

## The Essentials We Believe

**About God?** God is creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: God the Father – Creator; God the Son – Savior; and God the Holy Spirit – Comforter: in human terms referred to as The Trinity. These three are co-equal and are one God. - **Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2; 1 Peter 1:2, 2 Corinthians 13:14**

**About Jesus Christ?** Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. - **Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, John 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13**

**About the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. - **2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, John 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18**

**About the Bible?** The Bible is God's Word to all men. It is written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. It is to be studied and meditated upon by all believers – as well as obeyed. - **2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:10, 160, Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5.**

**About Human Beings?** People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates man from God and causes many problems in life. The only method of salvation is by the grace of God through our faith in the substitute atonement for sin in the death of the sinless Jesus Christ. Every person has the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and needs no other mediator. Each believer should study God's word and pray to Him in the name and through the blood of Jesus Christ; and should study God's word and be led by the Holy Spirit. After salvation, God desires obedience and good works (or fruit) as a means of witness to others and thanks to God; Jesus Christ becomes not only our Savior, but also our Lord, and He wants us to turn our lives and our actions over to Him in all things (and in love) including the attending and serving in our local church. - **Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:16; 14:6; 2 Timothy 2:5; Isaiah 59:1,2; James 2:26; Hebrews 10:23-25**

**About Salvation?** Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. Man can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. - **Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1**

**About Eternal Security?** Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security. For believers there will be a judgment of their words, which will determine their rewards in the eternal presence of God. For non-believers there will be a judgment for their failure to come to God and a sentence to eternal separation from Him. - **John 10:28,29; Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 20:4, 11-21**

**About Eternity?** Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal life in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in heaven. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence. - **John 3:16, John 2:25, John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:15; Matthew 18:8, Matthew 25:44,46**

**About Satan?** Satan and his demons exist. There are actively seeking to destroy lives here on this earth. Their destiny was sealed by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And while they can still affect evil today, they can be resisted; by the blood, the armor and the spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ. - **Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:8-9.**

**About Church Responsibilities?** Each New Testament church is responsible and accountable to God. The church is required to lead its congregation in two ordinances:

- 1) Baptism of believers by immersion. **1 Corinthians 2:12**
- 2) The ongoing memorial of the Lord's Supper. **Luke 22:17-20.**