



GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Faith

Article I

The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21); that it has truth without any mixture of error (Psa. 119:160; John 17:17); and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried (Psa. 119:89; I Pet. 1:23; Psa. 19:7-11).

(Explanatory)

1. By “the Holy Bible,” we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not merely contain and convey the word of God, but is the very Word of God.
2. By “Inspiration” we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

Article II

The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth (Exod. 20:2-3; I Cor. 8:6); inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love (Exod. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; Mark 12:30); that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (John 15:26; I John 5:7).

Article III

The Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father (Acts 5:3-4) and God the Son (2 Cor. 13:14) and of the same nature (Heb. 9:14; John 14:26); that He was active in the creation (Gen. 1:1-3); that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God’s purpose is fulfilled (II Thess. 2:7); that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness (John 16:8-11); that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony (John 15:26-27); that He is the agent in the New Birth (John 3:5-6); that He seals, baptizes, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer (Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14,16,26-27; I Pet. 1:2).

That the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) is the evidence of His indwelling rather than speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18-21).

Article IV

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification has a three-fold meaning: that of setting apart of things, days or persons specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father (I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:10-14); the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God experiences the power of the

indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature (John 17:17; I Thess. 5:23,24; II Cor. 3:18), which work will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence (Jude 24-25; Rev 22:11).

Article V

The Devil or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the Lord of the Antichrist and the author of all powers of darkness – destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels (Isa. 14:12-15; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-9; Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:4 Rev. 20:10).

Article VI

The Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally (Gen. 1:1; Exod. 20:11; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3); that man was created in God's own image and after His own likeness (Gen. 1:26-27); that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species (Gen. 2:7; Gen. 2:21-23); that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind" (Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24).

Article VII

The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker (Gen. 3:1-6, 24) but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state (Rom. 5:12, Rom. 5:19), in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice (Rom. 3:10-19; Rom. 1:18); and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Rom. 1:32).

Article VIII

The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14).

Article IX

The Atonement for Sin (Salvation)

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24) through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins (John 3:16; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14-17; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21); that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree (John 10:18; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:10-11; Heb 12:2); that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior (I Cor. 15:20; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2).

Article X

Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again (John 3:3); that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17); that it is instantaneous and not a process (I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41); that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God (II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13); that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in

connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel (John 3:8; John 1:12-13); that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (Gal. 5:22-24; Eph. 2:5-6; 5:9).

Article XI

The Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace (I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30); that the blessings of salvation are made free to all through the gospel (Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith (Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel (Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40), which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (John 3:18; John 3:36).

Article XII

Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secured to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness (Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1); that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but it is solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood that His righteousness is imputed unto us (Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8).

Article XIII

Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations (Acts 20:21), and also inseparable graces (Mark 1:15), wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God (Acts 2:36-38); thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy (Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Isa. 55:6-7); at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior (Luke 12:8; Rom. 9:11).

Article XIV

The Church

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of immersed believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ (Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:2); governed by His laws (Eph. 1:22-23); and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word (Rom 12:3-8); that its scripturally designated officers are pastors (elders) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9); we believe the true mission of the church is found in the great commission: First, to make individual disciples; second, to baptize them; third, to teach and instruct, as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order (Matt. 28:19-20); we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2). On all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final (Matt 18:15-17; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13).

Article XV

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16); in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19); to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12); that in scriptural order it (baptism) precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20); the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and wine remind us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, "Who spared not his own Son but delivered Him up for us all," that this ordinance is preceded always by solemn self-examination (I Cor. 11:23-28).

Article XVI

The Perseverance of the Saints (Eternal Security)

We believe that the believer has the promise of eternal life, based on the action and activity of God (John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:30,35,38,39; Phil. 1:6); it is the power of God that accomplishes this in our lives (1 Peter 1:5; Eph. 1:18,19); God will be our guide in this life and afterward receives us to glory (Ps 73:23-24).

Article XVII

The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (Mal. 3:18; Rom. 6:17-18); that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His sight (Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 3:7); while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse (I John 5:19; Gal 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14); and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting bliss of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost (Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14).

Article XVIII

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society (Rom. 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3); that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed (Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17); except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18); who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth (Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Rev. 10:6; Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11).

Article XIX

Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Eze. 37).

Article XX

Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matt. 28:6, 7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17; 5:9, 10; 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 John 2:1; Rev. 3:21).

Article XXI

Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the pretribulational rapture of the church, an event that can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation.

(I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44, 51-54; Phil. 3:20, 21; Rev. 3:10)

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the premillennial return of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish His kingdom upon the earth (Dan. 9:25-27; Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6, 7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Rev. 20:1-4, 6).