

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

This Church or assembly of baptized believers of Jesus Christ adopts the following "Baptist Doctrine" as our "ARTICLES OF FAITH".

**THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe that both the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings. Through the providence of God, the Scriptures have been preserved and are the supreme and final and adequate authority in faith and life (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1: 21).

**GOD:** We believe that there is only one true and living God existing in three Persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--each a distinct Person, but all of one essence and all having the same nature, perfection, and attributes, and each is worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience (Gen. 1:26; Jer. 10:10; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19).

**JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, shed His blood on Calvary as a vicarious substitute, was buried, rose again bodily, and ascended to the Father according to the Scriptures (Isa. 7:4; Matt. 1:18-25; 1 Cor. 15:3; Heb. 4:15).

**HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, very much God, coexistent with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the chief agent in the regeneration, the chief convictor of sin, and the chief comforter of the believer. Simultaneous with regeneration, the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ (Matt. 28:19; John 16:7-11; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14).

**MAN:** We believe that man is the direct creation of God--body, soul and spirit--and is not in any sense the result of evolution but is made in the image of God. Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of mankind and incurred both physical and spiritual death for all (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12).

**SALVATION:** We believe that all who, in faith, receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again by the Holy Spirit and thus become the children of God. Salvation involves redemption, regeneration, sanctification, and glorification (John 1:12; 3:3; 17:17; Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 2:8-9; 4:30; Tit. 3:5).

**SECOND COMING:** We believe in the literal, visible, personal, pre-millennial, pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ for His Church. At this event the dead in Christ and living believers will be translated to meet Him in the air. At the end of the period of tribulation, Christ will visibly descend with the saints to establish His earthly millennial kingdom (Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:1-6).

**PROVIDENCE:** We believe in the providence of God, but that He is in no wise the author or approver of sin nor the destroyer of the free will and responsibility of man (John 3:16; Rom. 8:28-30).

**THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER:** We believe in the priesthood of all believers so that every Christian has direct access to God in prayer through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, and that there is no mediator between God and man other than Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; Rev. 1:6).

**SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER:** We believe that salvation is not only a gift from the Lord but also is sustained by the Lord. The Holy Spirit permanently indwells the believer and seals him in salvation for all eternity. Therefore, since salvation is wholly of the Lord, apart from the works of man, we hold that the believer shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation (John 10:28; 4:16-17, 26; 1 Cor. 2:9-14; Eph. 1:13; 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24-25).

**SATAN:** We believe that Satan was originally created a perfect being. He rebelled against God. As a result, he became depraved, the Devil an adversary of God and His people, and leader of a host of angels who fell with him. Satan has been judged and defeated at the cross and awaits his ultimate doom at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (Isa. 14:13-14; Ezek. 28:13-17; John 26:11; 1 Tim. 3:7; Rev. 20:10).

**THE LORD'S DAY:** We believe that Sunday is the Lord's Day and is a Christian institution for regular observance of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private (1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10).

**CREATION:** We believe the triune God created the universe apart from pre-existing materials and without any evolutionary process. We believe in the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis (Gen 1:1; Matt. 19:4; John 1:1-3; Rom. 1:20; Col. 1: 16-17; Heb. 11: 3).

**THE LOCAL CHURCH:** We believe that the New Testament Church is a local body of baptized believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. New Testament Churches promote God's work by cooperating together for missions and many other joint efforts. The local Church is to be governed independently of outside persons, bodies, groups, or authorities (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-8; 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 1:3-6, 22-23; 1 Thes. 4:16-18).

**ORDINANCES:** We believe that the local Church observes two ordinances-Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that all who have received Christ as Savior and Lord should be baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that baptism is by immersion in the likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and that the Lord's Supper should be observed in remembrance of Him to show forth His death for our sins until He comes again. (Matt. 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-6; 1 Cor. 11:2-26).