

# **DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

**Submitted to Ordination Council Members**

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MIDLAND, MICHIGAN**

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## Testimony and Call

I was saved when I was eight years old. I remember lying in bed being concerned that I would go to hell if I died. I knew what it meant to be saved, so I went out in the hallway that night and asked Jesus to save me. I had been baptized earlier because I had made a profession of salvation when I was five years old. While I was in college I began to feel conviction concerning the need to be baptized again. I knew that baptism was a testimony of salvation and should be done after salvation. I was baptized again during my college years.

I grew up in a wonderful Christian home. My father was a Christian school teacher. When I was 15 years old, we moved to Chile as missionaries. I lived in Chile for two years and during that time I learned to speak Spanish fluently. I remember thinking when I left Chile that I would be willing to go into full-time ministry but that I didn't want to go back to Latin America.

I attended Bob Jones University from 1994-1998. In the summer of 1996, I went for the first time to Northland Camp as a counselor. It was there that God put a great desire in my heart for full-time ministry. I left Northland Camp that summer convinced that I should pursue full-time ministry. In 1998, I graduated from Bob Jones University with a degree in Social Studies Education.

From 1998-2001, I traveled with Evangelist Steve Pettit. In those three years God gave me a great burden for evangelistic and revival ministry. I also began to get burdened about going back to Latin America. In December of 1998, I took a trip to Peru, and God stirred my heart to consider the ministry of evangelism in Peru. I've had the opportunity to go back to Peru twice since then to preach evangelistic meetings for churches.

I got to know Cheryl while traveling with the Pettit Team, and we got married in 2001. We spent the next two and a half years in Lansdale, Pennsylvania while I pursued a Master of Arts in Theology from Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary. I have finished my work for that degree and will receive the degree next month.

We believe God is leading us into evangelism in Latin America. We are making plans to be in Peru full-time by July of 2006.

# Bibliology

## The Doctrine of the Scriptures

### God's Revelation

- **General revelation** is that which can be known about God by observing creation. According to Romans 1:18-20, it renders man without excuse concerning the wrath of God. (Acts 14:16-17, Romans 2:14-16)
- **Special Revelation** is God's revelation of Himself in His Word, the Bible.

### Inspiration

- The word inspiration means "God-breathed." "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). Peter says, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). (Acts 1:16, Hebrews 1:1, I Corinthians 2:13, Mark 12:36)
  - Man was not a passive agent. Inspiration does not mean passive dictation. (II Peter 3:15-16)
- Inspiration was both **verbal** (every word) and **plenary** (whole). "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). "Every word of God is pure..." (Proverbs 30:5). "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (II Timothy 3:16). (Galatians 3:16, Revelation 22:18-19)

### Canonicity

- A canon is a measuring rod or a rule. The canon of Scripture includes the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The canon of Scripture was determined by God and recognized by man.
- Christ assumed the authority of the Old Testament.
  - In Luke 24:44, Christ identified the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, which are the three main divisions of the Old Testament.
  - Christ often quoted the Old Testament. (Matthew 21:42 – Psalm 118:22-23, Luke 4:16-21 – Isaiah 61:1-2)
- In II Peter 3:15-16, Peter places the writings of Paul on the same plane as the Old Testament Scriptures.
- There are **four tests of canonicity** when considering whether a book should be included in the Scriptures.
  - Is it Apostolic? Was its human author an apostle or someone with apostolic authority?
  - Is it Authentic? Does it agree with the whole of Scripture?
  - Is it Dynamic? Is the power of God evident in its pages?
  - Was it received, used, and preserved by God's people?
- I do not believe the Apocryphal books should be considered as part of Scripture. Neither the Jews nor Jesus accepted them on par with the Old Testament Scripture.

## **Inerrancy**

- The Bible, in its original autographs, is totally accurate and without error. (Proverbs 30:5)

## **Authority**

- The human writers of the Bible recognized that their words came from God. (Isaiah 1:2, Jeremiah 1:1-2) The Bible is authoritative because God is its author.

## **Preservation**

- Although inerrancy applies only to the original autographs, God has chosen to preserve His Word as promised in Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.” We can confidently claim that we have the Word of God in our language in the faithful, literal translations that we possess. (Psalm 119:89, Luke 16:17, I Peter 1:23-25)
- I believe the King James Version of the Bible is a good translation. I do not believe it is the only translation that has value for us today.

## **Interpretation**

- Scripture should be interpreted literally, historically, grammatically, and contextually. (II Timothy 2:15) When a Christian interprets the Bible he should be careful to seek the illumination of the Holy Spirit in order to accurately interpret the Scripture. (John 16:13-14, John 14:26)

## **Application**

- James commands us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. (James 1:22) Believers ought to be in the habit of daily, personally applying Scripture. (Hebrews 4:12-13, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:9, Joshua 1:8, James 1:22)

# Theology

## The Doctrine of God

### The Existence of God

- The Bible assumes and affirms the existence of God. “In the beginning **God**...” Psalm 14:1 states that it is the fool who says in his heart that God doesn’t exist. “Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things...” (Isaiah 40:26). (Acts 14:17)
- Creation points to the existence of God. “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...” (Romans 1:20). “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). (Hebrews 3:4)
- The nature of man points to the existence of God.
  - Man possesses a sense of morality. (Romans 2:14-15) Man has a conscience. These facts evidence that there must be a God who has created these.
  - Man’s sense of purpose is evidence for the existence of a creator.

### The Nature of God

- **God is a Unity.** “Hear, O Israel; the LORD our God is one LORD” (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Scripture repeats often that we serve one God, and none else. (Isaiah 45:5-6, Isaiah 45:14, I Corinthians 8:6, James 2:19)
- **God is a Trinity.** Even though God is One, He exists in three Persons.
  - The Father is God. (John 6:27, I Peter 1:2, I Corinthians 8:6)
  - The Son is God.
    - Thomas recognized him as God. (John 20:28)
    - He demonstrated attributes that belong only to God:
      - ◇ Omniscience – “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, ‘Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?’” (Matthew 9:4).
      - ◇ Omnipotence – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth’” (Matthew 28:18).
    - He forgave sin which only God can do. (Mark 2:1-12)
  - The Holy Spirit is God.
    - Peter speaks of the Holy Spirit as being God. (Acts 5:3-4)
    - Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit is one with God. (I Corinthians 2:10-11)
    - He demonstrates attributes that belong only to God.
      - ◇ Omnipresence – “Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or, whither shall I flee from Thy Presence?” (Psalm 139:7).
      - ◇ Omniscience (I Corinthians 2:10-11)

**The Natural Attributes of God-** these are the attributes of God that belong to Him alone. Man cannot nor ever will be able to possess these characteristics.

- **God is Eternal and Infinite.**
  - He has always existed. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). (Genesis 21:33, Habakkuk 1:12)

- He is not bound by time. “For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night” (Psalm 90:4).
- **God is Immutable.**
  - God is unchanging and unchangeable in character. He doesn’t grow or develop. (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17)
  - There are occasions in the O.T. in which God changed his mind (or his plans) concerning his treatment of man. (Jonah 3:10, Exodus 32:14) This does not contradict the immutability of God since it does not concern the character of God; instead, it highlights the mercy of God.
- **God is Free.**
  - God is independent of all His creatures in that He is above His creation. (Isaiah 57:15, Isaiah 40:13-14)
- **God is Omniscient.**
  - God knows all of the past, present, and future. (Acts 15:18, Psalm 147:4-5, Isaiah 46:10, Hebrews 4:13, Romans 11:33-34)
  - God knows those things which might have happened. (Matthew 11:21)
- **God is Omnipresent.**
  - God is everywhere at all times in all of His being. (Jeremiah 23:23-24, Psalm 139:7-10)
- **God is Omnipotent.**
  - The Bible declares 56 times that God is “Almighty.” This word is used of no one else but God.
  - God’s omnipotence is seen in His power to create (Genesis 1:1), in His power to maintain all that He has created (Hebrews 1:3), and in His providential care for us. (Psalm 118:6)
- **God is Sovereign.**
  - God is the Supreme Being in the universe. His authority is total and absolute. Nothing is out of God’s control and His plans will ultimately triumph. (Isaiah 14:26-27, Acts 2:23, Daniel 4:25, Ephesians 1:11)
  - There are two realities that seem to conflict with the truth of God’s sovereignty: the free will of man and the power of prayer.
    - God has given man the ability to make choices, and in a fallen state, man often chooses sin over and against the desire of God. (Matthew 23:37)
    - Prayer is not just the exercise of conforming our will to the will of God; it is also the earnest plea for God to do something with the hope that He will choose to work on our behalf. (Genesis 18:22-33, II Corinthians 1:10-11)

**The Moral Attributes of God**- these are the attributes that God demonstrates in His dealings with mankind. We ought to strive to be like God in the demonstration of these attributes. These work in conjunction with each other in God’s dealings with us.

- **Holiness**
  - Holiness is the absence of sin and the presence of complete righteousness. God is “set-apart” from sin. (Psalm 99:5, I Peter 1:16)
- **Justice and Righteousness**

- Justice and Righteousness describe God's holiness in His dealings with man. God always does right and He carries out the laws which He has imposed. (Deuteronomy 32:4, II Timothy 4:8)
- There is coming a day in which God's justice and righteousness will be fully revealed. (Acts 17:31)
- **Love**
  - Love is that which seeks the good of another. Because God is Love, He seeks the good (God's will) of mankind. (John 3:16) His love is best demonstrated in that Jesus died for sinners. (I John 3:16)
- **Mercy**
  - Mercy is God's compassion for sinners in not giving them what they deserve. (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- **Grace**
  - Grace is God's goodness in giving sinners much better than they do deserve. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **Truth**
  - God is consistent with Himself in everything that He does and says. God is always honest. He cannot lie. What He has promised He will do. What He has revealed to us cannot be false. (Deuteronomy 32:4, Numbers 23:19, John 17:17)

# **Christology**

## **The Doctrine of Christ**

Jesus Christ is unique. He is a divine-human being. There has never been another like Him nor will there ever be. He is the central theme of the entire Scripture. He came to earth for the purpose of dying for our sins so that we might have eternal life.

### **The Nature of Christ**

- Christ was 100% God and 100% man. Without diminishing either His perfect deity or His complete humanity He lived in one body on this earth as both God and man.

### **The Deity of Christ**

- Jesus Christ existed as God before His own birth. “Jesus said unto them, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am’” (John 8:58).
- Proofs of Christ’s deity
  - Jesus asserted His own deity. “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). (John 5:18)
  - The writers of Scripture asserted His deity. (John 1:1, Romans 9:5, Philippians 2:6)
  - He forgave sins. (Mark 2:5)
  - He had the power to raise people from the dead. (John 5:25-26)
  - He was involved in creation. (John 1:3)
  - He was worshipped. (Philippians 2:11-13, Hebrews 1:6)
  - He was given names of deity. (Hebrews 1:8, Revelation 19:16)
  - He was sinless. (II Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15)
- The Kenosis of Christ
  - In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul explains that Jesus, who was equal with God, humbled himself to become a man. Jesus did not give up the attributes of His deity. He gave up the unlimited expression of those attributes to become fully man.

### **The Humanity of Christ**

- Though Jesus Christ was fully God, He was also fully man. The one exception is that He was without sin.
- Jesus was born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35) He had no earthly father. (Matthew 1:16)
- Proofs of Christ’s humanity
  - He had a human body. (Luke 2:52, Matthew 1:18)
  - He experienced the physical needs of a human being.
    - He got hungry. (Matthew 4:2)
    - He got thirsty. (John 19:28)
    - He got tired. (John 4:6)
  - He experienced the emotions of a human being.
    - He felt compassion. (Matthew 9:36)

- He expressed love. (John 15:12-13)
- He felt temptation. (Hebrews 4:15)
- He performed human activities.
  - He prayed. (Mark 1:35)
  - He talked. (Luke 21:29)
- He had human names.
  - Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:22)
  - Son of David (Mark 10:47)

### **The Life and Work of Christ**

- He was born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:35)
- He lived on this earth doing good and performing miracles. (Acts 10:38)
- He died on a cross for our sins. (I Corinthians 15:3, Matthew 27:35)
- He rose from the dead. (I Corinthians 15:4, Mark 16:6)
- He ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)
- He intercedes for us. (Hebrews 7:25, I Timothy 2:5)
- He will meet His church in the rapture. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- He will return to earth bodily to set up His millennial kingdom. (Revelation 20:6)
- He will be the object of glory and honor in heaven forever. (Philippians 2:9-11, Revelation 5:12)

### **The Offices of Christ**

- Christ was a Prophet. (Luke 24:19, Matthew 13:57)
- Christ is a Priest.
  - He stood in the line of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:10) He made the final sacrifice for our sins when He died on the cross.
  - He stands now as our advocate before the Father (I John 2:1) making intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)
- Christ is a King. (Revelation 19:16)
  - He has the right to reign over Israel and over the entire earth.

# **Pneumatology**

## **The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

**Pneumatology** is the study of the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

### **The Holy Spirit is a Person**

- **He has the characteristics of a person.**
  - He demonstrates intelligence in that He knows the things of God. (I Corinthians 2:10-11)
  - He feels emotions in that He can be grieved. (Ephesians 4:30)
  - He demonstrates a will in that He chooses what spiritual gifts to give to individuals. (I Corinthians 12:11, Acts 15:28)
  - He prays for us. (Romans 8:26)
  - He performs miracles. (Acts 8:39)
  - He commands. (Acts 8:29)
  - He loves. (Romans 15:30)
- **He is designated a person.**
  - The masculine pronoun “He” is used to designate the Holy Spirit. “Howbeit, when **He**, the Spirit of Truth, is come, **He** will guide you into all truth...” (John 16:13). (John 14:26, Ephesians 1:14)
  - He is related to people in such a way that makes it logical to assume that He is a person. “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things” (Acts 15:28). (Matthew 28:19, John 16:14)

### **The Holy Spirit is God**

- **He has characteristics possessed only by God.**
  - He knows the things of God in a way that man cannot. (I Corinthians 2:11)
  - He demonstrates omnipresence. (Psalm 139:7-10)
  - He is involved in creation. (Psalm 104:30)
  - He is involved in regeneration. (John 3:5-6)
  - He is eternal. (Hebrews 9:14)
  - He is truth. (I John 5:6)
- **He is associated on an equal plane with the other persons of the Trinity.**
  - In the baptismal formula (Matthew 28:19)
  - In Paul’s benediction (II Corinthians 13:14)
  - In Peter’s words to Ananias (Acts 5:3-4)

### **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

- **His work in the Old Testament**
  - He was involved in creation. (Job 33:4, Psalm 104:30, Genesis 1:2)
  - He was involved in revelation. (II Peter 1:21, Micah 3:8, Acts 1:16)
  - He indwelt specific individuals. (Joshua- Numbers 27:18, Daniel- Daniel 4:8, David- I Samuel 16:13)
  - He empowered individuals for special tasks. (Judges 6:34, Exodus 31:3)

- **His work in the life of Christ**
  - In the virgin birth - Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35)
  - In Christ's anointing for ministry (Luke 4:18)
  - The Holy Spirit filled Christ and led Him. (Luke 4:1)
- **His work in salvation**
  - He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. (John 16:8)
  - He is involved in regeneration. (John 3:5, Titus 3:5)
  - He indwells the believer at salvation. (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Romans 8:9, Ephesians 1:13, John 14:16-17)
    - In Acts 19, the story in Ephesus is an exception to the norm since it is part of the transitional period of the early church.
  - He baptizes us into the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13)
  - He seals us. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
    - The Holy Spirit indwelling us as at salvation will last until eternity. His presence in us is the guarantee that we will live with God forever in heaven one day.
- **His work in the life of the Christian**
  - He gives spiritual gifts. (I Corinthians 12:11)
    - I do not believe that the sign gifts of healing and speaking in tongues are part of the Holy Spirit's ministry today. They were given to the early church as a means of authenticating the gospel. (I Corinthians 14:21-22, Hebrews 2:1-4) I believe that the completion of the New Testament rendered these unnecessary.
  - He fills the believer. (Ephesians 5:18)
    - To be filled with the Spirit is to be under the control of the Spirit. The necessity of being filled by the Spirit is ongoing as indicated by the verb structure in Ephesians 5:18 and by the illustration of the early church. (Acts 2:4; 4:31)
  - He guides. (John 16:13, Acts 8:29)
  - He gives assurance of salvation. (Romans 8:16)
  - He prays for us. (Romans 8:26)

# **Anthropology and Hamartiology**

## **The Doctrines of Man and Sin**

**Anthropology** is the study of man. Man, through Adam, fell into sin. **Hamartiology** is the study of sin and its relationship to man.

### **Man is a Created Being**

- God created man out of the dust of the ground. (Genesis 2:7)
- Man's life existence came from God. (Genesis 2:7)
- Man's ability to sustain life comes from God. (Hebrews 1:3)

### **Man is a Multi-faceted Being**

- **Man is both a material and an immaterial being.**
  - Man is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26) which denotes his uniqueness in comparison to the rest of creation.
  - Man has a physical body as well as a spiritual soul. Man has the capacity to know God, which is a capacity that no other creature possesses. (Ecclesiastes 12:1, Deuteronomy 4:29, Philippians 2:10)
  - The Scripture describes many facets of the immaterial part of man's existence including the heart, mind, will, soul, spirit, and conscience. There are distinctions to these aspects of man's immaterial existence; however, the lines of distinction between these aspects are not clearly defined.
    - Jesus says in John 12:27, "Now is my **soul** troubled..." In John 14:1, He says, "let not your **hearts** be troubled..."
    - Compare John 12:27 and Mark 8:12.
  - My preference is to use the terms "material" and "immaterial" to describe the existence of man.
- **The believer possesses both the old nature and the new nature.**
  - Ephesians 4:22-24 describes that a believer has both an old nature and a new nature operating within his being. Galatians 5:17 describes something similar (if not identical) as the battle between the flesh and the Spirit.
  - The old nature is that which belongs to us as descendants of Adam and it is that which has no desire for God or his purposes. The old nature is not capable of choosing God's glory in any facet whatsoever. (Ephesians 4:22, Romans 3:11)
  - The new nature is that which is given to us at salvation and is driven by the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. (2 Peter 1:4, Ephesians 4:24)

### **Man is a Fallen Being**

- **A definition of sin**
  - Sin literally means to "miss the mark" of God's holiness and glory. (Romans 3:23) It is that which runs contrary to the nature of God.
- **The origin of sin**
  - Sin entered the world through Adam's disobedience to God. (Romans 5:12; 19)

- **The result of sin**
  - Adam's sin was passed to all mankind. (Romans 5:12; 19) No one is capable of living a completely righteous life. (Romans 3:10)
  - Man is separated from God by sin because God cannot accept sin. (Romans 5:10)
- **The necessities of sin**
  - A payment for sin
    - Jesus died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for sin to pay for the sins of all mankind once for all. (Hebrews 9:14)
  - Forgiveness of sin
    - Jesus' death made possible God's forgiveness of all our sin. (I John 1:9, Colossians 3:13)
  - Confession of sin
    - Our responsibility is to confess our sin to God and to others. (I John 1:9)

# **Soteriology**

## **The Doctrine of Salvation**

Salvation describes God's plan of redemption, in which God, through Christ's death on the cross, made a way for man to be reconciled to God. Salvation was necessitated by man's sin. Jesus died for sin, and he demonstrated his victory over sin by resurrecting from the dead. Salvation leads to sanctification which ultimately leads to glorification in heaven for eternity.

### **The Acts of God in Salvation**

- **Election**
  - Election is the sovereign act of God by which He has chosen those who will be saved, sanctified, and glorified. (Romans 8:29-30; 33; Colossians 3:12, Titus 1:1, Ephesians 1:4) Our knowledge and understanding of this doctrine is intended by God for the assurance of our salvation in Christ and for the comfort of knowing that God is for us. (Romans 8:31-35) It is not intended by God to discourage evangelism on the basis that God will save those whom he has chosen regardless of our evangelistic efforts.
- **Justification**
  - Justification is the act by which God has declared the believer to be righteous. (Romans 5:1) We have been declared righteous by the blood of Christ, so God is able to save us from His wrath. (Romans 5:9)
- **Adoption**
  - The believer becomes a child of God when he receives Christ for salvation. (John 1:12, Romans 8:15-17) All of the rights and privileges of being a son of God belong to the believer. He becomes an heir to eternal life. (Romans 8:17)
- **Regeneration**
  - Regeneration describes the act by which God makes an unbeliever alive to Him and imparts to him a new nature. (Titus 3:5) It is entirely an act of God. This is what Jesus describes to Nicodemus as being "born again." (John 3:5)
- **Redemption**
  - Redemption refers to Christ's paying the price that our sin demanded. Jesus' death redeemed us from (brought us out from under) the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13) and made possible our adoption. (Galatians 4:4-5) Jesus paid the whole demand of God's law against us.
- **Reconciliation**
  - Reconciliation is God's act of making His enemies His friends. Our sin put us in rebellion against God, but Christ's death on the cross made it possible for us to be brought into communion with God. (Romans 5:10-11, II Corinthians 5:18, I Peter 3:18)
- **The Gift of Eternal Life**
  - Eternal life is God's gift to those who believe and are saved. (Titus 3:4-7) It is the promise of living forever in heaven with God. (I John 2:25)
- **Sanctification**

- Sanctification is the act by which God separates us unto holiness. (Hebrews 10:10) Sanctification also describes the process by which believers are made more and more like Christ. (II Corinthians 3:18) It will culminate in glorification when we receive our glorified bodies. (Jude 24, Romans 8:29-30)
- I believe sanctification is both a work of God in a believer and the responsibility of a believer. A Christian must seek to live holy. (I Peter 1:16) He must also seek to walk in obedience to the Spirit so that the fruits of the Spirit are developed in him. (Galatians 5:16-23)

### **The Response of Man in Salvation**

- **Repentance**
  - To repent is to “change your mind.” A sinner comes to the point of seeing his sin as God sees it. He turns from his sin to embrace salvation from sin in Christ. (Acts 3:19, Acts 26:20)
- **Saving Faith**
  - Saving faith is an active trust in the redemptive work of Christ. (Acts 16:31) It operates exclusively apart from works or the keeping of the law. (Romans 3:28) Faith is a response to the conviction of the Holy Spirit as described in John 16:8-11.

### **The Assurance of Salvation**

- **Assurance**
  - Assurance describes the peace that a believer feels in knowing that his sins have been forgiven and that he is a child of God. (I John 5:13)
- **Eternal Security**
  - Eternal security refers to God’s power to keep those whom He has saved. (John 10:28)

### **The Extent of the Atonement**

- There is ample Scriptural evidence that Christ died for the sins of the entire world. I do not believe that Christ died only for the elect. Even though there are some passages that leave open the possibility that Christ died only for the elect (John 10:15, Ephesians 5:25), there are many more passages that indicate that Christ died for the sins of the whole world. (John 1:29, I John 2:2)

### **The Exclusivity of Salvation**

- Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven are only available through faith in the death of Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)

# **Ecclesiology**

## **The Doctrine of the Church**

God has established the church for this age to fulfill His plan on the earth. In Matthew 16:18, Christ said, "...I will build my church..." The church is God's primary plan for the advancement of His Kingdom today.

### **What is the Church?**

- **The universal church**
  - The New Testament teaches that there is one large church made up of all believers. Christ used the singular word "church" when he stated that He would build His church. It is referred to as the "household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), "one body" (I Corinthians 12:13), and "a glorious church" (Ephesians 5:27).
- **The local church**
  - In most cases in the New Testament, the word "church" refers to the local church (Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:26; 14:23; Romans 16:5). This is an assembly of baptized believers (Acts 2:41) who meet for instruction in doctrine, fellowship, and prayer. (Acts 2:42)

### **Offices of the Church**

- I believe the Bible identifies two offices of the church: pastor and deacon. I believe the terms "elder," "bishop," and "overseer," which we find in our King James Version, refer to the office we describe today as "pastor." Even though several passages refer to a plurality of elders (Acts 20:17, I Peter 5:1), I believe it is best understood as a plurality of pastors within each church. I do not believe there is enough evidence in Scripture to justify the necessity of a third office.
- **Pastor**
  - A pastor is a shepherd. He is the overseer of the flock of believers that God has entrusted to him. (Acts 20:28) He is a gift to his local church for the building up of the believers. (Ephesians 4:11-12) He must meet the qualifications of II Timothy 3:1-7.
- **Deacon**
  - The word deacon means "servant." The deacon is to be a servant to the pastor and to the church. He must meet the qualifications of II Timothy 3:8-13.

### **Ordinances of the Church**

- There are two ordinances that ought to be practiced by New Testament churches: baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are not a means of receiving special grace. They are a picture of what God has done for us in salvation.
- **Baptism**
  - Baptism is a public testimony of a person's faith in Christ. (Acts 2:38; 41) It has no power to save. It is to be performed after one has made profession of salvation. There is no biblical evidence that supports baptizing infants. The

examples of baptism that we have in the New Testament are always after profession of salvation. (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 10:47)

- The primary meaning of the word *baptizo* is “to immerse.” In the apostles’ time, the method of baptism practiced on proselytes to Judaism was total immersion. Based on these facts, I believe the best mode of baptism is immersion.
- **The Lord’s Supper**
  - The Lord’s Supper is performed as a memorial to Christ’s death. (I Corinthians 11:23-26) It is to be done regularly by believers as a testimony of what Christ did on the cross for us.

## **Church Government**

- **Congregational**
  - The best form of church government is congregational in which the local church is autonomous beneath Christ, the Head of the Church. (Acts 15:22, I Corinthians 5:4-5, Acts 6:3-5)
- **Church discipline**
  - The church is responsible to separate from believers in the congregation who will not repent of known sin. (I Corinthians 5:1-2, II Thessalonians 3:15) The goal of church discipline is restoration. (Galatians 6:1) There is a biblical process that should take place before a member is disciplined by the church. (Matthew 18:15-17)

## **Role of Women in the Church**

- I believe that God has ordained men to lead in the church. Pastors and deacons must be men. (I Timothy 3:2; 12) Women are to follow Paul’s instructions in I Timothy 2:9-15. In spiritual areas, they ought not to be teaching men nor should they have authority over men.

# **Angelology**

## **The Doctrine of Angels**

### **Angels**

- Angels are created spirits. (Hebrews 1:13) They were created to do God's work and serve Him. (Matthew 13:41, Mark 1:13) They demonstrate personality (Luke 1:19-20), intellect (I Peter 1:12), and moral freedom. (II Peter 2:4) They can take on human form. (Hebrews 13:2)

### **Satan**

- Satan is a created angel. (Ezekiel 28:15) In pride, he rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. (Ezekiel 28:11-19) He has authority in this world and is committed to disrupting the plan of God by any means. (II Corinthians 4:4) He is the enemy of the believer and must be resisted. (I Peter 5:8-9) The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is sufficient to overcome Satan and his tactics. (I John 4:4) Satan's ultimate defeat is certain. (Revelation 20:10)

### **Demons**

- Demons are those angels who fell along with Satan. (Revelation 12:1-12) They fight with Satan against God and his purposes. They will spend eternity in hell. (Matthew 25:41)

# **Eschatology**

## **The Doctrine of Last Things**

### **The Rapture**

- The next event on the prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church. I believe it is the event described in I Thessalonians 4:13-17. All believers will receive their glorified bodies (I Corinthians 15:51-52) and will be taken to live in heaven for seven years. The rapture of the church could take place at any time.

### **The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

- Following the rapture, believers will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ. (II Corinthians 5:10) This will be a judging of our works (what we have done) to see what will last. (I Corinthians 3:12-15)
- During the seven years in heaven, we will participate in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:7-9)

### **The Great Tribulation**

- Following the rapture, the Antichrist will rise to power and make a covenant with Israel. (Daniel 9:27) This will begin the seventieth week of Daniel. (Daniel 9:24-27) It will be a terrible time of God's wrath being poured out on the earth. (Matthew 24:8-28, Revelation 6-19) During the tribulation many will be saved. (Revelation 7:4; 14:1-4)

### **The Second Coming**

- Following the great tribulation, Christ will return to earth (Matthew 24:30) to defeat Satan and the nations. (Revelation 19:11-21) Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be resurrected. (Revelation 20:4)

### **The Millennium**

- Christ will come to rule and reign on the earth for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6) It will be a literal, earthly kingdom. Satan will be bound during the entire millennial kingdom. (Revelation 20:2) Following the thousand years, Satan will be loosed for a short period of time. He will mount one last opposition, but will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:7-10)

### **The Great White Throne Judgment**

- Following Satan's ultimate defeat all unregenerate sinners will be resurrected and judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. They will then be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity. (Revelation 20:11-15)

### **The New Heaven and the New Earth**

- Believers will live forever in the new heaven and the new earth as described in Revelation 21.

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