

## **Statement of Faith**

### **The Bible**

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the Scripture in its entirety originated with God and that it was given through the Holy Spirit to chosen men. It speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts. We believe they are the unique, full, and final authority of all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God.

### **God**

We believe there is one true, holy God, who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all things within it, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom, and goodness. By His sovereign power, He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence, He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes and holy will.

### **Salvation**

The main purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into fellowship with Him. Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied God, choosing to go his independent way, and thus was alienated from Him and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are in need of the saving grace of God.

The salvation of mankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the results, in whole or in part,

of human works or goodness, and must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in His Word that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation.

### **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Trinity who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He arose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived. He ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.

### **The Holy Spirit (The Christian Life)**

The essential accompaniment of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life of holiness and obedience, attained by believers as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son, to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them. At the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength, and wisdom, and endows each believer with gifts for the upbuilding of the Body. The Holy Spirit guides believers into understanding and applying the Scripture. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

### **Faith and Practice**

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible. We believe this Statement of Faith to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches. All members are asked to refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in this Statement of Faith to prevent dissension in the church.

### **Human Destiny**

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world and a judgment. Unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation eternally. Believers will be received in heaven into eternal communion with God.

### **The Church**

All believers in Jesus Christ become members of His body, the Church. There is one Church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus as Savior and Lord. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Word, the observance of Baptism, and Communion as the sacraments established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world.

Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, this is the Church. Under the watch care of the Elders and other supportive leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the one ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.