

Our Beliefs

Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.)

Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ., was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:1-3.)

Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

Creation

God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made "the heaven and the earth" and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)

Nature of Man

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.)

Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict is between Christ and Satan, and by allegiance, every human being is involved in this controversy. (Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8; 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement, and live their lives representative of the revealed will of God, are assured of their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11; Jas. 2: 17-20.)

Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. We are made Holy through the ministration of the Spirit, being born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.)

Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces

that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. Christ calls us to shed all our sin in this life, in preparation for Glorification unto His Kingdom that will never fail. (Ps 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil 3:7-14; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Matt 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal 5:22-25; Rom 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb 10:25; Matt 5:48; Dan 2:44.)

Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.)

Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, do not exclude us from unity in Christ. (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.)

Baptism

By baptism we confess our death to our old lives of sin, and by faith in Jesus Christ, join with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. Through baptism we become His people, and are received as members by His church. It is by immersion in water. (Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.)

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him as our Lord and Saviour. When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we joyfully tell of the Lord's sacrifice and look forward to eat it anew with Jesus upon our transport to heaven. Furthermore, in obedience to Christ, the washing of one another's feet ensures that members of God's church are servants one to another, united in love for one another. (1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Matt. 26:17-30; Rev. 3:20; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17.)

Spiritual Gifts

God, through His Holy Spirit gives to every member of His church spiritual gifts that are to be used in the edification of His church. The gifts are established by God for the equipping of the saints. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and love. Furthermore, the functional gifts of the Spirit also include pastoral ministry, evangelism, apostleship, and education. Members of God's church are to faithfully employ the gift(s) they have been given by the Spirit. (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.)

The Gift of Prophecy

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.)

Law of God

God's character is embodied in His great moral law, the Ten Commandments, and was demonstrated through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Since God is love, the Ten Commandments are an expression of love to His beloved creation, and God calls all people of every age to live their lives according to these precepts. The Ten Commandments will be the standard by which all men are judged. God's errant creation is saved by grace, it is a gift of God through Jesus Christ, but obedience to the Ten Commandments is a demonstration of salvation. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into two laws, to Love God with all your heart, and to love mankind with all your heart. This summary reflects the nature of the first four commandments being reflective of our relationship to God, and the last six commandments to be reflective of our relationship with others. (Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.)

Sabbath

God created in six days and rested on the seventh thus giving the Sabbath to all people as a memorial of His creation. In remembrance of God's creation, the fourth commandment, of the Ten Commandments, commands people to rest on the seventh day, called the Sabbath. Sabbath is to be a day spent in harmony with the example given by Jesus Christ, who was the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is also a never ending sign between God and His people. It is the seal by which the saints are identified in their foreheads for it contains the three elements of a seal, God's name, God's title, and God's territory. Sabbath is to be celebrated from sunset on Friday to Sunset on Saturday, a 24 hour period commemorating God's creation. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Luke 4:16; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Matt. 12:1-12; Ex. 31:13-17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Deut. 5:12-15; Heb. 4:1-11; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.)

Stewardship

As God's children we are stewards of all that God has given us; our spiritual gifts, our time, our possessions and our money. God is the owner of all things in that He created all things, and redeemed all things through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. By giving tithes (one tenth of our increase) and offerings (free will as God has blessed), we recognize our submission to Him as owner of all that is. God has promised that He will bless us if we are faithful in these small ways. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.)

Christian Behavior

As Christians we are to be a peculiar people, living in harmony with the standards of the Bible and not the World. We are not called to be weird, we are called to demonstrate Christ's salvation of us, through our obedience to him. Our lives should be pure, and selfless. We are not to bring attention upon ourselves, but upon Jesus. As such our dress should be modest, without the adornment of jewelry or costly array. Our entertainment wholesome without the need exalt or defeat. Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore we should care for our health by choosing healthy food in harmony with Biblical standards, abstaining from unclean meats, alcohol, tobacco and any other drug that impairs the mind, and hinders our communion with the Lord. (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor.6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.)

Marriage and the Family

Marriage is a divine institution established by God in the Garden of Eden. Jesus affirmed the marriage process through His ministry. Marriage is to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman who live in a complementary relationship, each committed to the well-being of the other. Included in every marriage should be the loving presence of God. His divine influence in a marriage will give strength to the union, and allow the marriage to be a testimony to God's proposition for the salvation of humanity, the marriage between Jesus and His bride, the redeemed. In reference to divorce, Jesus taught that the only valid reason for re-marriage after a divorce is infidelity. The innocent partner is free to marry again should a divorce dissolve the union. With the father as a priest of the home, and the mother his faithful help meet, children are to be raise with a knowledge of God and with the purpose of bringing them into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.)

Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

The Earthly Sanctuary constructed by Moses in the wilderness, was patterned after the True Sanctuary in Heaven. In the Heavenly Sanctuary Christ has retreated since His ascension to heaven to present His blood for the remission of all sin. Christ there ministers on our behalf as intercessor, offering to all the benefits of His sacrifice on the cross. As our High Priest, in 1844, He entered into the Most Holy chamber of the Heavenly Sanctuary to there begin His work of investigation, or the atonement of the Heavenly Sanctuary for the sins committed by all mankind. For upon His ascension to Heaven He transferred from Earth to Heaven all sin through His atoning blood. It is through this investigative stage of Christ's Heavenly Priesthood that Christ will make a determination for all mankind as to their eternity, eternal life, or eternal death and He will bring to an end the probation given to all mankind. After His atoning work, everyone will be declared saved or lost, and there will be no more remission of sin in that Christ will only enter Heaven once with His blood. The completion of this ministry of will bring about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. (Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Lev. 16; Rev. 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)

Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, from every generation. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, audible and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be caught up in the air to meet with Christ and to be taken to Heaven to ever more be with the Lord. The unrighteous living will call for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them in their shame and in the brightness of the coming Saviour. No one knows the time or the day of the Second Coming, but in light of the signs of the times, it is clear that the coming of Jesus is very soon. (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)

Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. Christ equated death to sleep. It is not until Christ appears, who is the way the truth and the life, that the saved will be taken to heaven. With few exceptions, the righteous dead are asleep in the grave awaiting the command of Christ to come forth from the grave. The Bible speaks of a second resurrection of the unrighteous that will not take place until after the saved have been in Heaven for a thousand years. (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.)

Millennium and the End of Sin

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close, Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to Earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the Earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19.)

New Earth

The Earth will be re-created by Christ, and will be the home of the redeemed, and the Seat of God's government. The world will be restored to its Edenic state, yea even greater. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. Glorified humanity will declare that God is love, and He shall reign forever. (2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.)

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