

OUR BASIC BELIEFS

I. Holy Scriptures

A. The Bible is God's holy and inspired word. It is his self-revelation and plan of redemption for man. It is authoritative in all of the truth it presents and is infallible in the original autographs (manuscripts). (2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Pet 1:23-25; Heb 4:12)

B. Only the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible are perfectly reliable and authoritative for faith and practice. No other document, creed, or other man-created instrument can equal or supercede the Bible. (2 Tim 3:16; Rev 22:18-19)

II. God

God is uncreated and the creator of all that has been made. He exists and has eternally existed as the tri-unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa 43:10,11; Matt 28:19; John 1:3)

III. Man

Mankind was created good and upright but, by voluntary disregard for God, broke God's commandments (sinned) and therefore separated himself from God. All people voluntarily separate themselves from God's love and fall short of his expectations and glory. Mankind's only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ. (Gen 1:26-31; 3:17; Rom 3:23; 5:12-21)

IV. Salvation

A. A person may never earn salvation and can only find salvation in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts people in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment. A person who, convinced of his own sin, believes in his heart that Jesus was crucified and rose on the third day, and who professes publicly that Jesus is Lord receives the gift of salvation. (John 16:8; Rom 10:9,10; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)

B. Evidence of salvation is the direct witness of God's Holy Spirit inwardly to the believer and externally to others through an upright life and obedience to God (holiness). (Rom 8:16; 1 Thes 4:7; 2 Tim 1:9; 2:19)

C. At a profession of faith a person is saved. As he lives a life of holiness in obedience to God he works out his salvation. He looks forward to the final salvation and permanent home in the presence of Jesus in heaven. This is the process of sanctification. (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Th 5:23-24; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet 1:15-16; 1 John 2:6)

V. The Church

A. The church is the body of Christ and is God's instrument on earth to proclaim him to the world and to worship him. (Matt 28:19-20)

B. Ordinances

1. Baptism is performed in obedience to Jesus' command for believers. It is performed for those who have made a profession of faith and wish to publicly signify their obedience to and identification with Christ through submersion in water (signifying death of the old self), and rising up out of the water (signifying the new life given at salvation). Baptism by immersion after a profession of faith is also a prerequisite for membership in the local congregation. (Matt 28:19; Acts 19:4-7; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12)

2. The Lord's Supper consists of the bread and fruit of the vine. The elements are symbolic of Christ's sacrificial death to atone for the sins of all mankind and the establishment of the new covenant. It is a remembrance of what has already been accomplished and is done in expectation of the final fulfillment of the new covenant at Christ's return. It is appropriate for only those who have undergone believer's baptism to take part in the Lord's Supper. (Matt 26:17-30; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:25; 2 Pet 1:4)

C. Ministry is the work of the church to evangelize the world and to build up one another within the church.(Rom 15:15, 20; Eph 4:11-13)