

TENANTS OF BELIEF:

BIBLE: We believe in the scripture of the Old and the New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the various messages of which they speak, have been created, together with the law and properties with which they have been condoned and that God in His sovereign rule of the universe, works out His purpose through the laws of nature by miraculous power. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

TRINITY: We believe in one God.

CREATION AND FALL: We believe that the universe with all that is in it was created in the beginning by the Word of God that man's body was made by a creative act of God; that the first man Adam, fell from his original state of innocence, became corrupt in nature, and came under the condemnation and the sentence of death; and because of the unity of the race in Adam, its natural head all men have come under the same consequence of sin.

CHRIST: We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and is truly God, born of the virgin Mary, and its true man who shed his blood for the sins of all men as a substitutionary sacrifice; that He arose in the very body, though glorified in which He had been crucified; that He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God; and that He now appears in the presence of God on behalf of His people. (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35; John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

UNIVERSE: We believe that the Lord by the Word of His power upholds all things that have been created, together, with the laws and properties with which they have been endowed, and that God in His sovereign rule of the universe, works out His purpose through the laws of nature and by miraculous power.

HOLY SPIRIT: We believe that the Holy Spirit is Divine: a spirit that inspired men to write the Scriptures; that convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and regenerates those who believe, places them into the body of Christ, and dwells in them; that as Christ's representative on earth calls out people from Jews and Gentiles and makes them "one new man" and calls men and women to God's service. (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Mark 3:29; John 16:8, 13; Acts 7:51, 10:19, 13:2, 13:4, 16:6; 1 Corinthians 2:11, 6:11, 12; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21).

SALVATION: We believe that through faith in the crucified and risen Christ, man is justified, regenerated and given the position of a child in the family of God; and there is but one way of salvation that is, through faith in Christ, and that those who have been born of the Spirit of God never perish. (Luke 7:50, 24:47; Romans 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

CHURCH: We believe that the church is the company of all those who have been born of the spirit of God and baptized into the body of Christ, and temple of the Holy Spirit; and the Bride of Christ; and during this dispensation all regenerated Jews and Gentiles are unified in one church in Christ and someday Christ will present this church to Himself without blemish.

LOCAL CHURCH: We believe that the local church is an autonomous body of baptized believers united upon profession of faith having two officers (Pastors and Deacons) and observing two ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). The local church functions in five offices (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers), to purify, edify, and occupy itself with prayer and fellowship, and to endeavor to reach men and women for Christ at home and abroad.

SATAN: We believe that the fallen angel known as Satan was originally perfected in his way, that he fell and drew with him a large number of angles; that he, together with his angels and demons, is active in opposition to God and His work; that Satan and his emissaries were defeated at the cross of Christ; that they will be bound for a thousand years at the return of Christ to the earth and that ultimately they will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be punished eternally.

ANGELS: The Bible uses the term "angel" (a heavenly body) clearly and primarily to denote messengers or ambassadors of God with such scripture references as Revelations 4:5, which indicates their duty in heaven to praise God (Psalm 103:20), to do God's will (St. Matthew 18:10) and to behold his face. But since heaven must come down to earth, they also have a mission to earth. The Bible indicates that they accompanied God in the Creation, and also that they will accompany Christ in His return in Glory.

DEMONS: Demons denote unclean or evil spirits; they are sometimes called devils or demonic beings. They are evil spirits, belonging to the unseen or spiritual realm, embodied in human beings. The Old Testament refers to the prince of demons, sometimes called Satan (Adversary) or Devil, as having power and wisdom, taking the habitation of other forms such as the serpent (Genesis 3:1). The New Testament speaks of the Devil as Tempter (St. Matthew 4:3) and it goes on to tell the works of Satan, The Devil, and Demons as combating righteousness and good in any form, proving to be an adversary to the saints. Their chief power is exercised to destroy the mission of Jesus Christ. It can well be said that the Christian Church believes in Demons, Satan, and Devils. We believe in their power and purpose. We believe they can be subdued and conquered as in the commandment to the believer by Jesus. "In my name they shall cast out Satan and the work of the Devil and to resist him and then he will flee (WITHDRAW) from you." (St. Mark 16:17).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: We believe in the second coming of Christ; that He shall come from heaven to earth, personally, bodily, visibly (Acts 1:11; Titus 2:11-13; St. Matthew 16:27; 24:30; 25:30; Luke 21:27; John 1:14, 17; Titus 2:11) and that the Church, the bride, will be caught up to meet Him in the air (I Thessalonians, 4:16-17). We admonish all who have this hope to purify themselves as He is pure.

DIVINE HEALING: We believe in and practice Divine Healing. It is a commandment of Jesus to the Apostles (St. Mark 16:18). Jesus affirms his teachings on healing by explaining to His disciples, who were to be Apostles, that healing the afflicted is by faith (St. Luke 9:40-41). Therefore, we believe that healing by faith in God has scriptural support and ordained authority. St. James' writings in his epistle encourage Elders to pray for the sick, lay hands upon them and to anoint them with oil, and that prayers with faith shall heal the sick and the Lord shall raise them up. Healing is still practiced widely and frequently in the Church and testimonies of healing in our Church testify to this fact. (Isaiah 53:4, 5; James 5:14, 15; 1 Peter 2:24).

MIRACLES: We believe that miracles occur to convince men that the Bible is God's Word. A miracle can be defined as an extraordinary visible act of Divine power, wrought by the efficient agency of the will of God, which has as its final cause the vindication of the righteousness of God's word. We believe that the works of God, which were performed during the beginnings of Christianity, do and will occur even today where God is preached, Faith in Christ is exercised, The Holy Ghost is active, and the Gospel is promulgated in the truth (Acts 5:15; 6:8; 9:40; Luke 4:36, 7:14-15; 5:5-6; St. Mark 14:15).

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: We believe that the family is God's foundational institution for human society (Matthew 19:5-6; Ephesians 5:22-6:4). We believe that marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). Because marriage is a covenant between one man, one woman, and God, the church has the responsibility, in its sole discretion, to evaluate the readiness of those seeking to enter into the marriage covenant. The church may decline to solemnize or host a marriage ceremony for various reasons including but not limited to unequally yoked partners (2 Corinthians 6:14), those emotionally or financially unprepared for marriage, or those seeking to enter into a marriage relationship that is contrary to the church's Statement of Faith or the Bible.

FUTURE THINGS: We believe in the personal pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the resurrection of all those who have fallen asleep in Him; that He will reign over Israel and the Gentile nations on earth during the millennium, after which the wicked dead along with Satan and his emissaries, will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be punished eternally.