

**The
Lighthouse Baptist
Church
of Toronto**

**Church
Constitution**

ED. 02.96

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

THE BIBLE

Acts 20:27-32

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. ²⁸Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ²⁹For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. ³¹Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. ³²And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

I Thessalonians 5:21

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

I Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me...

2 Timothy 4:2-7

Preach the word; be instant in season, out season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. ⁶For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

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INTRODUCTION

I founded the Lighthouse Baptist Church October 26, 1986 and have been its pastor ever since. God saved me and called me for this very purpose. I have invested tens of thousands of dollars in this church. I rarely have taken time off for vacation. It is my life call and purpose. I do church work every day of my life, I know that there are very few Independent, Fundamental Baptist churches in southern Ontario. In March 1990 I dedicated my life and this church to be a bulwark for "The Old-Time Religion." I promised God I would not sway from those convictions and standards that great men of God had stood for in the past. This Constitution is a result of that promise. Those dear Christians who have labored and sacrificed with me through the years did it so that we could have a church where those same convictions and standards would still be preached and taught 100 years later. We expect the future generations to stand where we stand and to carry the torch as we did and to pass it on to the generation following them. My generation are the pioneers. We, by God's grace, have built something that was not here in 1985. We purpose on to the next generations. They should not have to start from scratch again! They must build on the work we have left them. If they choose to change our standards and convictions let them leave the church and start their own but do not change what this church was built for. That would be a betrayal of the founders and of this Constitution. God forbid!

This is what Paul was saying to the Ephesians pastors. He was charging them to keep standing for what they had been taught by him. He knew that after he left others would try to come in and teach things that were wrong and to change policies and doctrines in that church. He said, "hold fast" to the doctrines and continue in them. This is where all heresies and false religions begin. They get away from the Bible and its teachings. Slowly they change things that they do not like and before long - they have left the original desires and wishes of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible.

We are endeavoring to "Protect Our Investment" that we have made for ourselves, for our children and for our grandchildren. This Church Constitution is the result.

This Constitution dictates what this church's positions are doctrinally and what its purposes, goals and policies are. This constitution will help guarantee that the truths, policies, purposes and goals of this church will continue on long after we are gone.

This Church Constitution was taught in the Wednesday Night Bible Studies at our church over a six month period from December 1992 to June 1993.

My prayer is that this will be a blessing to you as you read and study it and that when my generations is dead and long gone that "The Old-Time Religion" will still be shining forth from the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Toronto.

October 31, 1993

Pastor Robert Lindsay Gatto

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CHURCH CONSTITUTION

I

ARTICLE I THE NAME OF THIS CHURCH

The legal name of this church shall be “**The Lighthouse Baptist Church of Toronto**”. It is a registered name with the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The name “Lighthouse Baptist Church” may be used at any time provided the legal name remains “The Lighthouse Baptist Church of Toronto”.

II

ARTICLE II THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHURCH

Article II “The Purpose of This Church”
may NOT be amended in any way. It is irrevocable.

The purpose of the Lighthouse Baptist Church is to fulfill the Lord Jesus Christ’s “Great Commission” given in **Matthew 28:18-20** “*And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*”

II:1 1. Our PRIMARY PURPOSE therefore, as a church, is to:

II:1.A A. To teach and preach the Gospel of Salvation to **all** men, women, boys and girls of **all** nationalities and races, and of **all** economic backgrounds.

This is done by:

- 1) Systematic Door to Door Soul Winning
- 2) Public Church Services and Ministries
- 3) Street Preaching and Evangelism
- 4) Gospel Literature
- 5) Witnessing as often as possible and wherever possible

Acts 5:42 “*And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ*”.

II:1.B B. To Baptize by water immersion, as soon as possible, those who have believed on and placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation.

Acts 2:41 “*And they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day...*”

Acts 8:12 “*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women*”.

Acts 16:32-33 “*And they spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night,...and was baptized, he and all his, straightway*”.

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- II:1.C** C. To Preach and Teach the Word of God and our Lord’s commands in a way that is practical and understandable to all Christians and to train them to become “Fishers of Men” according to our Lord’s “Great Commission” of Soul Winning. This preaching and teaching is done through:
- Bible
- 1) The Public Church services (Sun. School, Sun. AM, Sun. PM, Wed. study)
 - 2) Special conferences and meetings
 - 3) Other church ministries and clubs
 - 4) Church approved home Bible study courses (Acts 20:20)
 - 5) Christian schools and colleges
- II:2** 2. **Our SECONDARY PURPOSE** therefore, as a church, is to supply a place for Christians to meet for:
- and
- A. Prayer (to pray together for each others needs)
 - B. Communion (to share in the Lord’s Supper ordinance that He left us to do)
 - C. Edification (building the Christian up spiritually, physically, mentally emotionally)
 - D. Encouragement (to have an environment that will encourage the Christian to go forward)
 - E. Fellowship (joint participation in our common goals and purposes)
 - F. Friendships (to promote true, Biblical friendships outside of the “world”)

We believe all New Testament churches were this way and when a church gets away from the main business of reaching people for Christ it ceases to be a real New Testament church. If a church is not “having (spiritual) babies then it is dying. It needs revival!

III ARTICLE III THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Article III “The Statement of Faith”
may NOT be amended in any way. It is Irrevocable.

III:1 1. **THE BIBLE**

We believe all 66 books of the Bible to be the inspired, only infallible authoritative Word of God, and that God has preserved it for the English speaking world in the “AUTHORIZED KING JAMES VERSION” (1611)

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- III:1.A A. **66 BOOKS** - We believe that the complete body of God’s Word is contained in the canon of 66 books. We reject all the Apocrypha books.
- III:1.B B. **INSPIRED** = “God breathed”
2 Tim. 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
2 Pet. 1:21 “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
- III:1.C C. **INFALLIBLE** = “without errors or mistakes”
Psm. 12:6-7 “The words of the LORD are **pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven time. ⁷Thou shalt **keep** them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”.
Psm. 119:128 “Therefore I esteem **all** thy precepts concerning all things to be right; therefore I hate every false way”.
Psm. 119:160 “Thy word is **true** from the beginning: and **every one** of they righteous judgments **endureth forever**”.
Prove. 30:3 “Every word of God is pure...”
Matt. 5:18 “For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”.
- III:1.D and D. **AUTHORITATIVE** = “It is the Final Authority in all matters of faith practice”.
Psm.119:128 “Therefore I esteem **all** thy precepts concerning **all** things to be right; therefore I hate every false way”.
Psm.138:2 “...for thou hast magnified thy word above thy name”.
- III:1.E E. **PRESERVED** = “When God spoke it and wrote it, it was true and it still is true today”.
Psm. 12:6-7 “The words of the Lord are **pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷Thou shalt **keep** them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever”.
Psm. 33:11 “The council of the LORD standeth for ever, the thought of His heart to all generations”.
Psm. 100:5 “...and his truth endureth to all generations”.
Psm. 117:2 “...the truth of the Lord endureth for ever”.
Psm. 119:152 “Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever”.
Psm. 119:160 “Thy word is true from the beginning: and **every one** of they righteous judgments **endureth forever**”.
Matt. 24:35 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”.
I Pet. 1:21 “...but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”.
- III:1.F F. **THE KING JAMES VERSION**
We reject the so called “modern versions” and the so called “most manuscripts” which are in use (Vaticanus/Sinaiticus). We believe **Masoretic (traditional)** text of the Hebrew Old Testament and the **Textus Recepticus (received)** text of the Greek New Testament.

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III:2 2. THE TRINITY OF GOD.

We believe that there is one God, the source, support and end of all things, eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

III:2.A A. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

Deut. 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD".

I Kings 8:60 "...the LORD is God, and that there is none else".

Isa. 44:6-8 "...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God ...Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any".

Isa. 45:5 "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me".

III:2.B B. GOD IS ETERNALLY EXISTENT

This means that God exists eternally. He has always existed and He always will exist.

Deut. 33:27 "The eternal God is thy refuge..."

Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God".

III:2.C C. GOD IS A PERSON

God is not a machine or some kind of energy field. He is a person. He has feelings, emotions and a sense of humor. He loves man, hates sin, grieves, hears, cares, provides, destroys, and creates.

III:2.D D. GOD IS A TRINITY

This means He exists equally in three different persons.

Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost".

2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all".

I John 5:7 "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one".

III:2.D1 1) The Father Is God

Rom.1:7 "...Grace to you and peace from God our Father..."

1 Peter 1:2 "...the foreknowledge of God the Father..."

III:2.D2 2) The Son Is God

Isa. 9:6 "For unto us a child is born (Jesus Christ), Unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God".

John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."

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John 14:7-10 *"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. ⁹Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

¹⁰*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?...*

John 20:28 *"And Thomas answered and said unto him (Jesus), My Lord and my God."*

Gen. 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"*

Col. 1:15-16 *"(Jesus) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶For by Him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,...all things were created by him, and for him:*

Col. 2:9 *"For in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily".*

I Tim. 3:16 *"...God was manifest (shown, revealed) in the flesh..."believed on in the world, received up into glory".*

III:2.D3

3) The Holy Spirit Is God

He is called the "Spirit of God" many times in the Bible.

Acts 5:3-4 *"...why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God".*

Heb. 9:14 *"...who through the eternal Spirit..."*

We are told that it was the spirit of God that begat Christ, therefore, the Spirit of God is His Father.

Luke 1:35 *"...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God".*

Therefore, God the Father used the Holy Spirit to give birth to Jesus and that makes the Holy Spirit, God. The Holy spirit was present at creation.

Gen. 1:2b *"...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters".*

III:3 3. THE DIVINITY OF 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 for all mankind; in His Shed Blood; in His Bodily Resurrection; in His Ascension to the Father's right hand; in His Personal, Pretribulational return for His saints at the Rapture; and His Personal, Premillennial return with His saints at His Second Coming.

III:3.A A. HIS DEITY

The "Deity and "Divine" come from a Latin word that means "GOD". We believe that Jesus Christ is God and that He has all the attributes of God.

III:3.A1

1) He Is Omnipotent (all powerful)

Matt. 28:18 *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth".*

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- III:3.A2 2) **He Is Omniscient (all knowing)**
John 16:30 "Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needeth not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God".
- III:3.A3 3) **He Is Omnipresent** (everywhere at that same time)
Matt. 18:20 "For where tow or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"
Matt. 28:20 "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".
- III:3.A4 4) **He Is Worshipped As Only God Can Be Worshipped**
Matt. 4:10 "It is written (Deut. 6:13; Deut. 10:20), thou shalt worship the LORD thy God and Him only shalt thou serve".
- a) By Angels
Heb. 1:6 "And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let the angels of God worship him."
 - b) By The Wise Men
Matt. 2:2 "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him".
Matt. 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.."
 - c) By A Leper
Matt. 8:2 "...there came a leper and worshipped him..."
 - d) By A Ruler
Matt. 9:18 "...there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him..."
 - e) By The Syrophinecian Woman
Matt. 15:25 "Then came she and worshipped him..."
 - f) By The Demoniac
Mark 5:6 "...he ran and worshipped him",
 - g) By The Blind Man
John 9:38 "...And he worshipped him".
 - h) By The Apostles
Matt. 14:33 "...came and worshipped him..."
Matt. 28:9 "...they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him".
- All this worship would have been blasphemy if Christ was not God. He would have been guilty of breaking the first & second commandments and therefore would have become a sinner.
- III:3.A5 5) **He forgives Sin**
Mark 2:5 "...Son, thy sins be forgiven".
Mark 2:7 "Why doth this man speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?"
Mark 2:10 "...the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,..."

See Section III:2.B2 for more verses on the Deity of Jesus Christ.[]

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III:3.B B. HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

The Virgin Birth was necessary in order to fulfill prophecy and in order to give Christ a body untainted by sin.

Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel".

Matt. 1:20-23 "...for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²²Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son..."

Matt. 1:25 "And (Joseph) knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son..."

III:3.C C. HIS SINLESS LIFE

This technical term for this is "The Impeccability of Christ." We believe that He did not commit any sins.

2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."

1 Pet. 2:22 "Who did no sin..."

Heb. 4:15 "...in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin".

1 John 3:5 "...and in him is no sin".

III:3.D D. HIS MIRACLES

We believe all 36 miracles recorded in the gospels literally happened. We believe that many more were done by Him that were not recorded.

John 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."

III:3.E E. HIS VICARIOUS DEATH - "Substitutionary"

This simply means that Christ died **instead** of us. he was our substitute. Webster's Dictionary defines this word as, "serving instead of or for another. Performed or suffered by one person as a substitute for another or to the benefit or advantage of another." God punished Christ **instead** of us for our sins.

Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peach was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶...The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Rom. 5:6-8 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for (in place) the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet preadventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for (in place of) us."

Gal. 3:13a "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for (in place) us..."

Heb. 2:9b "...that he by the grace of God should taste death for (in place of) every man."

1 Peter 3:18a "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for (in place) the unjust..."

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III:3.F

F. HIS ATONING DEATH - “covering and payment”

This is an Old Testament word that has the idea of covering of sin and payment for sin. Not only do our sins need to be covered but their penalty must also be paid for. This is the idea of atonement. In the Old Testament sin was atoned for (covered) but not removed. When the death of Jesus Christ took place not only were sins atoned for or covered, but they could now be removed! The word for atonement in the New Testament is the word “Propitiation” and carries the same idea of covering and payment.

1 John 2:2a “*And he is the propitiation (covering & payment) for our sins...*”

Rom. 3:25a “*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (covering & payment) through faith in his blood...*”

Christ’s death was the final covering and payment for our sins. There is no need for another sacrifice. There is no need for another Saviour. There is no need for another atonement.

Rom. 5:11 “*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement (covering & payment).*”

III:3.G

G. HIS DEATH WAS FOR ALL MEN

We believe that Christ died for all men. We reject the Calvinistic view of “Limited Atonement” that teaches that Christ only died for certain people.

John 1:29b “*...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*”

John 3:15a “*That whosoever believeth in him should not perish...*”

John 3:16a “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him...*”

Acts 2:21 “*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Acts 10:43 “*...whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*”

Rom. 5:6 “*...Christ died for the ungodly*” The whole world is ungodly.

Rom. 10:13 “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

1 Tim. 1:15 “*This is a faithful saying, (true words) and worthy of all acceptance, to be believed) that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*”

All mankind are sinners!

1 Tim. 2:6 “*Who gave himself a ransom for all...*”

1 Tim. 4:10 “*...we trust in the living God, who is the saviour of all men...*”

Heb. 2:9 “*...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man*”

1 John 2:2 “*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*”

It is abundantly clear that Christ died for all men!

III:3.H

H. HIS SHED BLOOD

Today the blood of Jesus Christ is being attacked and is said to be of little importance. But we disagree with this idea. We believe that it is the blood that covers and cleanses our sins. Not just His death.

Heb. 9:22 “*And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*”

Matt. 26:28 “*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*”

Rom. 5:9 “*Much more then, being now justified by is blood...*”

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Eph. 1:9 *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..."*

Col. 1:14 *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

1 Peter 1:18-19 *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold⁹...but with the precious blood of Christ."*

1 John 1:7 *"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

III:3.I

I. HIS BODILY RESURRECTION

We believe that Jesus' body rose out of the grave. We do not accept the false theories of:

1. The Fraud Theory - that the disciples stole the body and hid it
2. The Swoon Theory - that He only fainted
3. The Vision Theory - that the disciples saw a vision only
4. The Spirit Theory - that His spirit rose but the body remained
5. The Heart Theory - that He is resurrected in our hearts by faith

Matt. 20:19b *"...and the third day he shall rise again."*

Matt. 26:32 *"But after I have risen again..."*

John 2:19-22 *"...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. But he spake of the temple of his body."*

Acts 10:40 *"Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;"*

Rom. 10:9 *"...and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

1 Cor. 15:1-8 *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and he rose again according to the scriptures: ⁵And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸And at last he was seen of me also..."*

All these eye witnesses saw HIM - not a Spirit, not a vision, not in their hearts, they claim to have SEEN HIM! We believe their account!

III:3.J

J. HIS ASCENSION

We believe that 40 days after Jesus resurrected from the dead He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Mark 16:19 *"...he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."*

Col. 3:1 *"...where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."*

Heb 8:1 *"...who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens".*

What is He doing there?

1. He is preparing a place for us.
John 14:2 *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*
2. He is interceding for us.
Rom. 8:34 *"...who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*

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3. He is acting as our Advocate (legal counsel)
1 John 2:1 "...if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"
4. He has sent the Holy Spirit to us.
John 16:7 "...it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

III:3.K

K. HIS SECOND COMING - FOR HIS SAINTS (THE RAPTURE)

Jesus' second coming actually takes place in two stages. The first stage is called the Rapture. The word "rapture" means "to transport from one place to another", "to snatch out or away". It is when Jesus comes in the air and gathers the live saints (Christians) and the bodies of the dead saints, changes them to spiritual, new bodies just like His resurrected body. This takes place before the 7 year tribulation period (Pretribulational)

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:51- 53 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

III:3.K1

1. What Is The Purpose Of The Rapture?

- a) To judge and reward the Christians.
1 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment (bema) seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
- b) To Remove the Restrainer
2 Thessalonians 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."
- c) To deal again with the nation Israel
Romans 11:25-27 "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."
- d) To keep us from the "Time of God's Wrath"
1 Thessalonians 1:10 ¹⁰"And to wait for his Son heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
Thessalonians 5:9 ⁹"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"

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III:3.K2

2. Old Testament Types Of The Rapture

- a) Enoch - he was taken from the world before the flood
- b) Lot - He was removed from Sodom before it's destruction

III:3.L

L. HIS SECOND COMING - WITH HIS SAINTS

This event takes place at the end of the 7 year tribulation period. He comes back to the earth as He has promised, to take it back for Himself and to set up His promised millennial (1000) year reign of His kingdom. He brings with Him all His saints.

Jude 14 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."

Matthew 24 (*all of it*)

We are **Premillennial** which means that we believe that Jesus will come back with His saints just before the Millennium takes place.

III:4 4.

THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN

We believe that man is totally depraved, a sinner by nature and by divine decree (the Bible) and therefore in need of the convicting and regenerating ministry of the Holy Spirit.

III:4.A

A. MAN IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED

According to Webster's Dictionary the word depraved means, "marked by corruption or evil." It comes from a word that means "crooked or

bad".
nature.

Man is not born good and bad but is born bad - with a sinful

Genesis 6:5 "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

(every...:or, the whole imagination: the Hebrew word signifies not only the imagination, but also the purposes and desires)

Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Notice that all our righteousnesses (good works and deeds) are like filthy rags in God's eyes.

Romans 7:18 "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing."

In our flesh (the natural man) dwelleth nothing good.

Romans 3:10-12 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Romans 5:6 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

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III:4.B

B. MAN IS A SINNER BY NATURE

Man is born with a sin-nature and that is why he sins. It is natural for us to sin. It is our nature.

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

Romans 5:19 *“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”*

We commit sins because we have a sin nature.

Sins are the fruit - the sin nature is the root! Some of us sin a little and some of us sin a lot but all of us sin! The sin nature we are born with naturally produces sins in our life.

III:4.C

C. BY DIVINE DECREE

This simply means that God has declared it to be so! You may or may not believe you are a sinner but God has already declared it so!

III:4.D

D. IN NEED OF THE CONVICTING AND REGENERATING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This will be discussed in more detail later on when the Holy Spirit is discussed but what we believe is that man is in need of salvation. He is in need of being Born Again. He is in need of Regeneration. He is in need of a New Nature.

He

is born a sinner and must receive by faith the New Birth and receive a new nature (that God gives him) or he will perish.

III:5 5.

SATAN

We believe in the person of Satan, in his power and kingdom, in his wiles, in his judgment at the cross and in his eternal destruction in the lake of fire.

III:5.A

A. THE PERSON OF SATAN

Satan is a real personality. He is not just a concept or energy. He is mentioned in 7 Old Testament books, 19 New Testament books, by every N.T. writer and by Jesus over 15 times.

III:5.A.1

1. He Has Intelligence

2 Corinthians 2:11 *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” He has plans and purposes.*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” He is smart and he is trying to corrupt us.”*

III:5.A.2

2. He Has A Will

2 Timothy 2:26 *“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”*

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III:5.A.3

3. He Has Emotions

a) Desire

Luke 22:31 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”

b) Pride

1 Timothy 3:6 “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”

c) Wrath

Revelation 12:12 “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

III:5.B

B. HIS KINGDOM AND POWER

Revelation 13:2 “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

Luke 4:6 “And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”

III:5.C

C. SATAN’S WILE

The word “wile” means TRICKS. He is trying to trick man into unbelief and sin.

Ephesians 6:10-11 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

III:5.C.1

1. He Imitates God

Isaiah 14:12-14 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I ascent into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

III:5.C.2

2. He Sows Tares Among God’s Wheat

This means he puts false Christians among the real ones. There are some in churches, Bible organizations, pulpits and in Bible

colleges.

(see Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43)

2 Corinthians 11:15 “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

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- III:5.C.3 **3. He Instigate False Doctrines**
1 Timothy 4:1-2 "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ²Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"
- III:5.C.4 **4. He Twists The Word Of God By Taking It Out Of Context**
*Matthew 4:6 "And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy food against a stone."
Genesis 3:1-4 "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."*
- III:5.C.5 **5. He Hinders The Works Of God's Servants**
1 Thessalonians 2:18 "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."
- III:5.C.6 **6. He Can Resist The Prayers Of God's Servants**
Daniel 10:12-13 "Then said he unto men, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come thy words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia (Satan) withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."
- III:5.C.7 **7. He Blinds Men To The Truth Of The Gospel**
2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
- III:5.C.8 **8. He Steals Away The Word Of God From People's Hearts**
Matthew 13:19 "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, them cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."
- III:5.C.9 **9. He Accuses Christians Before God**
Revelation 12:9-10 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

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- III:5.C.10 **10. He Lays Snares For Men**
1 Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
2 Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
- III:5.C.11 **11. He Tempts**
Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- III:5.C.12 **12. He Can Afflict**
Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.
Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?
Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
- III:5.C.13 **13. He Deceives**
Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- III:5.D. **D. HIS JUDGMENT AT THE CROSS**
He was Judged at Calvary when Jesus Christ paid for the sins of the world and defeated the enemy of life - death.
- III:5.E **E. HIS ETERNAL DESTRUCTION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE**
Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

III:6 **6. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, that He convicts the sinner, regenerates the one who believes, indwells, seals, instructs, reproves and guides the believer, and that He fills and controls every life that is totally yielded to Him. However, we are not Charismatic.

There are several different ministries or duties that the Holy Spirit has.

- III:6.A **A. TO CONVICT**
The word CONVICT means to reprove, to admonish and rebuke.
John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

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Revelation 3:19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

- III:6.A1 1. **He Convicts Men Of Sin - because they believe not on Him.**
It is His job to convict the sinner as we present the gospel.
- III:6.A2 2. **He Convicts of Righteousness**
The lack of man's righteousness and the need for Christ's righteousness.
- III:6.A3 3. **He Convicts Men of The Coming Judgment Of God**
- III:6.B **B. REGENERATES**
It is His job to re-gene a person with spiritual genes. This is what regeneration means. It means to be Born Again.
John 3:3-5 **Ephesians 2:1** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
- III:6.C **C. HE INDWELLS THE BELIEVER**
John 14:16-18 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforted, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*
- III:6.D **D. HE SEALS THE BELIEVER**
2 Corinthians 1:22 *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*
Ephesians 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.*
The seal of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit Himself.
- III:6.E **E. HE INSTRUCTS THE BELIEVER**
John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
Luke 12:12 *For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*
John 14:26 *But the Comforted, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
I John 2:27 *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that nay man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

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III:6.F

F. HE LEADS & GUIDES THE BELIEVER

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he wills hew you things to come.*

III:6.G

G. HE FILLS THE BELIEVER

This filling is primarily for boldness and power in witnessing and preaching.

Ephesians 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Acts 2:4* *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues {known languages}, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 6:3 *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

Acts 11:24 *For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*

Acts 13:52 *And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost*

III:7 7.

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is a free gift from God offered to all men by His grace, and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that salvation is eternal and cannot be lost.

III:7.A A.

SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

nothing
sinner.

Salvation is freely offered to man in exchange for his faith. Man can do nothing to earn it nor deserve it, It is totally a gift offered to an undeserving sinner. Nothing can be added to it. It is FAITH PLUS NOTHING.

John 4:10 *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

Romans 5:15-21 *But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one may be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification. ¹⁷For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one {Jesus} shall many be made righteous. ²⁰Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: ²¹That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

III:7.B B. BY HIS GRACE

Grace means “unmerited favor”. It is God’s unmerited favor towards an undeserving sinner. It means that God does it despite how good or bad you are. It is His favor to you not your favor to God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. ⁹Not of {good} works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 4:4 *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. {if you can work for it it would not be unmerited favor - it would be earned}*

Romans 11:6 *And if by grace, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*

Salvation cannot be of good works and of grace. Merited favor (good works) contradicts unmerited favor (grace).

III:7.C C. OFFERED TO ALL MEN

die We believe that Jesus died for ALL people who would ever live. He did not just for a select few but for ALL sinners.

John 1:6-7 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

John 3:15-18 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

¹⁶*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is*

condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Acts 17:30 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.*

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 4:10 *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

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III:7.D D. RECEIVED BY PERSONAL FAITH

men Even though Christ died for all men and offers salvation as a free gift to all - the gift must be received. It must be asked for and received from Christ by faith.

have Faith and believe are synonyms. They mean the same thing. To believe or faith means to trust, rest upon, rely. It does not simply mean to believe about Christ. It means to rest on His promises, trust in all His words and to rely upon Him for your salvation and not upon anything else.

John 1:12 *But as many received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

John 3:15-18 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

¹⁶*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

Acts 4:4 *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

Acts 16:30-31 *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

³¹*And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.*

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

1 John 5:10-13 *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son {the Bible}. ¹¹And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

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III:7.E E. FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS ONLY

It is not enough just to believe in God. The Jews believed in God. You must put your faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. He is the only Saviour for the whole world. There are no others. Not Buddha, not Allah, not Mohammed, not Mary. Jesus is the only Saviour.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be save.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

III:7.F F. OUR SALVATION CANNOT BE LOST

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 6:39-40 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. ⁴⁰And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Hebrews 7:24-25 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. {to the uttermost...:or, evermore}

III:8 8. THE RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved unto “eternal life” and the unsaved unto “judgment and everlasting damnation.”

There are 2 kinds of resurrections in the Bible.

III:8.A A. THE FIRST RESURRECTION - TO LIFE

This is the resurrection of all the saved.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

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Luke 14:13-14 *But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: ¹⁴And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*

John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

III:8.B

B. THE SECOND RESURRECTION - TO DAMNATION

This is the resurrection and judgment of the saved.

John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. ²⁹And shall come forth; they have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

Revelation 20:5 *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*

Revelation 20:11-13 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹²*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

These two resurrections are separated by 1000 years.

III:8.C

C. THE RESURRECTION CHRONOLOGY

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 *But not is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. ²⁴Them cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*

III:8.C.1

1) CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUIT

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

III:8.C.2

2) THE FIRST RESURRECTION OF THE SAVED AT THE RAPTURE

Afterward {a lapse of time} they that are Christ's at his coming. {parousia - the rapture is in view here}

1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. {prevent: or, come before, or, precede} ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

III:8.C.3

3) The 7 Year Tribulation Period

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- III:8.C.4 4) Then cometh the end. {The tribulation period}
Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints
Revelation 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; {during the tribulation} and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
- III:8.C.5 5) **Resurrection of the Unsaved Dead**
Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

III:9 9. THE CHURCH

local We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the church as God's only accredited institution to carry out the Great Commission, but not in the organized unity sought by Fellowships, Denominations and by the "Ecumenical" movement.

III:9.A A. EVERY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER MAKES UP THE FAMILY OF GOD.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {power: or, the right, or privilege}
Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
Ephesians 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

There are good Christians in many different denominations. If they are born again then they are just as much a part of the family of God as we are. All of us are brothers and sisters as far as the Family of God is concerned.

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III:9.B B. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS NOT THE SAME AS THE FAMILY OF GOD
The local church is an assembly of certain members of the family of God.
When you are saved you become a member of the family of God but you do not
or become a member of a church. You must be added to an assembly by baptism
transferred from another assembly of like faith.

III:9.C C. THE WORD “CHURCH” ALWAYS REFERS TO A LOCAL CALLED OUT ASSEMBLY - NOT A UNIVERSAL CHURCH
Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.
Here is a specific church at a specific location.
Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
Here we see multiple churches mentioned each separate from each other.
Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
Here is a specific church at a specific location.
Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
Here we see multiple churches mentioned each separate from each other.

All the Church Epistles were written to specific churches.
The 7 letters of Revelation 2-3 were written to seven specific churches. Each church consisted of local, called out, baptized believers meeting together at one location.

III:9.D D. EACH CHURCH IS INDEPENDENT OF OTHER
The church at Ephesus had no right to tell the church at Antioch what to do.

III:9.E E. EACH CHURCH HAD TWO OFFICES
1) Pastor (elder, bishop) 2) Deacons (servants)

III:9.F F. EACH CHURCH HAD TWO ORDINANCES
1) Baptism - by water immersion for believers only
2) The Lord’s Supper - a memorial
Each ordinance pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

III:9.G G. FOR 300 YEARS THESE CHURCHES STAYED INDEPENDENT

III:9.H H. BIG CHURCHES STARTED TO HIRE AREA SUPERVISORS
These supervisors looked over the smaller churches.

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- III:9.I **I. EVENTUALLY THEY STARTED TO BOSS AND CONTROL THE SMALLER CHURCHES IN ITS AREA**
- III:9.J **J. EVENTUALLY THE SMALLER CHURCHES HAD TO JOIN UP WITH THE BIGGER CHURCHES AND THEY BECAME ONE “UNIVERSAL CHURCH”**
in The bigger churches put pressure on the smaller ones and they joined together a denomination. They called themselves the “Universal” or CATHOLIC Church. Catholic means universal. This was in the early fourth century.
- III:9.K **K. INDEPENDENT CHURCHES THAT REFUSED TO JOIN UP AND BE CONTROLLED BY THE “MOTHER CHURCH” WERE PERSECUTED BY THE “MOTHER CHURCH.”**
- III:9.L **L. NOW THERE WERE TWO GROUPS CALLING THEMSELVES “A CHURCH”**
 1) The Catholic - Universal church
 2) The Independent churches with two officers, two ordinances and the doctrine of the local church.
- III:9.M **M. THE PERSECUTED INDEPENDENT CHURCHES WERE FORCED TO GO UNDERGROUND TO AVOID PERSECUTION.**
- III:9.N **N. THE CATHOLIC-UNIVERSAL CHURCH CHANGED MAJOR BIBLE DOCTRINES**
- III:9.N1 **1) The Doctrine Of The Church - from Local to Universal**
- III:9.N1 **2) The Officers Of the Church - from Pastors and Deacons to priests, bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals and of course Popes.**
- III:9.N2 **3) The Ordinances Of The Church - from baptism and the Lord’s supper to the 7 Sacraments**
- III:9.N4 **4) The Teaching Of The Church**
 a) From Baptism for believers only to baby baptism.
 b) From Baptism by immersion to baptism by sprinkling.
 c) From Salvation by faith plus nothing to salvation by faith plus works.
 d) The introduction of Purgatory. A place to pay for your own sins.
 e) The introduction of a formal, ritualistic service.
 f) The introduction of Indulgences (paying money to get people out of purgatory).

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- g) From the Bible as the final authority in all faith and practice to the “Church” and the Pope as the final authority.
- h) Many, many other traditions and superstitions which they have added to their religion.

So the Catholic-Universal church controlled all the churches and called them Parishes.

Then came the Dark Ages 500-1500 AD.

III:9.O O. THEN CAME THE REFORMATION PERIOD

their The Reformation was not really a revival. It was some Catholics who pulled out of the Catholic church over Salvation by Works. These were men whom had finally believed what the Independents had been preaching for 1500 years, that salvation was by faith not by works. These Reformers were Born Again when they placed their faith and trust in Christ and Him alone instead of in church and their good works. They tried to convince the leadership of the Catholic church but they would not listen. The Catholic church was telling them to stop and to recant and that they were not allowed to believe that. So these Reformers **protested** (protestant) and left the Catholic church to start their own church.

These men were called “Protestant” because they protested against the Catholic church.

- 1) The Catholic Church started around 313 AD under Constantine
 - 2) In 1530 Martin Luther came out of the Catholic church and started the Lutheran Church
 - 3) In 1531 the Episcopal or Anglican Church of England was formed a split off the Catholic church
 - 4) In 1541 the Presbyterian church was started by John Calvin who also left the Catholic church
 - 5) In 1602 the Congregational church was founded
 - 6) In 1785 the Methodist church was founded by John Wesley who came out of the Anglican church
 - 7) In 1812 the Disciples of Church was founded
 - 8) In 1900 the Interdenominational church movement started
 - 9) In 1905 the Pentecostal Church was started
 - 10) In 1925 the United church was born in a merge of the Methodist and Congregational church here in Canada
- from
- church

All these churches have their roots in the Catholic church. They are called deno minations because they are controlled by a central headquarters that tells the local congregations what to do. When someone says they are a member of the “Presbyterian Church” they mean the Presbyterian denomination.

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- III:9.P P. AT THE REFORMATION THE BAPTISTS CAME OUT OF HIDING**
They thought that because Luther and others had left the Catholic church and was preaching salvation by faith plus nothing, that it was the same and they would be on their side.
- III:9.Q Q. WHEN THE PROTESTANT PULLED OUT THEY KEPT MANY OF THE CATHOLIC DOCTRINES**
1) The Formalistic, Ritualistic Service
2) The Priesthood and their Robes, candles, incense
3) The UNIVERSAL CHURCH idea as opposed to the Local church idea of the Bible
4) Infant Baptism
5) A wrong concept of the Ordinances
6) More than two offices in the local church
If you visit a Presbyterian or a Lutheran church it is very similar to a Catholic church service.
- III:9.R R. BOTH CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS UNITED TO PERSECUTE THE BAPTISTS**
The main issues of friction were the Baptist's refusal to baptize babies and their insistence on baptizing a believer by immersion after he professed faith in Christ even though he had probably been baptized as a baby by one of these denominations.
- III:9.S S. AS THE MAINLINE DENOMINATIONS BECAME LIBERAL MORE DENOMINATIONS FORMED FROM SPLITS OFF THESE**
Every group that calls itself "Christian" either came from a Protestant Denomination and therefore from the Catholic church OR from Jesus Christ.
- III:9.T T. THE MODERN PROTESTANT CHURCHES GAVE BIRTH OT THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES AND THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT**
- III:9.U U. THIS INTERDENOMINATIONAL UNITY WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD BACK TO A UNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**
The use of "Priests" and "Born again Catholics" in protestant pulpits and on T.V. Ministries shows us where they are heading - back to Rome!

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III:10 10

CREATION

We believe in six literal creation days of twenty-four hours each and we reject the “Gap Theory.”

III:10.1 1. SIX LITERAL DAYS

III:10.1A A. **THE BIBLE SAYS SO**

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The account of Genesis is simple and plain. It tells us that God made the heaven and the earth in 6 days. Six evening and morning periods.

III:10.1B B. **THE TERM “DAY-NIGHT”**

The term “Evening and Morning” is always used in a literal sense in the Bible.

III:10.1C C. **THE “DAYS” ARE ALL NUMBERED**

The word “DAY” always has a qualifier - 1 day, 2 days. It is used this way over 200 times in the Bible. It is always to be taken literally. The word one, two, three and so forth all qualify how many days are meant.

III:10.1D D. **THE SABBATH DAY REST**

If each “was” was really meant to be a period of 1000 years or more then the Lord rested for at least 1000 years! Yet the Bible only lets the Jews rest for 1 day!

III:10.1E E. **THE ORDER OF EVENTS COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER AGES**

In Genesis 1:11-12 God creates grass, herbs, trees, shrubs, fruit and vegetables. If the third day was even 1000 years long, how could the plants have survived without the animals to eat them. They would have been everywhere! Also, plants take in Carbon dioxide and put out Oxygen while animals (which were created yet) put out Carbon Dioxide and take in Oxygen. Without the animals the plants would have died without the natural balance of nature which God intended.

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How could the plants, trees and vegetation survive without the sun (it was not created until the fourth day) for thousands of years?

How could the plants and herbs pollinate, since it takes insects for many of these to pollinate?

III:10.1F F. POPULATION GROWTH

If man were really over 1 million years old the present population would be thousands of times greater. Conservative estimate would have to be around 10 (27,000 zeros) people!

The whole Milky Way Galaxy could only squeeze in 10 (100 zeros) in it.

III:10.1G G. THE BIBLE GENEALOGY BETWEEN GENESIS 5-11

If evolution was correct you would have to squeeze a 50,000 year gap between each name mentioned in this genealogy.

III:10.1H H. THE CREATION OF THE SUN

The sun was created on the fourth day. God put the sun, moon and stars in the sky to divide the day from the night. Day and night already existed and were created on the first day. So the sun was a visible reminder to measure the days by. The created sun was SUBJECT to the already created DAY & NIGHT of the first day. Day and night already existed! The sun was made to rule or to lead and guide the daytime period.

My point is that a day and night is not 24 hours because that is what we see (sun up - sun down = 1 day). The earth was revolving already 1 pass every 24 hours on day one and the sun came later on day four. The day/night period is 24 hours and the sun is a visible witness to the fact!

III:10.1I I. GOD WAS COUNTERING PAGANISM

God was counteracting against the Paganism that would arise! All the pagan nations of antiquity believed in some form of evolutionary cosmogony which needed vast eons of time before man and before other living creatures developed from the primeval chaos.

An honest reading of the Bible would never lead you to believe in these so called “ages of creation”.

The best way to interpret Genesis is not to interpret it at all and just to take it for what it says! That is what faith is!

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

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III:10.2 2. THE GAP THEORY

We reject the concept of the Gap Theory that teaches that there is a gap between Gen.1:1 and 1:2. We reject the idea that Satan ruled the planet and that there was a war. The Bible says nothing like this! This theory was developed to help blend the Bible with evolution. The only gap is between the ears of those who believe such fantasy.

III:11 11. BAPTISM

We believe in water baptism by immersion for believers only as soon as possible after salvation.

III:11.A A. **BIBLE BAPTISM IS WATER BAPTISM**

Baptism in the Bible always means with water except in a few cases dealing with being baptized with the Holy Spirit. In these few cases it is always called that. Most other mention of baptism means water baptism.

III:11.B B. **BIBLE BAPTISM IS FOR TODAY**

Many today make light of baptism by saying it is not for today or that it is not important but in the Bible we see it is very important.

The Great Commission Is To All Nations Until The End Of The Age
Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {teach....or, make disciples, or Christians of all nations} ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

This commission or command to get people saved, and to baptize them and to disciple them was to continue till the end of the age.

III:11.C C. **THE MEANING OF BIBLE BAPTISM**

Romans 6:3-5 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? {were: or, are} ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

It Pictures Three things:

- III:11.C1 1) The death of the Old Nature
The burial of the Old Nature
The Resurrection with a New Nature

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- III:11.C2 2) The Death of Jesus Christ and your identification with it.
 The Burial of Jesus Christ and your identification with it.
 The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and your identification with it.
- III:11.C3 3) One Day You will Die
 One Day You will be Buried
 One Day Your Body will be Resurrected
- III:11.D **D. BIBLE BAPTISM IS A COMMAND - NOT A PREFERENCE**
 Matthew 28:18-20 is an imperative command. Jesus is commanding us to go
 get people saved, baptized and discipled.
 *Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then
 prayed they him to tarry certain days.*
- III:11.E **E. BIBLE BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION**
 The work baptize means “to immerse, to plunge under”
 *Mark 1:9-10 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of
 Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. ¹⁰ And straightway coming up out of the
 water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him
 Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into
 the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*
- III:11.F **F. BIBLE BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE**
 The thief on the cross was saved but was never baptized.
 *Acts 8:36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the
 eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip
 said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I
 believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 Before Philip would baptize him he made sure that he believed first.*
- III:11.G **G. BIBLE BAPTISM DOES NOT WASH AWAY ANY SINS**
 Only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away our sins.
- III:11.H **H. BIBLE BAPTISM IS TO FOLLOW RIGHT AFTER SALVATION**
 The practice of waiting for a training period or a probationary period is not
 biblical.
 *Acts 2:27-28 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto
 Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ Then
 Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus
 Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into
 the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.
 Acts 10:47-48 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which
 have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ³⁸ And he commanded them to be
 baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.
 Acts 16:14-15 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of
 Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she
 attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized,
 and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the
 Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

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Acts 16:32-34 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. *Acts 18:8* And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

III:11.I

I. BIBLE BAPTISM IS ONLY FOR BELIEVERS

Acts 8:36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest, And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

III:11.J

J. BIBLE BAPTISM IS NOT FOR BABIES

There is not one example of a baby being baptized in the Bible. This is because a baby is not old enough to believe yet.

III:11.K

K. BAPTISTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PERSECUTED OVER BAPTISM FOR BELIEVERS ONLY

III:12 12.

HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe in a literal Heaven where the souls of the saved people go when they die and a literal Hell of fire where the souls of the lost people go when they die.

III:12.A

A. A LITERAL HEAVEN

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The Bible tells us of a place called Heaven where Jesus is right now. In Heaven there is also a place called the New Jerusalem. (see Rev. 21-22)

III:12.B

B. THE SAVED GO TO HEAVEN IMMEDIATELY AT DEATH

2 Corinthians 5:1-8 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: ³ If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. ⁵ Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by

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sight:)⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

III:12.C

C. A LITERAL HELL

Matthew 5:29-30 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

III:12.D

D. THE LOST GO TO HELL IMMEDIATELY AT DEATH

Luke 16:22-24 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

IV

ARTICLE IV IV CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

IV:1 1. MEMBERSHIP BY BAPTISM

Acts 2:20-41 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and accepting the Statement of Faith and the Covenant held by this church may, upon baptism, be received into the membership of the church.

yourselfes from this untoward generation. ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

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- A. SAVED
- B. BAPTIZED
- C. MEMBERSHIP “Added unto them”
- D. TEACHING “The apostles doctrine”
- E. FELLOWSHIP
- F. THE LORD’S SUPPER “In breaking of bread”
- G. PRAYER

IV:2 2. MEMBERSHIP BY TRANSFER

Members of other churches of like faith and practice may be received into membership by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their church That church should receive from us notification that they have united with this church.

This is only common courtesy. There is no specific direction on this in the Bible.

IV:3 3. MEMBERSHIP BY TESTIMONY

Those who have been scripturally baptized by water immersion and who accept the Statement of Faith and Practice of this church may also be received by virtue of their experience and testimony.

This allows those without letters to join the church provided they believe as we believe and show an honest desire and willingness to join.

IV:4 4. MEMBERSHIP RULES

- IV:4.A A. **ACTIVE MEMBERS**
Active members are those who demonstrate their interest in the welfare of the church by regular attendance and financial support, and those who, because of sickness or infirmity, are unable to attend services.

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IV:4.B B. NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

Non-resident members are those who live too far from the church to attend regularly, but who prefer to keep their membership with us. They must keep in touch with the church by keeping the clerk informed as to their address and by making an offering at least once a year for the support of the church, unless they are dependent.

IV:4.C C. INACTIVE MEMBERS

Inactive members are those who do not qualify as non-resident members, and who without reasonable excuse, do not attend the regular services for a period of six months. Names on the inactive list shall not be counted in any statistical reports. Any inactive members shall automatically become active members upon their resumption of regular attendance and financial support.

IV:5 5. MEMBERSHIP WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal of membership can only be accomplished by the following procedures.

IV:5.A A. Receipt of notification in writing that an individual has united with another church.

IV:5.B B. Receipt of a written request from an individual to have his/her name removed from the membership roll.

IV:5.C C. Membership can be terminated through church discipline if deemed necessary by the church.

IV:5.D D. The names of all deceased members shall be placed on a special roll of Members Entered Into Rest.

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V

ARTICLE V OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

V:1 1. THE PASTOR

The leadership of this church, all departments being subject thereto, resides in the scriptural office of the Pastor, who is appointed by the Holy Spirit as the overseer of the assembly. We believe that the three terms - Elder, Bishop, Pastor - all refer to the ministry of the same person.

V:1.A A. SCRIPTURAL TITLES

V:1.A1 1) Pastor

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The word, “pastor” means shepherd. It signifies a shepherd who keeps watch over the sheep. He feeds them, he leads them, he protects them, and he cares for them. **This is the spiritual side of the ministry.**

V:1.A2 2) Bishop

1 Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

The word, “bishop” means overseer. He has the oversight of the church and is responsible to God for it. God has made him the manager. He oversees all the workings of the church as a supervisor. He oversees all the ministries and all the activities of the church. **This is the administrative side of the ministry.**

V:1.A3 3) Elder

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

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the word, “elder” refers back to the Old Testament and the Jewish idea of an elder in the synagogue and the elders in a tribe or family. The elder was the official director of the synagogue. this term was commonly used in the New Testament for the office of the Pastor. It deals with his position being one of honor and respect. It implies that he should possess wisdom, understanding, justice, discernment, knowledge and discretion. **This is the personal side of the ministry.**

V:1.B B. QUALIFICATIONS

The Pastor must be a firm believer in the Doctrinal Statement of Faith of this church. He should be qualified by Christian character, ability, and education in accordance with I Timothy 3:1-7.

V:1.C C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Pastor is to lead the church in all matters and is responsible for the teaching and preaching in all services. He must see that all phases of the ministry are carried for.

V:1.C1 1) The Pastor is responsible for the doctrine taught in the church.

V:1.C2 2) The Pastor shall represent the church in all matters.

V:1.C3 3) The Pastor shall be an automatic member of every function, meeting and committee of the church.

V:1.C4 4) The Pastor shall be the moderator at every business meeting.

V:1.C5 5) The Pastor’s authority comes from Christ, not from the church or from a denomination. It is his responsibility to follow Christ and accordingly lead the church.

V:1.C6 6) The Pastor has the freedom to select all staff members, and determine their hours, responsibilities and salaries.

V:1.C7 7) The Pastor must approve all volunteer church staff.

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V:1.D

D. APPOINTING THE PASTOR

V:1.D1

1) The Pastor is appointed for an indefinite period of time.

V:1.D2

2) There is to be one Pastor. Associates may be hired as needed, but are subject to the Pastor.

V:1.D3
prayer

3) It is the Holy Spirit's work to call a man of God, therefore, much and seeking of God's will must proceed the calling of a Pastor.

V:1.D4

4) The Deacons shall serve as Pulpit committee if the need arises. Their first responsibility is to see that pulpit is filled in all regular services by preachers of like faith and practice.

V:1.D5

5) The Deacons shall prayerfully select at least three candidates and present their names to the church, who will then vote on whether to invite the man to candidate. After a man is invited to candidate, he shall preach in at least two regular services and meet with the Deacons.

V:1.D6

6) The church members shall be informed two weeks in advance that a vote to call a Pastor will be taken in a special business meeting.

V:1.D7
the

7) The church shall vote on the candidate as soon as is convenient after candidate has preached.

V:1.D8

8) As soon as possible, after the candidate has accepted the call, he shall join the church and assume his responsibilities as Pastor.

V:1.D9

9) Seventy-five percent is the minimum vote needed to accept the candidate. Only active and non-resident members can vote.

V:1.E

E. DISMISSING THE PASTOR

V:1.E1

1) Action by the church to terminated the responsibilities of its Pastor must be taken only after much prayer, and only for the most serious reasons, such as immoral conduct or heresy.

V:1.E2

2) A Unanimous recommendation by the Deacons to the church to vacate the pulpit immediately must be passed by a vote of seventy-five percent of qualified voters.

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V:1.E3 3) The charges and reasoning must be in writing and the Pastor must have an opportunity to respond to the charges before the congregation.

V:1.E4 4) Dismissal of a Pastor must be conducted according to scriptural principles as given in I Timothy 5:19-20.

1 Timothy 5:19-20 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

V:2 2. DEACONS

V:2.A A. **Qualifications of Deacons**

The Deacons shall meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:8-13. They shall be men of good report, leading a consistent Christian life, separated from the world of in all questionable amusement, secret societies, and abstaining from all forms liquor and tobacco. They must be regular in their attendance to all the services, tithers, Spirit-filled soul winners, and supportive of the Pastor and his program.

V:2.B B. **Election of Deacons**

V:2.B1 1) Upon the recommendation of the Pastor, Deacons shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the church. They shall be elected to a two year term, with half of the deacons being voted on one year, and the other half being voted on the next year.

V:2.B2 2) The number of Deacons shall be determined by the Pastor.

V:2.B3 3) Nominations must be accepted one month prior to the yearly meeting, and are subject to the Pastor's approval. The Pastor will speak to the nominees, and if the nomination is accepted, it shall be publicly announced. Nominations must be seconded. The nominees will be elected by a private vote, with the most votes winning. The winners will be publicly received at the annual church business meeting.

V:2.C C. **Duties of the Deacon**

V:2.C1 1) To attend all Deacon's Meetings when called by the Pastor.

V:2.C2 2) To keep a record of the meeting (by the secretary).

V:2.C3 3) To seek out the members in our church who are in need and to recommend the use of the alms of the church for their relief.

V:2.C4 4) To visit the sick.

V:2.C5 5) To prepare and distribute the Lord's Supper.

V:2.C6 6) To cooperate and assist the Pastor in his duties.

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- V:2.C7 7) To have charge over all the books and literature distributed and sold in the church.
- V:2.C8 8) To recommend to the church the Pastor's remuneration and missionary payments for the church.
- V:2.C9 9) To act as an advisory board to the Pastor in areas of hiring or firing of staff and other areas of church business.
- V:2.C10 10) To act as a Pulpit Committee if the need arises.

V:2.D D. Removal of a Deacon

- V:2.D1 1. If the need arises and a Deacon must be removed, the Deacon is to give his written resignation to the Pastor, and the Pastor in turn will inform the church. Reasons for removal do not have to be made public, provided the Deacon resigns. If the Deacon refuses to resign, then a public meeting outlining the Pastor's reasons for dismissal will be held. A private vote will be taken. A seventy-five percent vote is needed for dismissal.

VI

ARTICLE VI CHURCH GOVERNMENT

VI:1 1. VOTING

- VI:1.A A. The government of this church shall be vested in the body which composes its membership.
- VI:1.B B. The voting can only be done by active and non-resident members.
- VI:1.C C. Every active member in the church has one vote only.
- VI:1.D D. In matters of buying or selling buildings or church property, all members must be notified one month in advance of a general vote to be held at the church.
- VI:1.E E. A **QUORUM** shall be ten percent of the last known active membership.
- VI:1.F F. A majority of sixty-six percent shall decide all church matters except:
- VI:1.F1 1) The calling or dismissing of a Pastor (75%)
- VI:1.F2 2) A vote to amend the Constitution (75%)
- VI:1.F3 3) A vote to dismiss a Deacon (75%)

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VI:1.G G. Any items not specifically covered by the budget that the church wishes to spend, over five hundred dollars, must be voted on at a church business meeting, except in emergency situations where deemed necessary by the Pastor and Deacons.

VI:2.A 2. **CHURCH MEETINGS**

VI:2.A A. The church will meet regularly every Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening for public services. These three meetings are the minimum amount of public services to be held each week.

VI:2.B B. A minimum of one meeting a week shall be held for the purpose of personal soul winning as church.

VI:2.C C. The Lord's Supper shall be served on the first Sunday morning or evening of each month, unless changed by the Pastor. The Lord's Supper must be observed at least once a month.

VI:2.D D. Special business meetings will be called for as the need arises, by the Pastor. Two public announcements must proceed any church business meeting.

VI:2.E E. An annual church business meeting will be held in the month of January, with two weeks public notice given. At this meeting, the Deacons will be voted and accepted, the yearly financial statement and budget will be presented, missionaries to be supported will be voted on and any other pieces of business deemed necessary.

VI:3. 3. **THE CHURCH YEAR**

VI:3.A A. The church year shall run from January 1st to December 31st.

VII **ARTICLE VII**
MISSIONS

VII:1 1. This church will strive to be missionary minded, and support home and foreign missionaries of like faith and practice as outlined in our statement of Faith.

VII:2 2. At the annual business meeting, the church will vote on the missionaries it is to support for that year.

VII:3. 3. The Pastor and deacons will decide how to distribute the missionary fund.

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VIII

ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- VIII:1** 1. This Constitution may be amended only at the annual business meeting by a seventy-five percent majority vote. The proposed amendments must have been presented at a previous regular business meeting in writing, and posted on the church bulletin board two Sundays preceding the annual business meeting.
- VIII:2** 2. The purpose of the church, Article II, and the Doctrinal Statement, Article III, cannot be changed or amended in any way.