



What We Believe

The Bible

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the true Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit, written by human agents. These are without error in the original writings, are the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation and sanctification of mankind and are the final authority for all Christian faith and practice. As God's people receive and act on God's Word, they are equipped for acts of service and the proclamation of the Gospel. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1 and 119; Isaiah 40:6-8; John 14:26; 16:12-15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

The Triune God

There is one true and living God (Deuteronomy 6:4), Creator of all things, visible and invisible (Genesis 1:1-2:3; Proverbs 8:22-31), infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Trinitarian nature of God is fundamental to and inseparable from the historical Christian faith. Each person of the Godhead is perfectly holy, just, glorious, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, sovereign, compassionate, gracious, merciful, forgiving, slow to anger, and abounding in faithful, steadfast love (Exodus 34:6-7; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 103:8- 14; 139; 146:5-10; Jonah 4:2; Malachi 3:6; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4). God has revealed Himself through the world He has created (Psalm 8; Romans 1:20), His written Word (2 Timothy 3:16) and His incarnate Word, Jesus Christ His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

God the Father

God desires to be known as Father (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; John 20:17), Who acted with love and mercy on behalf of sinful humanity (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4) by sending His one and only Son to redeem mankind from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:3-4) and reconcile fallen humanity to Himself (Colossians 1:19-20). He is the Father of mercies Who comforts (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Luke 6:46), secures (John 10:29), rewards (Matthew 6:4, 6), forgives (Matthew 6:14-16; Luke 15:11-32), blesses and adopts (Ephesians 1:3-4).

God the Son

Jesus Christ, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:34- 35), is true God (John 1:1) and true man (Hebrews 2:14), the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14, 17; 3:16). Jesus came to reveal and glorify the Father (John 1:18; 14:9), Who loves and is pleased by His Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church (Colossians 1:15-18a).



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Jesus lived a blameless, sinless, perfectly holy life (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5), and died according to the Scriptures as a propitiatory, substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind (John 1:29; John 3:16; Mark 10:45; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:1-2). He was buried by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60; John 19:38-42) and was raised on the third day, conquering sin and death.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:18b20).

After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:1-9), where He is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father (Colossians 3:1), serving as the believer's High Priest and Advocate, interceding for His followers (Hebrews 7:25-26; 1 John 2:1). He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead and make all things new (Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31-34; Mark 14:62; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-8).

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14) and during this age convicts men of sin (John 16:8), grants new birth (John 3:5-8), baptizes each believer at the moment of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5), indwells and seals believers as a guarantee of their inheritance as children of God (John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22), guides, instructs, illuminates, gifts and empowers the believer for godly living and service (John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Ephesians 5:18-21).

Humanity

Mankind was created male and female in the image of God (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16). Every human being has sacred worth as God's image-bearer and is designed to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, being tempted by Satan, disobeyed the clear command of God and corrupted the Paradise created by God (Genesis 3). Their disobedience resulted in their own personal fall from their original state of holiness. Mankind now lives in the dominion of sin and Satan (Ephesians 2:1-3) and faces eternal condemnation without the intervention of God. All of humanity, whether consciously or unconsciously, is in rebellion against God (Psalm 14:1-3; 51:5; Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 3:9-12, 23).

Salvation

Man cannot be made right with God and enter the Kingdom of God by performing good works (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). This free gift of God was purchased by the work of Jesus Christ, who suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified, dead and buried (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He shed His blood on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of mankind (Isaiah 53:6; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Timothy 1:15), bearing the wrath of God against all sin and unrighteousness (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). Jesus' death and bodily resurrection from the dead provide the only ground for forgiveness, justification and redemption for all those who



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believe. Those who receive Jesus Christ by grace through faith are declared righteous by God, redeemed, forgiven and eternally secure (Matthew 26:27-28; John 1:12; 10:27-29; Acts 2:38; 13:38; Romans 3:24; 4:25; 5:1, 8-11, 18-21; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22-28). Those who believe are given the right to become adopted children of God, receiving new birth by the Holy Spirit, becoming new creations in Christ and co-heirs with Him of an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, prepared from the foundation of the world and kept in Heaven until the consummation of all things (John 3:5-8; Romans 8:15-17, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; 4:7; Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:4).

The Church

The Church is composed of all who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ, of which Jesus is the Lord and Head (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 1:18-22). The local church is an expression of the larger universal Church, and each follower of Jesus is called to regular, ongoing, personal fellowship in a local church (Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:44-47). The Church's mission is to glorify God by making disciples and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ both locally and globally (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). There are two ordinances to be observed within the local church, water baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). These are vital reflections of the Gospel commanded by Jesus Himself. However, they are not to be regarded as means of salvation (Luke 22:19-20; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Things to Come

In the future Jesus Christ will personally, visibly, physically, and gloriously return in fulfillment of prophecy and the promises of Jesus (Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 16:27; 24:30; John 14:3; Acts 1:11). Although no one knows the time of His coming, followers of Jesus should always be prepared for His return is imminent (Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:32; Acts 1:7). This is the believer's "Blessed Hope" and shapes the present life and service of those who follow Jesus (Titus 2:11-14). At His return the dead in Christ will be physically resurrected with imperishable, immortal, glorified bodies. Those who are still living will likewise be transformed (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55). At His coming Jesus will judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5). Every follower of Christ will inherit everlasting blessedness and joy in the presence of the Lord (Matthew 25:31-40; Revelation 21:1-7). Every unbeliever will experience judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:11-15).