



STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Our "Statement of Beliefs" describes the teachings of the Christian faith which are essential and foundational to the Christian faith. While we recognize that development of faith and understanding is a journey, there needs to come a point when a true follower of Jesus agrees that these statements are true.

We believe that:

1. God's Gospel originates in, and is a demonstration of, the holy love of the eternal, triune God—

We believe in one holy and infinitely perfect God who is sovereign over creation, revelation, redemption and judgement. This one God, all-knowing and all-powerful, eternally exists in all places, and in all times, in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In love and grace God purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to restore His fallen creation for His own glory.

(Gn 1:1; Dt 6:4; 10:14; 32:5-6; Ps 33:6-11; 90:2; Is 44:6; 45:5-6; Mt 3:16-17; 5:48; 28:19; Jn 5:17-23; 17:20-24; Ac 5:3-4; Ro 8:9-11; 2Co 13:14; Eph 1:3-6; 2:4-7; Col 2:9; 1Ti 1:17; 6:13-16; 2Ti 1:8-9; 1Pe 1:17-21)

2. God's Gospel is authoritatively announced in the Scriptures—

We believe that the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. They are the complete revelation of God's will for salvation, and the sufficient, final and supreme authority for all matters of faith and conduct. Therefore the Bible is to be believed in all that it affirms, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

(Ps 12:6; 19:7-11; 119:160; Pr 30:5-6; Mt 22:37-40; Lk 24:27; Jn 20:30-31; Ac 17:11; 1Co 10:1-11; Gal 1:8-9; 2Ti 3:14-17; He 4:12; Jam 1:18; 2:8; 2Pe 1:20-21; 3:14-16; Re. 22:18-19)

3. God's Gospel alone addresses our deepest human need—

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image but, by their free choice, they sinned through the temptation of Satan therefore corrupting that image. As a result of this rebellion all humanity is now universally corrupted and deserving God's divine wrath and judgement. The rescue, reconciliation and restoration of humanity can only come through God's gracious work in Jesus Christ.

(Gn 1:26-27; 3:1-7; 6:5; Ps 8:3-6; 51:5; Is 53:6; 64:6; Jer 17:9; Ac 17:24-28; Ro 1:18-25; 3:23-26; 5:15-21; 1Co 15:45-49; Eph 2:1-10; Phi 3:20-21; 1Th 1:9-10; 1Ti 2:5-6; Tit 2:11-14; 3:4-8; 1Pe 2:21-25; 1Jn 3:2-3)

4. God's Gospel is revealed in history supremely through the Person of Jesus Christ—

We believe that Jesus Christ, Israel's promised Messiah, is God incarnate, one Person in two natures, fully human and fully divine, having been conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

(Is 7:14; 9:6; Mt 1:18-23; Mk 15:1-15; Lk 24:36-47; Jn 1:1-5, 14-18; 14:10-12; Ac 1:9-11; 2:22; 4:10-12; 17:2-3; Ro 1:3-4; 1Co 15:3-8; Phi 2:5-11; Col 2:9; 1Ti 2:5-6; He 1:1-4; 4:14-15; 7:25; 10:11-14; 1Ti 3:16; 1Jn 2:1-2)

5. God's Gospel is accomplished through the work of Christ—

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, died on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice in order to provide salvation from the guilt, penalty and power of our sins. His shed blood and resurrection are the only grounds for salvation, and it is through faith alone in Christ that anyone is justified before God and adopted into His family forever.

(Mt 27:45-54; Mk 10:45; Jn 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 10:27-29; 14:6; Ac 4:12; 2 Co 5:16-21; Ro 3:21-26; 6:23; 8:15-17; Gal 3:13, 26; 4:4-7; Eph 2:8-9; Col 1:15-20; Tit 3:4-7; He 2:14-18; 7:26; 9:24-28; 1Pe 3:18; 1Jn 1:8-2:2; 5:11-12)

6. God's Gospel is applied and empowered by the Holy Spirit—

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory to Jesus Christ and make Jesus central in all of life. The Holy Spirit does this by convicting the world of sin, by bringing sinners into union with Christ, and by indwelling, guiding, instructing, equipping, and empowering believers for Christ-like living and discipleship.

(Mt 10:17-20; Mk 3:28-29; Jn 3:5-8; 14:15-18; 16:5-16; Ro 5:1-5; 8:9-11, 1Co 2:10-14; 6:19; 12:7-11; 2Co 1:21-22; Gal 4:4-7; 5:16-25; Eph 1:13; 2:18-22; 5:18; 1Th 4:7-8; 2Th 2:13-14; Tit 3:4-7; 1Pe 1:2; 4:14)

7. God's Gospel is now embodied in the new community called the church—

We believe that the true church is composed of all those who have been saved by God's grace through faith and regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are thereby united together in the body of Christ of which He is the Head. The local church is a visible expression of the true church where believers gather for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability, and community with each other.

The two biblically-mandated sacraments of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, visibly and tangibly express this Gospel, strengthening our faith. They are to be celebrated by the church in obedience to Christ, but are not a means of salvation.

(Mt 16:13-19; 18:15-17; 28:18-20; Lk 22:17-20; Ac 2:38-39, 42-47; 1Co 3:1-9; 11:17-34; 12:12-13, 25-26; 2Co 3:17-18; Gal 3:27; Eph 1:19-23; 2:19-22; 4:1-16; Col 1:18; 2:9-14; 1Ti 3:15; He 10:24-25; 1Jn 1:5-7)

8. God's Gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness to the world—

We believe that God's justifying grace in the Gospel must not be separated from its sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves, acting with compassion toward the poor and needy and seeking justice for the oppressed. In fellowship with one another we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil, especially with the Word of God and prayer. In all we do we bear witness to the Gospel in word and deed, making disciples among all people.

(Dt 15:11; Ps 82:3-4; Mic 6:8; Mt 5:43-48; 7:15-23; 22:34-40; 28:19; Mk 8:38; 13:9; Lk 24:45-49; Ac 1:8; Ro 6:11-14; 8:26-27; 12:1-2; Gal 6:9-10; Eph 3:10; 6:10-13; He 12:1-3; Jam 1:26-27; 2:14-20)

9. God Gospel will be brought to fulfillment by the Lord Himself at the end of this age—

We believe in the bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels, when He will establish His kingdom fully and exercise His role as Judge of all. This return of Christ, which will happen at a time known only to God, requires constant expectancy and should motivate the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.

(Ecc 12:14; Mt 24:36-44; 25:31-32; 28:18-20; Jn 5:28-29; 14:1-3; Ac 1:9-11; Rom 8:18-25; 13:11-14; 1Co 1:7; 1Th 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 1Ti 6:13-15; 2Ti 4:1-2; Tit 2:11-14; 2Pe 3:10-15; Re 3:3)

10. God's Gospel calls for a response which determines the eternal destiny of every person—

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the Gospel, turning to God in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that in the bodily resurrection of the dead, those who are declared unrighteous will be eternally separated from God and experience the second death, while those who are declared righteous will be given glorified bodies, and live in unity with the Lord forever. Through His coming Jesus will establish the new heaven and the new earth; the triumphant kingdom of God which will never end.

(Is 11:6-9; 35:8-10; 65:17-25; Mt 11:20-24; 25:41-46; Lk 13:3-5; Jn 3:16-17; 5:22-27; 17:3; Ac 17:30-31; 1Co 15:23-28; 2Co. 5:8-10; 1Th 4:15-18; 2Th 1:7-10; 2Pe 3:9; Re 11:15; 13:8; 20:11-15; 21:6-8)