:11 <sup>11</sup> Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.; Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,

Colossians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

<sup>192</sup> Matthew 28:19-20 <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."; Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 <sup>5</sup> for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Peter 2:12 <sup>12</sup> Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:1-2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

1 Peter 3:15-16 <sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

<sup>193</sup> Nehemiah 1:4 <sup>4</sup> When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Matthew 6:16-18 <sup>16</sup> "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

Mark 2:18-20 <sup>18</sup> John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

Acts 14:23 <sup>23</sup> When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

<sup>194</sup> Matthew 5:13-16 <sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

John 17:15 <sup>15</sup> "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 <sup>9</sup> I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup> I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

Ephesians 5:1-17 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. <sup>3</sup> But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; <sup>4</sup> and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partakers with them; <sup>8</sup> for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds

We teach that God's abounding grace will so transform the believer's heart that he longs to live his or her life in a manner which demonstrates adoring love to God. His grace makes sin distasteful and righteousness a treasure to be sought.<sup>195</sup>

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of darkness, but instead even expose them; <sup>12</sup> for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. <sup>14</sup> For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup> Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

<sup>195</sup> Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 <sup>9</sup> I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup> I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. <sup>12</sup> For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? <sup>13</sup> But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1 <sup>14</sup> Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. <sup>17</sup> "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. <sup>18</sup> "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1 John 2:15-17 <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

# Angels

## Holy Angels

We teach that angels are created spirit beings and are therefore not to be worshipped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they cannot procreate and have been created to serve God and to worship Him.<sup>196</sup>

## Fallen Angels

We teach that Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, as a created being is eternally subject to the sovereignty of God.<sup>197</sup> Satan and the other fallen angels (demons) are the open and

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<sup>196</sup> Psalm 103:20-21 <sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! <sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.

Luke 2:9-14 <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> "This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Hebrews 1:6-7, 14 <sup>6</sup> And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." <sup>7</sup> And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."... <sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 2:5-9 <sup>5</sup> For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? <sup>7</sup> "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; <sup>8</sup> YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. <sup>9</sup> But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Revelation 5:11-14 <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." <sup>13</sup> And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Revelation 19:10 <sup>10</sup> Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 22:9 <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

<sup>197</sup> Job 1:6-12 <sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." <sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." <sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup> "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1-6 <sup>1</sup> Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." <sup>3</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." <sup>4</sup> Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." <sup>6</sup> So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

declared enemies of God and man.<sup>198</sup> Having been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>199</sup> they, being unredeemable, shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>198</sup> Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Revelation 12:9, 17 <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.... <sup>17</sup> So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

<sup>199</sup> John 12:30-31 <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. <sup>31</sup> "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

<sup>200</sup> Ezekiel 28:11-19 <sup>11</sup> Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>12</sup> "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. <sup>14</sup> "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup> "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. <sup>16</sup> "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>17</sup> "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. <sup>18</sup> "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. <sup>19</sup> "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified And you will cease to be forever.'"

Matthew 25:41 <sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Revelation 20:10 <sup>10</sup> And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

## Death and End Times

We teach that physical death involves a separation of soul and body with no loss of immaterial consciousness. The souls of the unsaved are held in torment awaiting final judgment,<sup>201</sup> while the souls of the redeemed are made perfect in holiness,<sup>202</sup> are received into paradise,<sup>203</sup> and are taken consciously into the presence of Christ, which is more glorious and more satisfying than any experience on earth.<sup>204</sup>

We teach that at the end of the age Jesus Christ will return to this earth personally,<sup>205</sup> visibly,<sup>206</sup> physically,<sup>207</sup> and suddenly in power and great glory<sup>208</sup> to translate His Church from this earth<sup>209</sup> and so the saints shall always be with the Lord.

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<sup>201</sup> Luke 16:19-26 <sup>19</sup> "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. <sup>20</sup> "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. <sup>22</sup> "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' <sup>25</sup> "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> "And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.'

<sup>202</sup> Hebrews 12:22-23 <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,

<sup>203</sup> Luke 23:43 <sup>43</sup> And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

<sup>204</sup> Philippians 1:23 <sup>23</sup> But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better;

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 <sup>6</sup> Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight-- <sup>8</sup> we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

<sup>205</sup> Acts 1:9-11 <sup>9</sup> And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

<sup>206</sup> Mark 14:61-62 <sup>61</sup> But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

<sup>207</sup> Philippians 3:20-21 <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

<sup>208</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Luke 21:27 <sup>27</sup> "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

<sup>209</sup> John 14:1-2 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you;

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 - 5:11 <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words. <sup>5:1</sup> Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While

We teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to an eternal life in God's presence,<sup>210</sup> and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment cut off from the life of God forever.<sup>211</sup>

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they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; <sup>6</sup> so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. <sup>210</sup> John 6:39 <sup>39</sup>"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

Romans 8:10-11 <sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:19-23 <sup>19</sup> For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

2 Corinthians 4:14 <sup>14</sup> knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

<sup>211</sup> Daniel 12:2 <sup>2</sup> "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

John 5:28-29 <sup>28</sup> "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup> and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15 <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

## Glossary

**Angel:** A created spiritual being with moral judgment and high intelligence but without a physical body.

**Atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.

**Baptism in/with the Holy Spirit:** The work of the Holy Spirit in placing the believer into union with Christ as the Head and with other believers as the Body of Christ.

**Body of Christ:** A scriptural metaphor for the church. This metaphor is used in two different ways, one to stress the interdependence of the members of the body, and one to stress Christ's headship of the church.

**Church:** All believers who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who are united in one body with Christ as the head are called the church of Christ. The word also refers to the local congregation of believers, or a denomination.

**Common grace:** The grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation.

**Consubstantial:** A term referring to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit being of the same substance or essence.

**Conversion:** Our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.

**Corporate worship:** The gathering of believers to give God all honor, praise, adoration, and glory due Him.

**Day of Redemption:** The final and complete consummation of the believer's salvation and redemption which will take place upon the return of Christ and for which believer's eagerly wait.

**Death:** The termination of our bodily life brought about by the entrance of sin into the world. For the Believer, death brings him into the presence of God because of Christ's payment of the penalty of our sins. For the Unbeliever, death brings him into eternal separation from God in a conscious state of punishment in hell.

**Deacon/Deaconess:** A translation of the Greek *diakonos* ("servant"). In certain contexts the term refers to a church officer whose responsibilities involve various forms of service including financial oversight, administrative responsibilities, and caring for the physical needs of the congregation.

**Deeds of Darkness:** Another term for sin.

**Deity:** That quality possessed by God alone that distinguishes Him from every other thing. It is the essential nature that makes God what He is.

**Effectual work of the Spirit:** The work of the Holy Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he both persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

**Elect:** The people God chose before creation to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.

**Evangelism:** The proclamation of the gospel to unbelievers.

**Expiation:** The release, cancellation, and removal of sin. This a work of Christ directed to man for removal of guilt. Christ removes the penalty of sin from us.

**Grace:** God's goodness to those who deserve only punishment.

**Heaven:** The place where God most fully makes known his presence to bless. It is in heaven where God most fully reveals his glory and where angels, other heavenly creatures, and redeemed saints all worship him.

**Holiness:** The attribute of God whereby He is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

**Illumination:** The ministry of the Holy Spirit in enlightening the believer, enabling the believer to understand the Word of God.

**Image of God:** The nature of man such that he is like God and represents God.

**Impute:** To think of as belonging to someone and therefore to cause it to belong to that person. God reckons Adam's sin as belonging to us, and it therefore belongs to us. In justification, God thinks of Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and on that basis he declares that it belongs to us, and therefore it does.

**Infallible:** The idea that Scripture is not able to lead us astray in matters of faith and practice.

**Justification:** An instantaneous legal act of God in which He 1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and 2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.

**Literal grammatical-historical method:** A method of interpretation that means 1) we take the words for what they mean in their normal, or plain sense, 2) we follow the grammatical rules of literature, and 3) we seek with diligence to determine the historical background and context before rendering an interpretation.

**Mediator:** The role that Jesus plays in coming between God and us, enabling us to come into the presence of God.

**New Covenant:** The administration of the covenant of grace established after the death and resurrection of Christ, a covenant in which Christ's atoning death covers all of the believer's sins and the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to fulfill the righteous demands of the law.

**Pastor-Elder:** Terms used interchangeably with "overseer" to refer to the main governing office of a local church in the New Testament.

**Propitiation:** A sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor.

**Reconciliation:** The removal of enmity and the restoration of fellowship between two parties; in the atonement, we were reconciled to God.

**Redemption:** The act of buying back sinners out of their bondage to sin and to Satan through the payment of a ransom.

**Regeneration:** A secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us; sometimes called "being born again."

**Repentance:** A heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

**Resurrection:** A rising from the dead into a new kind of life not subject to sickness, aging, deterioration, or death.

**Righteousness:** The attribute of God whereby he always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.

**Sacrifice:** Christ's death on the cross viewed from the standpoint that he paid the penalty that we deserved.

**Satan:** The personal name of the head of the demons.

**Sealing of the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit is the pledge or guarantee that the believer will enter into his completed redemption at the return of Christ.

**Sin:** Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature.

**Sovereign:** A term referring to the fact that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens in this universe without His direction or permission. He is a God who works, not just some things, but all things after the counsel of His own will.

**Spiritual gifts:** The "grace gifts" that are sovereignly given to believers by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation as a special ability for service to God and to others, particularly believers.

**Universal Church:** The universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, which were purchased for God with Christ's blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

**Wrath of God:** The attribute of God whereby He intensely hates all sin.

# Church Covenant

We are those who by God's grace have been brought to believe and embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. His death and resurrection is now and always our only hope for salvation and our daily motivation to live for God's glory. We have professed and proclaimed these realities in baptism and have been brought by God's providence to this local body. We now, in reliance on God's gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully covenant with and commit to each other in the following ways:

I will live a life of love and care for my fellow believers in this body...

- ...by bringing them before the throne of grace in prayer.
- ...by compassionately meeting whatever needs I am able.
- ...by encouraging, exhorting, and confronting others as needed.
- ...by rejoicing and weeping with my fellow believers in brotherly love.
- ...by seeking to preserve unity and peace in my relationships.

I will function biblically within this body corporately...

- ...by faithfully attending and genuinely participating in the essentials of church life.
- ...by seeing needs and seeking to meet them in humble service.
- ...by engaging mentally, physically and spiritually in all aspects of corporate worship.
- ...by sacrificially and cheerfully giving of my finances.
- ...by following and submitting to the elders.
- ...by submitting to and participating in whatever church discipline is necessary.

I will join with this body in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in Auburn and the surrounding areas...

- ...by praying for God's gracious and saving work in those around me.
- ...by striving to live a life of grace-motivated holiness.
- ...by faithfully training and instructing my children.
- ...by genuinely loving and serving those in my community.
- ...by proclaiming the saving gospel of Jesus Christ to those around me.