

## WHAT WE BELIEVE



### THE BIBLE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (II Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They are the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. (II Peter 1:21)

### THE GODHEAD

We believe there is but one true and living God that is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-existing. (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16) The Godhead is a trinity in unity, manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. They are co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal (Matthew 28:18, 19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1, 2, 18; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; 15:26; John 10:33)

### JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father as our great High Priest and mediator, and in His personal return in power and glory to establish His Kingdom.

### SALVATION

We believe that through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Because of the sinful state of man, the regeneration of man by the Holy Ghost (new birth) is necessary. Regeneration and Salvation is possible only through repentance of sin and faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ (I John 3:8; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7). Salvation is the gift of God to man and cannot be earned through good works (Ephesians 2:8). Man is a free moral agent and can, at any time after the new birth experience, turn away from God and die in a state of sin; with the consequences of Hell to receive

### THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe in living a life of holiness without which no man shall see God (Hebrews 12:14). We believe that holiness comes through the sanctification of the believer. Sanctification is a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, beginning at regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (Hebrews 13:12; II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; I Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; I Thessalonians 5:23).

### WATER BAPTISM

We believe in baptism in water by immersion for believers only, which is the direct command of our Lord, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

### BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a gift from God and was part of the teachings and ministry of Jesus (Matthew 3:11; John 14:16; 16:7). It is the promise to all believers in this dispensation, and is the second definite work of the Spirit after salvation. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied by the speaking in other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, as the initial physical sign and evidence of its occurrence (Act 1:8; 2:4, 38, 39; 10:44-48; 19:1-6).

## **COMMUNION**

We believe in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. These are ordinances set by the example of our Lord (Matthew 26:27-29; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13). The Lord's Supper is a memorial to His death and resurrection and is strictly limited to believers (I Corinthians 11:27-30).

## **DIVINE HEALING**

We believe that Divine Healing is provided for in the atonement, and is available to all who truly believe (Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24). It is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14, 15)

## **RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND SECOND COMING**

We believe in the pre-tribulational, pre-millennial rapture, or "catching away", of the church. His appearance is imminent and, at that time, "the dead in Christ will rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Acts 1:11). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 19:11-16; 20:6).

## **HELL AND ETERNAL RETRIBUTION**

We believe that the one who physically dies in his sins, without Christ, is hopelessly and eternally lost (Hebrews 9:27). We believe in the bodily resurrection of the lost, as well as, the saved; they that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (Revelation 20:11-15). The lake of fire is literal, eternal and everlasting and is the punishment of the damned (Matthew 25:41-46).

## **TITHING**

We believe it is the scriptural duty of all God's people to pay tithes unto the Lord (Hebrews 7:8). Tithes should be used for the support of the ministry, the propagation of the gospel, and the work of the Lord in general; and not given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:2; I Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2).