

ARTICLES OF FAITH
Accepted by MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 29, 1926

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was

- (a) written by men supernaturally inspired (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21);
- (b) that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160); and
- (c) therefore is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men; the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried (Hebrews 1:1,2; Psalm 119:89; John 12:48; Isaiah 8:20.)

(Explanatory)

- 1. By "THE HOLY BIBLE" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not only contain and convey the word of God, but IS the very Word of God (I Thess. 2:13.)
- 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.

II. OF THE TRINITY

- 1. We believe that there is
 - a) one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth(Deut. 6:4; Jer.10:10; I Tim. 1:17, Ps. 147:5; John 4:24; Heb. 1:2; Rev. 19:6)
 - b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honour, confidence and love; (Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; Heb. 1:3)
 - c) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:4-6; John 15:26; Eph. 1:13,14).
- 2. We believe
 - (a) that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner (Luke 1:35)
 - (b) born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman (Luke 1:35) and,
 - (c) that He is both the Son of God and God the Son (Luke 1:35, John 10:30)
- 3. That the Holy Spirit is a divine person:
 - (a) equal with God the Father (Matt 28:19) and,
 - (b) God the Son (Matt 28:19) and,
 - (c) of the same nature; (Acts 5:3,4)
 - (d) that He was active in the creation, (Gen 1:1-3)
 - (e) that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled;
 - (f) that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; (John 16:8-11)
 - (g) that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; (Acts 5:32)
 - (h) that He is the agent in the New Birth; (Titus 3:5; John 3:3-6)
 - (i) that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. (Eph 1:13; Matt 3:11; Gal 5:22,23; John 16:13,14:26, Rom 8:16, Romans 15:16.)

III. OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person and was once

- (a) holy, and enjoyed heavenly honours; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell (Isa. 14:12) and,
- (b) drew after him a host of angels; that he is now (II Peter 2:4)
- (c) the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world (Eph 2:2; II Cor. 4:4)
- (d) We hold him to be man's great tempter (Gen 3:1-6)
- (e) the enemy of God and His Christ (Matt. 4:1-11)
- (f) the accuser of the saints (Zech. 3:1)
- (g) the author of all false religions, the chief power back of all apostasy (II Cor 11:13-15; 1 John 3:8; Eph. 6:12)
- (h) the Lord of the anti-Christ; and
- (i) the author of all the powers of darkness, destined however
- (j) to final defeat at the hands of God's son, and (Rev. 19:19-21)
- (k) to suffer eternal punishment in a place prepared for him and his angels (Rev. 19:11-16, 20; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.)

IV. OF THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and

- (a) that is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively (Gen. 1:1; Gen. 2:4; Heb. 11:13, Acts 17:24-26)
- (b) that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness (Gen. 1:26, 27)
- (c) that man's creation was not by evolution or evolutionary change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms (Gen. 1:26, 27)
- (d) that all animal and vegetable life was effected by special creation, and God's established law was they should bring forth only "after their kind" (Gen. 1:21-25.)

V. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe

- (a) that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker (Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12, 19) but,
- (b) by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state (Rom. 3:10-23; Eph 2:1-3; Isa. 53:6)
- (c) in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice (Rom 1:20, 28, 32, Gal. 3:22) and,
- (d) therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse, resulting in a condition of total depravity by which we mean his natural utter incapacity to receive the things of the Spirit of God apart from the quickening grace of the Holy Spirit (Rom 3:10, Rom. 8:7, 1 Cor. 2:14, John 6:44.)

VI. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe

- (a) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 13:38, 39; 15:11; Rom 3:24)
- (b) 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, honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins (John 3:16; I Tim. 2:5, 6; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb 2:14; Rom 3:25)
- (c) 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, bearing the penalty of God's Holy Law, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Pet 2:24; John 10:17, 18; Gal. 3:10; 1 Pet 1:18, 19, 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:5-7)
- (d) 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, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour (Heb 10: 12-22, 1 John 2:2, Heb 7:25, 26.)

VII. OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

We believe

- (a) that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again (John 3:3,5,7)
- (b) that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17)
- (c) that it is instantaneous and not a process (John 5:24)
- (d) 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 (John 1:12, Eph. 2:1; 1 Pet. 1:4)
- (e) that such are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation and shall never perish (1 Pet. 1:5; John 10:28-30)
- (f) 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 1:12,13; 1 Pet. 1:23)
- (g) that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (Phil. 1:11; 11 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 2:10; Titus 1:11,12; Eph. 4:22,24.)

VIII. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification;

- (a) that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness (Rom. 4:6,7)
- (b) that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. His righteousness is imputed upon us (Phil. 3:9; Rom. 3:20-25; Rom. 5:21; Rom. 4:6)

IX. OF THE CHURCH

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers

- (a) associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel (Acts 2:41,42)
- (b) observing the ordinances of Christ (1 Cor. 11:2,23-26)
- (c) governed by His laws (Acts 1:1,2) and;
- (d) exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word (Eph. 4:11,12)
- (e) that its officers are pastors or elders and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Phil. 1:1)
- (f) we believe the true mission of the church is found in the great commission:
First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21; Matt. 28:18-20.
- (g) 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 (Matt. 18:15-17; Acts 15:22,25,28; Rev. 1:12-20)
- (h) that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and methods of its cooperations (Acts 15:22-31; 11 Cor. 8:23,24)
- (i) 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; Acts 5:1-11; 11 Cor. 8:1-7)

X. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is

- (a) the immersion in water of a believer (Mark 1:5-9)
- (b) into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19)
- (c) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:12)
- (d) that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41,42; Matt. 28:19,20)
- (e) in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- (f) preceded always by solemn self-examination (1 Cor. 11:23-26.)

XI. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that

- (a) there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (Malachi 3:18; Rom. 6:6,8,18; 1 Pet. 4:18)
- (b) 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 esteem (John 3:18-21; Acts 10:34,35; 1 John 2:29; Rom. 15:16);
- (c) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse (Rom. 1:17; John 18:36);
- (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting suffering of the lost. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15; 11 Thess. 1:8,9; Rev. 22:3-5.)

XII. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is

- (a) of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society (Rom. 13:1-7);
- (b) that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed (1 Pet. 2:1,2; 1 Pet. 2:13,14,17);
- (c) except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 5:29);
- (d) who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. (James 4:12; Matt. 24:30; Phil. 2:10,11.)

XIII. OF THE RESURRECTION, RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

We believe in

- (a) the bodily resurrection of Christ (John 20:27),
- (b) that He arose again the third day according to the Scriptures (Matt. 28:6);
- (c) that after manifesting Himself for forty days to His disciples (Acts 1:3);
- (d) He ascended to His Father's right hand, (Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1) where
- (e) as our Great High Priest, He ever liveth to make intercession for His own (Heb. 6:20; Heb. 7:25; Heb. 4:14.).

We believe that

- (f) according to His promise He will come again without sin unto salvation, that this coming shall be personal, visible and glorious, as it is written - Titus 2:13,14:
"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous for good works."
(Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.)