

## **The Bible**

The Bible, in its entire 66 books, infallible and inerrant in the originals, is the inspired (God-breathed) Word of God. It is the only essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. The Scriptures are sufficient to lead us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. They are divine revelation that carries the full weight of God's authority and to which we are obliged to submit. To this end, God's Word is the only infallible rule of faith and practice for the Church, to which nothing is to be added or taken away.

(Ps 19:7; Isa 55:10-11; Matt 4:4; Mk 13:31; Jn 8:31-32; Jn 20:31; Rom 10:14-17; 2Tim. 3:15-17; 2Pet 1:19-21; Heb 1:1-2)

## **The Trinity**

There is only one being of God (Monotheism) who is infinite, eternal, almighty; He is perfectly holy, perfectly just, perfectly loving, perfectly gracious. Within the Godhead there is a unity of three distinct yet fully divine persons (Trinitarianism), the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

(Gen 1:1,26; Jn 1:1-3; 4:24; 5:26; Matt 28:19; Rom 1:19-20; 9:5; Eph 4:5-6; Col 2:9)

## **God the Father**

God the Father is the Creator of all things. By His Word, He created the universe from nothing. Through the same Word He daily sustains all His creatures. He rules over all. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him, and in His matchless grace, He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of all who would believe in His Son.

(Psalm 139; Luke 10:21-22; Matt 23:9; Jn 3:16; Acts 17:24-28, 31; Rom 1:7; 1Pet 1:3)

## **God the Son Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is truly and fully God and truly and fully man, having two natures (divine and human) inseparably united in one person without confusion, mixture, separation, or division (called the Hypostatic Union). Each nature retains its own attributes. In the incarnation, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary without the stain of original sin, lived a perfect life among us fulfilling God's requirements for perfect obedience, was crucified, dead, and buried. He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again in glory and judgment. He is the only Mediator between God and man.

(Matt 20:28; Jn 1:1-3; Rom 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; 8:34; 1Cor 15:1-28; Col 1:16-17; 1Tim 2:5; 3:16; Heb 7:25; 9:28; 1Pet 2:21-23;

### **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is a person Himself, not an impersonal force. He is of one substance with the Father and the Son. He eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and put their trust in Him for salvation. The Holy Spirit unites people to Christ by bringing about a new birth (Regeneration). He dwells in the hearts of believers to conform them to the image of Christ (Sanctification).

(Jn 14:16,17,26; 15:26-27; Jn 16:8-14; Rom 8:9,12-13; 1Cor 2:10-11; 3:16; 6:19; 12:13; 2Cor 3:5-6; Gal 5:22-25; Eph 1:13; 4:30; Titus 3:5)

### **Man**

After God made the other creatures, He created man, both male and female, in His own image. But Adam sinned when tempted by Satan. He plunged himself and his posterity into a state of moral corruption and moral inability (called Original Sin), and all creation into decay and death. All humanity are now, *by nature*, estranged from their Creator, unwilling and unable by their own efforts to turn to Christ for salvation, and are deserving of death as the punishment for sin.

(Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Ps 51:5; Rom 3:10- 18,23; 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-3; Jas 1:14-15; 1Jn 1:8-10)

### **Atonement**

Because all have sinned and fail by action and thought to satisfy God's holiness, atonement must be made if mankind is to be reconciled to God. God the Son, Jesus Christ, made a complete and efficacious atonement for His people through His substitutionary atoning death on the cross. His death fully satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases God's holy wrath. The cross demonstrates both the justice of God (in the just punishment of sin) and the love of God (in the grace and mercy that flows from this atoning provision) at the same time. By the work of the cross, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to all believers, exchanging our unrighteousness for His perfect righteousness, and securing full redemption and justification for all who repent of their sin and trust in Him alone for salvation. All mankind, without exception, has been called to repent and believe in Christ.

(Matt 22:14; John 6:44; 14:6; 17:6,9,19; 11:51-52; Rom 11:5-6; Ephesians 1:4-12; 2:4-9; 2Thess 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 7:25; 9:28; Revelation 5:9)

## **The Law and Judgment**

The moral law, expressed most succinctly in the Ten Commandments, perfectly reflects the unchangeable character of God and forever binds all people, believers as well as unbelievers. All people will one day be judged by this perfect rule. The saved, those who have put their confidence in the perfect obedience of Christ on their behalf, will enjoy eternal life in the presence of God, having been judged righteous and worthy by the work of Jesus Christ alone, in their behalf. Those who reject the offer of salvation will face judgment for their wilful rebellion, and everlasting conscious punishment for their sin.

(Mt. 25:31-46; Acts 1:11; 17:31; 1Cor. 15:35-58; 2Cor. 5:10)

## **The Church**

All those who put their trust in Christ immediately become members of the church universal and invisible, the spiritual body of Christ, of which Christ is the head, made up of believers from every nationality, culture, language, social status, gender and age.

Christ has also established a visible church, local congregations, which are called to worship God together regularly, and to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, in submission to the authority of Holy Scripture and to fellowship with other believers. The local church is also called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to each other and to all nations, to administer the two ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to exercise discipline.

(John 10:16; Acts 20:28; 1Cor 3:16; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18; Heb 10:25; I Peter 5:1-4; Rev 21:2-3)