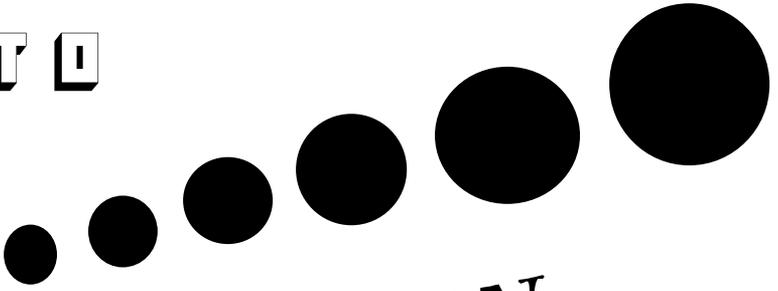


TO



KNOW

OF THE

DOCTRINE

Victory Baptist Church

Introduction

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Introduction

Romans 6:17 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of **doctrine** which was delivered you.

Introduction

This booklet has been provided to serve as a reference guide to some fundamental Biblical doctrines of Christianity for the Victory Baptist Church. We pray that it will help you in your own study and aid in your growth as you labor in the Word of God in fellowship with Jesus Christ. We know from scripture that doctrine is of utmost importance as it is the means by which the gift of God concerning eternal life is made known to men, and the means by which His Truth is declared, revealed, understood, believed in faith, and exercised by men.

This booklet is different than some other similar statements of faith in that we have included the actual scriptures for your reading as opposed to only placing a scripture reference. Even though it makes for a longer document, we deemed it necessary for the instruction of the reader to include the primary text referenced by each doctrinal point. For further study and context on each doctrine, as well as a more comprehensive understanding of the entire body of doctrine in scripture, these passages should be studied in their full context in the Word of God.

Luke 1:1 – “..... to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us”

The Holy Scriptures

Before we discuss the nature of God, the work of Jesus Christ, or the things of the Holy Spirit, we must first understand the nature of the Scriptures, the Holy Bible, the Word of God. The Lord God Himself has put His Word above all His name. The Holy Bible is a supernatural and living book that is the very Word of the true and living God. The Holy Bible was written by men's hands, divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

*Psalm 138:2 "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**"*

The truth of God's Word must be firmly known, established, and believed before any man can hope to understand God, salvation, creation, and even man himself. The Bible is God's written revelation to man - verbally inspired in every word. Thus, the 66 books of the Bible, which were penned by approximately 40 men, were given to us by the Holy Spirit and constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God. The truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is appointed heir of all things and will preside as King and Judge of all men. We see the testimony of God as given by the Spirit in the Holy Scriptures concerning the book we know as the Holy Bible in the following verses:

The Holy Scriptures

Verbally Inspired.

*2 Peter 1:20 - 21 - Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.***

Infallible.

*John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.***

*Psalm 12:6 - **The words of the LORD are pure words:** as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

Eternal.

*Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.***

Spiritual.

*John 6:63 - It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak** unto you, **they are spirit**, and they are life:*

*1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.***

Historically accurate and a true account.

*Psalm 119:60 - **Thy word is true from the beginning;** and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

Prophetically verified & accurate.

*Isaiah 46:9 - Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **Declaring the end from the beginning,** and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

The Holy Scriptures

The only means of exercising faith towards God.

*Romans 10:17 - So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.*

The perfect measure of righteousness.

*Psalm 33:4 - For **the word of the LORD is right**; and all his works are done in truth.*

The only infallible rule of faith and practice.

*2 Timothy 3:16 - All **scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is **profitable for doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The judge of all men.

*John 12:48 - He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken**, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

The One True God

God has by means of the Scriptures declared to man the truth of Himself. Apart from the Word of God we can know nothing personal about Him. Creation generally reveals to all men that there is a God, but the revelation of His Word teaches us about Him personally and not just generally. These things we know about Him because He has taught us of Himself in His Word.

There is but one, and only one, true and living God.

*Isaiah 45:5 - 6 - **I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.***

He declares the truth concerning Himself.

*Exodus 34:6 - 7 - **And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.***

He is eternal.

*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.***

He is infinite in wisdom.

*Psalms 147:5 - **Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.***

He is a spirit.

The One True God

*John 4:24 - **God is a Spirit** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

He is perfect in all His attributes.

*Deuteronomy 32:4 - He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: **a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.***

He is one in essence.

*Deuteronomy 6:4 - Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God is one LORD:***

He is the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, and the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe.

*Psalm 103:19 - The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and **his kingdom ruleth over all.***

He is the creator of all things.

*Revelation 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **thou hast created all things**, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

He is marvelous in power

*Psalm 139:14 - I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: **marvellous are thy works**; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

He is amazing in love

*Matthew 19:25 - 26 - When his disciples heard it, **they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?** But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but **with God all things are possible.***

*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.*

The One True God

He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

*Romans 11:36 - For **of him**, and **through him**, and **to him**, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen*

He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass.

*Ephesians 1:11 - 12 - In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will**: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

In His sovereignty He is neither the author nor approver of sin.

*John 8:44 - Ye are of your father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it**.*

*James 1:13 - Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man**:*

He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own.

*Ephesians 1:3 - 6 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will**, To the **praise of the glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

The One True 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:

He is spiritual Father only to believers.

Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

He exists eternally in three persons.

*Matthew 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**:*

*1 John 5:7 - For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father**, **the Word**, and **the Holy Ghost**: and **these three are one**.*

God the Father

The Scriptures teach us that God the Father, the first person of the Godhead:

Orders and disposes all things according to His own good purpose and grace.

*Isaiah 46:9 - 10 - Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:***

Is the creator of all things.

*Ephesians 3:9 - And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:***

Is the only absolute and omnipotent ruler in the universe, and is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

*Romans 11:36 - **For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.***

His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Godhead and His relationship with mankind.

- He is the creator of all men - *Isaiah 45:9 - Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?*
- But He is spiritual Father only to believers - *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:*
- He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass - *Ephesians 1:11 - In whom also we have*

God the Father

*obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:***

He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events.

1 Chronicles 29:11 - Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

In His sovereignty He is neither the author nor approver of sin, but only of the truth.

*James 1:13 - Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man;***

*John 8:44 - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it.***

He does not abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures.

*1 Peter 1:17 - And if ye call on the Father, **who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work,** pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*

He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own.

*Ephesians 1:4-6 - According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

God the Father

He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

*John 6:37 - All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out***

He adopts as His own all those who come to Him.

*Romans 8:15 - 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.*

He becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own.

*Galatians 4:4 - 5 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons.***

God the Son

God the Son

Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity:

Is the Word made flesh.

*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, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

*1 John 5:7 - For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word,** and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

Jesus Christ, the Word, Is responsible for revealing the testimony of the Father in heaven to men on earth.

*John 1:18 - No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.***

Possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal and coeternal with the Father.

John 10:30 - I and my Father are one.

*John 14:9 - Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time 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?*

God the Father created all things according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation.

*John 1:3 - **All things were made by him;** and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

God the Son

*Colossians 1:16 - 17 - For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

In the incarnation, the eternal Son, the second Person of the Trinity, without altering His divine nature or surrendering any of the divine attributes, made Himself of no reputation by taking on a full human nature consubstantial with our own, yet without sin.

*Philippians 2:5 - 8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary.

*Luke 1:35 - And the angel answered and said unto her, **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.*

And thus born of a woman.

*Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, **made of a woman**, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

And was from very conception the same eternal God who is absolute in nature, perfect in His attributes, and holy in character.

God the Son

*Matthew 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**: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*

By this great and mysterious act of God, two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the divine and the human, were joined together in one person, without confusion, change, division, or separation. He is therefore very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

*1 John 4:2 - Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is of God:*

*1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**:*

In His incarnation, Christ fully possessed His divine nature, attributes, and prerogatives.

*Colossians 2:9 - For **in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily**.*

However, in the state of His humiliation, He did not always fully express the glories of His majesty, concealing them behind the veil of his genuine humanity.

*Matthew 17:2 - And **was transfigured before them**: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

*Philippians 2:8 - And **being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

According to His human nature, He acts:

God the Son

- In submission to the Father - *John 6:38 - For **I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.***
- By the power of Holy Spirit - *John 3:34 - For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for **God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.***

While, according to His divine nature, He acts by His authority and power as the Eternal Son.

*John 2:11 - This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested forth his glory;** and his disciples believed on him.*

*1 John 5:11 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.***

The Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross. His death was voluntary, vicarious (*acting in the place of the believing sinner*), substitutionary (*by acting in our place, His death serves as the death of those who believe in Him*), propitiatory (*His death satisfies, for those who believe, the just demands of God's law for their transgressions*), and redemptive (*His death and blood have paid the price necessary to buy back His people who were captive to sin and death*).

*Romans 3:23 - 24 - Being justified freely by his grace **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:** Whom God hath set forth to **be a propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

*Hebrews 9:15 - And for this cause **he is the mediator** of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

God the Son

On the basis of the efficacy of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the believing sinner is freed from the punishment, the penalty, the power, and one day the very presence of sin; and he is declared righteous, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God.

*Romans 3:25 - Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins** that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

*Romans 5:8-9 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**. Much more then, being **now justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if **one died for all**, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

*1 Peter 2:24 - Who **his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree**, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

*1 Peter 3:18 - For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins**, the just for the unjust, **that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead and that He is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He now mediates as our Advocate and High Priest.

*Matthew 28:6 - He is not here: for **he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

*Luke 24:38-39 - And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? **Behold my hands and***

God the Son

my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

*Acts 2:30-31 - Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that **his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.***

*Romans 4:25 - Who was delivered for our offences, and **was raised again for our justification.***

*Romans 8:34 - Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, **that is risen again**, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

*Hebrews 2:17 - Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, **that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.***

*Hebrews 7:25 - Wherefore 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.***

*Hebrews 9:24 - For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but **into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:***

*1 John 2:1 - My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all who are partakers of His promise through faith.

God the Son

*John 5:26-29 - For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath **he given to the Son to have life in himself**; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth**; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

*John 14:19 - Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live**, ye shall live also.*

*Romans 1:4 - And **declared to be the Son of God** with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead**:*

*Romans 4:25 - Who was delivered for our offences, and was **raised again for our justification**.*

*Romans 6:5-10 - For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, **we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection**: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: **Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead** dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but **in that he liveth, he liveth unto God**.*

*1 Corinthians 15:20 & 23 - But **now is Christ risen from the dead**, and become the firstfruits of them that slept: But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

Jesus Christ will return to resurrect and receive the dead in Christ unto Himself prior to the tribulation at the rapture, and returning with His saints in glory at the end of the tribulation, will establish His kingdom on earth.

God the Son

*1 Thessalonians 4:16 - For **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: Then 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.*

*Zechariah 14:5 - And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and **the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.***

The Lord Jesus Christ is the One by whom God will judge all mankind.

*John 5:22-23 - For **the Father** judgeth no man, but **hath committed all judgment unto the Son**: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father: He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

- **Believers - 2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment 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.
- **Living Inhabitants of the earth at His glorious return - Matthew 25:31- 32 - When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:**
- **Unbelieving dead at the great white throne - Revelation 20:11- 12 - 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. 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**

God the Son

were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

As the mediator between God and man,

*1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

The head of His body the church,

*Ephesians 1:22 - And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be **the head over all things to the church,***

And the coming universal King, who will reign on the throne of David,

*Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:31-33 - And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS.** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and **the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

He Is Also the final Judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

*2 Thessalonians 1:7 - 9 - And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

God the Holy Spirit

We understand from Scripture that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity, Including:

- **Intellect** - *1 Corinthians 2:11* - *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.***
- **Emotion** - *Ephesians 4:30* - *And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God,** whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- **Will** - *1 Corinthians 12:11* - *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame **Spirit,** dividing to every man severally **as he will.***
- **Eternality** - *Hebrews 9:14* - *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
- **Omnipresence** - *Psalms 139:7 - 8* - *Whither shall I go **from thy spirit?** or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*
- **Omniscience** - *Isaiah 40:13 - 14* - *Who hath directed **the Spirit of the LORD,** or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?*
- **Omnipotence** - *Romans 15:13* - *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through **the power of the Holy Ghost.***
- **And Truthfulness** - *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.*

God the Holy Spirit

In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son.

*Matthew 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:*

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. We perceive His sovereign activity in:

- **Creation** - *Genesis 1:1 - 2 - In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God moved** upon the face of the waters.*
- **The Incarnation** - *Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child **of the Holy Ghost**.*
- **The Written Revelation** - *2 Peter 1:21 - 22 - Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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**.*
- **And The Work of Salvation** - *John 3:5 - 7 - Jesus 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

The work of the Holy Spirit as it pertains to the new testament church began at Pentecost, when He came from the Father as promised by Christ.

*John 14:16 - 17 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because*

God the Holy Spirit

*it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and **shall be in you.***

*John 20:22 - And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:***

The broad scope of His divine activity includes:

- Convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment - *John 16:7 - 8 - Nevertheless I tell you the truth; 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. And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment***
- Glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ - *John 16:13 - 14 - 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. **He shall glorify me**: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*
- And transforming believers into the image of Christ - *2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, **even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

The Holy Spirit is the gift of God as down payment to all who are partakers of the promises of God in Christ by faith.

*Ephesians 1:13 - 14 - 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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

This gift of the Spirit permanently seals the believer unto the day of redemption.

God the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Once sealed by God's Spirit, He dwells within the believer forever.

*John 14:16 - 17 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, **that he may abide with you for ever**; Even 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.*

The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, and empowers believers for service.

*Romans 8:9 - But ye are not in the flesh, but **in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

*2 Corinthians 3:6 - Who also **hath made us able ministers** of the new testament; not of the letter, **but of the spirit**: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

The Holy Spirit is the divine teacher, who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible.

*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.*

*1 Peter 1:11 - Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify**, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*

God the Holy Spirit

Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, which is the anointing of the Father.

*1 John 2:20 & 27 - But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. But **the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you**, and ye need not that any 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.*

The Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to believers in the local church. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith.

*1 Corinthians 12:4 - Now there are **diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.***

In this respect, God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today.

*1 Corinthians 12:7 - 11 - But **the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man** to profit withal. For to one is **given by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to **every man severally as he will.***

Speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the lives of all believers:

God the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 13:8 - Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

*2 Corinthians 12:12 - Truly **the signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

*Mark 16:19 - 20 - So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs** following. Amen.*

*Hebrews 2:3 - 4 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and **was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles,** and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

Creation

The doctrine of the creation is an important teaching to understand and believe. The Word of God has preserved for us an eyewitness account of the Lord God at work as He brought all things into existence. The testimony of scripture in the account given in Genesis teaches us that:

God Himself is the Maker of All Things.

*John 1:3 - **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***

That everything that was made was brought into existence by the power of His word.

*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:*

*Genesis 1:3 - And **God said**, Let there be light: and there was light.*

That everything in creation was made in six, literal, 24-hour days.

*Exodus 20:11 - For **in six days** the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

That He formed all organic forms as specific creations subject to the limitations of the information placed within their kind for adaption and reproduction.

*Genesis 1:11 - And God said, Let the earth bring forth **grass**, the **herb** yielding seed, and the fruit **tree** yielding fruit **after his kind**, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

Creation

*Genesis 1:21 - And God created great **whales**, and **every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind**, and every **winged fowl after his kind**: and God saw that it was good.*

*Genesis 1:25 - And God made **the beast of the earth after his kind**, and **cattle after their kind**, and **every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind**: and God saw that it was good.*

That He finally formed man out of the dust of the ground, not by any process of evolution, but by instant action breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.

*Genesis 2:7 - And the **LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground**, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and **man became a living soul**.*

We further see from Scripture that all things consist by Him.

*Colossians 1:17 - And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist**.*

All things operate on the laws He has established.

*Acts 17:28 - For **in him we live, and move, and have our being**; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

He upholds all things

*Hebrews 1:3 - Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

All things were created for His pleasure.

Creation

*Revelation 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created.***

And that the current heavens and earth are reserved by the Word of His power unto judgment at the end of this age.

*2 Peter 3:7 - But **the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire** against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men: 2 Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat**, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Man

It is important that we know the truth of God's Word to have a right view of God and a right view of man. God has revealed the truth of man in His Word, and from the Scriptures we see that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness.

*Genesis 1:26 - And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God.

*Genesis 2:7 - And the **LORD** God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.***

*Genesis 2:16 - 17 - And **the LORD God commanded the man,** saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

*Genesis 2:19 - And out of the ground the **LORD** God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and **brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them:** and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship, live his life in the will of God, and by this accomplish God's purpose for man in the world.

*Colossians 1:16 - For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:***

Man

*Revelation 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created.***

*Isaiah 43:7 - Even every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.***

In the creation of man, we see the creation of male and female individuals, each created distinctly by God for His glory and purpose.

*Genesis 2:7 - And **the LORD God formed man** of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

*Genesis 2:21 - 22 - And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, **made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.***

United in marriage as one flesh.

*Genesis 2:23 - 24 - And Adam said, **This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh:** she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and **they shall be one flesh.***

As a pattern of His will to all of their progeny.

*Matthew 19:4 - 6 - And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,** And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

*Matthew 19:8 - He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but **from the beginning it was not so.***

Man

In Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and word of God,

*Genesis 2:16 - 17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for **in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

Man lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death,

*Genesis 3:17 - 19 - And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, **of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:** cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.***

Became subject to the wrath 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.***

And became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace.

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

With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover himself, man is hopelessly lost. Man's salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Man

*1 Corinthians 2:14 - But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*Ephesians 2:1 - 3 - And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.*

1 Timothy 2:13 - 14 - For Adam was first formed, then Eve. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

*1 John 1:8 - **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.***

Because all men were in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the only exception by Virtue of the Virgin Birth.

*Psalms 14:1 - 3 - [[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, **there is none that doeth good**. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. **They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

*Romans 3:9 - 18 - What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that **they are all under sin**; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one**. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift*

Man

to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration.

*Romans 3:23 - For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;*

*Romans 5:10 - 12 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned**:*

*1 Corinthians 15:21 - 22 - For since **by man came death**, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as **in Adam all die**, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God

The scriptures are intended to be declared among men to give them opportunity for faith towards God. The declaration of His Word is the only means of faith available towards men, whereby we may exercise faith in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Romans 10:17 - So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.*

*Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of **things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned of God of **things not seen as yet**, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

Accordingly, the preaching of the testimony of Christ is always prophetic to man.

*Revelation 19:10 - And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**.*

Thereby giving them promises concerning things to come;

*2 Peter 1:4 - **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises**: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

That impart hope to the soul;

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*Hebrews 6:19 - Which **hope we have** as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

When received by faith.

*Hebrews 6:11 - 12 - And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them **who through faith and patience inherit the promises.***

To that end, the preaching of the kingdom of God, also called the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew (likely because Matthew was writing to the Jews, who were particular about writing the name of God), was sent into the world through the preaching of John the Baptist

*Matthew 3:1 - 2 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

at the time when the law was to be fulfilled.

*Matthew 5:17 - Think not that **I am come** to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but **to fulfil.***

The law, now fulfilled in its teachings of a coming redeemer, is no longer a means of imparting faith seeing that its' promises were kept concerning a coming redeemer.

*Galatians 3:12 - And **the law is not of faith:** but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.*

By way of the message of the coming kingdom of God, men are given opportunity for faith towards God concerning things to come as testified by Jesus Christ.

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Revelation 19:10 - And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

This announcement of the coming kingdom of God first preached by John the Baptist was then preached by Christ Himself

*Luke 8:1 - And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, **preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God:** and the twelve were with him,*

And was taught to the apostles who also were sent out preaching this proclamation;

*Luke 9:1 - 2 - Then he called **his twelve disciples** together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And **he sent them to preach the kingdom of God,** and to heal the sick.*

And was then committed to seventy others also

*Luke 10:1 & 11 - After these things **the Lord appointed other seventy also,** and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come: [Verse 11] Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that **the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.***

The Lord Jesus gave His apostles final teachings and instruction concerning this promised kingdom after His resurrection

*Acts 1:3 - To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:***

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And this gospel of the kingdom continued to be proclaimed throughout the New Testament by the apostles and the apostle Paul as well.

*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 19:8 - And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading **the things concerning the kingdom of God**.*

*Acts 20:25 - And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone **preaching the kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more.*

*Acts 28:23 - And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and **testified the kingdom of God**, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.*

*Acts 28:31 - **Preaching the kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*

This kingdom is a heavenly kingdom;

*2 Timothy 4:18 - And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will **preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom**: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

That is yet future to us and is to be brought to earth at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ at the end of this age.

*Luke 21:31 - So likewise ye, **when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand**.*

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*Acts 14:22 - Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.***

*1 Thessalonians 2:12 - That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath **called you unto his kingdom** and glory.*

*2 Thessalonians 1:5 - Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may **be counted worthy of the kingdom of God,** for which ye also suffer:*

Through faith in Christ and His testimony concerning these things, believers, having been justified by His blood and raised by His power, are promised entrance into this kingdom;

*Acts 14:21 - 22 - And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and **exhorting them to continue in the faith,** and that we must through much tribulation **enter into the kingdom of God.***

*2 Peter 1:10 - 11 - Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so **an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.***

And will reign with Him in this kingdom;

*2 Timothy 2:12 - If we suffer, **we shall also reign with him:** if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

*1 Corinthians 6:3 - Know ye not that **we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?*

*Hebrews 2:5 - 8 - For unto the angels hath he not **put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.** But one in a*

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certain place testified, saying, *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: **Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.** For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.*

*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.***

As part of the promised inheritance with Christ.

*Romans 8:17 - And 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.*

*1 Corinthians 6:9 - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not **inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.***

*Galatians 5:19 - 21 - Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***

*James 2:5 - Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised** to them that love him?*

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At His coming at the end of this age, Christ will put down Satan, who is the ruler of this present, evil world, and will reign Himself from Jerusalem over the entire earth;

*2 Timothy 4:1 - I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead **at his appearing and his kingdom**;*

*Revelation 12:10 - And 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.*

*Revelation 20:1 - 4 - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 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; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***

That has been made new in a refreshed and restored state.

*Acts 3:19 - 21 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when **the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord**; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

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*Revelation 21:5 - And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, **I make all things new.** And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

This kingdom over the new heaven and earth where righteousness will dwell;

*2 Peter 3:11 - 14 - Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Will be given to the saints as an inheritance with Christ in the world to come, and this world will have no end.

*Isaiah 45:17 - But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded **world without end.***

*Ephesians 3:21 - Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, **world without end.** Amen.*

The kingdom of God is manifest in the earth today by virtue of its' promise through the presence and preaching of God's Word, the testimony of Christ that declares its' future arrival, and is to be received by faith as a promise from Christ prior to its fulfillment in the fulness of time.

*Mark 10:15 - Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not **receive the kingdom of God as a little child,** he shall not enter therein.*

*Luke 18:7 - Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not **receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter** therein.*

The Kingdom of God

In view of the truth of this promised kingdom, the believer is required to die to this present life with its lusts, desires, and treasures while living in faith of the promise of Christ concerning things to come.

*Luke 14:33 - So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh not all that he hath**, he cannot be my disciple.*

*Luke 12:31 - 34 - But rather **seek ye the kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom**. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**.*

Salvation

Salvation is a promise of God to those who believe in Jesus Christ by faith, which is exercised towards Him by acknowledging the truth of His word and testimony – the Word of God.

*Hebrews 9:15 - And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that **by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.***

Salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works.

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

*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:***

*Ephesians 1:7 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, **according to the riches of his grace:***

*1 Peter 1:18 – 19 - Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:***

This mercy is obtained through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God;

*1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

Who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin;

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*Philippians 2:8 - And **being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself**; and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Honored the divine law by his personal obedience,

*John 8:29 - And he that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.***

*Matthew 5:17 - Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.***

And by his death made a full atonement for our sins;

*John 19:30 - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

*Romans 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.***

That having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven;

*Hebrews 1:3 - Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, **sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high**;*

And uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

*Hebrews 4:14 - 16 - Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

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*Hebrews 7:25 - 26 - Wherefore **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.** For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*

The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel;

*Revelation 22:17 - And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.***

And it is the immediate duty of all men to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith;

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

Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel;

*John 5:40 - And **ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.***

Which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation

*John 3:18 - He 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.*

Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given.

*Titus 3:5 - **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;***

It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God;

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*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.***

When the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the preaching of the Word of Truth.

*Acts 13:48 - And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and **as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.***

Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works are the proper evidence and fruit of regeneration;

*1 Corinthians 6:19 - 20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.***

*Galatians 5:22 - 26 - But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.***

*Romans 8:9 - But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.***

And will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God.

2 Peter 1:4 - 10 - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world

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*through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For **if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

This work of the Spirit in us to teach and instruct unto obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ:*

*2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as **by the Spirit of the Lord.***

Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming.

*Romans 8:17 - And 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.***

*2 Peter 1:4 - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that **by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*1 John 3:2 - 3 - Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but **we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

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Election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies

*Romans 8:28 - 30 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For **whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover **whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified.***

*Ephesians 1:4 - 6 - According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will**, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13 - But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

*2 Timothy 2:10 - Therefore I endure all things **for the elect's sakes**, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

*1 Peter 1:1 - 2 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

Sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord.

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*Ezekiel 18:23 - **Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?** saith the Lord GOD: and not that **he should return from his ways, and live?***

*Ezekiel 18:32 - For **I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth**, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore **turn yourselves, and live ye.***

*John 3:18 - 19 - He 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. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.*

*Romans 9:22 - 23 - What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, **endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath** fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which **he had afore prepared unto glory***

*2 Thessalonians 2:10 - 12 - And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Nevertheless, since sovereign grace includes the means of receiving the gift of salvation as well as the gift itself, sovereign election will result in what God determines. All whom the Father calls to Himself will come in faith, and all who come in faith the Father will receive.

*John 6:37 - 40 - **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me**; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 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. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on*

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him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

*John 6:44 - **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.*

*Acts 13:48 - And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and **as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.***

*James 4:8 - **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

The unmerited favor that God grants to totally depraved sinners is not related to any initiative of their own part or to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will, but is solely of His sovereign grace and mercy which is past our understanding.

*Ephesians 1:4 - 7 - According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace,** wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

*Titus 3:4 - 7 - But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy** he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

*1 Peter 1:2 - **Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,** through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

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Election should not be looked upon as based merely on abstract sovereignty. God is truly sovereign, but He exercises this sovereignty in harmony with His other attributes, especially His omniscience, justice, holiness, wisdom, grace, and love

*Romans 9:11 - 16 - (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, **not of works, but of him that calleth;**) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? **Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.** For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. **So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.***

This sovereignty will always exalt the will of God in a manner totally consistent with His character as revealed in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ

*Matthew 11:25 - 28 - At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: **for so it seemed good in thy sight** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Justification is an act of God

*Romans 8:33 - Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? **It is God that justifieth.***

By which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ:

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- Repent, a change of mind or turning, from their unbelief and dead works to faith in the true and living God:
 - *Luke 13:3 - I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.***
 - *Acts 2:38 - 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.*
 - *Romans 2:4 - Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?***
- Confess faith in the Truth concerning Jesus Christ as sovereign Lord as given witness to by the Father:
 - *Romans 10:9 - 10 - That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and **shalt believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For **with the heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and **with the mouth confession is made** unto salvation.*
 - *1 Corinthians 12:3 - Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that **no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.***
 - *2 Corinthians 4:5 - For we preach not ourselves, but **Christ Jesus the Lord**; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*
 - *Philippians 2:11 - And that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.*

This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man

*Romans 3:20 - Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

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And involves the imputation of our sins to Christ.

*Colossians 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross;***

*1 Peter 2:24 - Who his own self **bare our sins in his own body on the tree,** that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us.

*1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, **who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:***

*2 Corinthians 5:21 - For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***

By this means God is enabled to “be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”.

*Romans 3:26 - To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: **that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***

Sanctification speaks of the work of God in every believer to sanctify (set apart) him unto God by justification and he is therefore declared to be holy and identified as a saint. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous and should not be confused with progressive sanctification. This sanctification has to do with the believer's standing, not his present walk or condition.

*Acts 20:32 - And 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.***

*1 Corinthians 1:2 - Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, **to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus,** called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

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*Hebrews 2:11 - For both **he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one**: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

*1 Peter 1:2 - Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **through sanctification of the Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

There is also, by the work of the Holy Spirit, a progressive sanctification by which the state of the believer is brought closer to the standing the believer positionally enjoys through justification. Through obedience to the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

*John 17:17 - **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.***

*2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as **by the Spirit of the Lord**.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:3 - 4 - For this is the will of God, **even your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

In this respect, every regenerated person is involved in a daily conflict—the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh—but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle nevertheless stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended. All claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural. Eradication of sin is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin.

*Ephesians 4:22 - 24 - That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the*

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*deceitful lusts; And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**; And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

*Philippians 3:12 - Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: **but I follow after**, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

*Colossians 3:9 - 10 - Lie not one to another, seeing that **ye have put off the old man with his deeds**; And **have put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

*1 Peter 1:14 - 16 - As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, **so be ye holy in all manner of conversation**; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Security. All of the redeemed, once sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

*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.***

*Romans 5:9 - 10 - Much more then, being **now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him**. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

*Ephesians 4:30 - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby **ye are sealed unto the day of redemption**.*

*1 Peter 1:5 - Who are **kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*Jude 24 - Now unto him that is able to **keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,***

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It is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word in the gospel of peace, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality.

*Romans 6:15 - 22 - What then? **shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

*Galatians 5:13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only **use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**, but by love serve one another.*

*Titus 2:11 - 14 - For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** 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 of good works.*

Separation from sin is clearly called for throughout the Old and New Testaments, and the Scriptures clearly indicate that in the last days apostasy and worldliness shall increase.

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2 Timothy 3:1 - 5 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Out of deep gratitude for the undeserved grace of God granted to us, and because our glorious God is so worthy of our total consecration, all the saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our adoring love to God and so as not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior. We also know that separation from all religious apostasy and worldly and sinful practices is commanded of us by God.

*Romans 12:1 - 2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

*1 John 2:15 - 17 - **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.** If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Believers should be separated unto our Lord Jesus Christ.

*2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 12 - Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: **That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you,** and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Hebrews 12:1 - 2 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every

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*weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

And affirm that the Christian life is a life of obedient righteousness that reflects the teaching of the Beatitudes.

*Matthew 5:3 - 12 - Blessed are the **poor in spirit:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that **mourn:** for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the **meek:** for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do **hunger and thirst after righteousness:** for they shall be filled. Blessed are the **merciful:** for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the **pure in heart:** for they shall see God. Blessed are the **peacemakers:** for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when **men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

And a continual pursuit of holiness.

*1 John 3:1 - 10 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.** He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that*

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he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The Church

The Church

All who place their faith in Jesus Christ by believing His Word and Testimony are commanded by Jesus Christ to be baptized into a local church of which Christ is the head.

*Matthew 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:*

*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.*

A church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;

*Acts 2:42 - And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Gladly observing the ordinances of Christ and willingly being governed by his laws;

*Matthew 28:30 - Teaching 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.*

By faith in the testimony of His power

*Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth.*

And His authority as Lord.

*Acts 2:36 - Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord and Christ**.*

*Luke 6:46 - And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***

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Matthew 7:21 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

The formation of His church, the body of Christ, began with the calling of the apostles by Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry from those baptized by John the Baptist.

Acts 1:22 - Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

These apostles were the first placed into His church.

1 Corinthians 12:28 - And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Ephesians 4:11 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Revelation 21:14 - And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

This church at Jerusalem was endued with power on the Day of Pentecost when Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit according to His promise

Luke 24:49 - And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 2:1 - 3 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And this first assembly of saints called in Christ Jesus serves as a pattern for all future assemblies of believers in faith, teaching, conduct, discipline, and evangelism.

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*Matthew 28:29 - 30 - Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching 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.*

The church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ as a holy habitation for Himself, made up of believers professing faith in the doctrine of Christ in this present age, and obediently serving, waiting, and watching for His appearing.

*Ephesians 2:19 - 22 - Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple in the Lord**: In whom ye also are builded together for **an habitation of God through the Spirit**.*

The church was a mystery not revealed until this age.

*Ephesians 3:3 - 7 - **How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

The establishment and continuity of local churches in the earth is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

*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.*

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*Acts 14:27 - And when they were come, and **had gathered the church together**, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had **opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles**.*

*Acts 20:17 - And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and **called the elders of the church**.*

*Acts 20:28 - Take 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.*

*Galatians 1:2 - And all the brethren which are with me, unto **the churches** of Galatia:*

*Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to **all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi**, with the bishops and deacons:*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1 - Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto **the church of the Thessalonians** which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The members of the Body are directed to associate themselves together as an assembly.

*1 Corinthians 11:18 - 20 - For first of all, **when ye come together in the church**, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. **When ye come together therefore into one place**, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.*

*1 Corinthians 14:23 - If therefore **the whole church be come together into one place**, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

*Hebrews 10:25 - **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

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The one supreme authority for each of these churches is Christ.

Ephesians 1:22 - 23 - And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The local churches in the earth are intended to preserve the truth of the doctrine committed at first to the apostles:

*1 Timothy 3:15 - But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in **the house of God**, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth**.*

And as such are committed holy ordinances of service to Christ to preserve the truth of His gospel and to herald the announcement of His coming Kingdom.

*Acts 14:21 - 22 - And when they had **preached the gospel** to that city, and **had taught many**, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to **continue in the faith**, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God**.*

*2 Peter 1:10 - 11 - Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so **an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**.*

Local churches in the earth are called to reflect the glory and truth of the congregation of saints to be gathered unto Christ as His body in the resurrection of saints at His appearing.

*Hebrews 12:22 - 24 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To **the general assembly and***

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church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Titus 3:7 - That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:3 - 5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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Church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through Christ's sovereignty as seen in the Holy Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and overseeing the assembly are:

Elders or overseers, also called bishops (or as we say today, pastors)

- *Acts 20:28 - Take 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:*
- *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:*
- *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.*
- *Ephesians 4:11 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers;*

and deacons

- *Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops** and **deacons**:*

both of whom must meet biblical qualifications.

- *1 Timothy 3:2 - 12 - A **bishop then must be** blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*

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*Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. **Likewise must the deacons be** grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

These leaders oversee the church as servants of Christ and are called to be example to the flock.

*1 Peter 5:1 - 3 - The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, **taking the oversight thereof**, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but **being ensamples to the flock**.*

*1 Timothy 5:17 - 22 - Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. **Them that sin rebuke before all**, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou **observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality**.*

And have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership.

*Hebrews 13:7 - Remember **them which have the rule over you**, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

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*Hebrews 13:17 - **Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

The scriptures plainly teach the importance of discipleship.

*Matthew 28:19 - 20 - Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching 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.*

Mutual accountability of all believers to each other.

*Matthew 18:15 - 17 - Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. **But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church:** but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

*1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, **all of you be subject one to another,** and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

As well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture in a manner that honors Christ and promotes reconciliation.

*Acts 5:1 - 11 - But **Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.***

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*1 Corinthians 5:1 - 5 - It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, **To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.***

*2 Thessalonians 3:6 - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.***

*2 Thessalonians 3:14 - 15 - **And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.***

*1 Timothy 1:19 - 20 - Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: **Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.***

*Titus 1:10 - 11 - For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: **Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.***

The scriptures show the autonomy of local churches, free from any external authority or control of men, with the right of self-government under Christ's authority and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or outside organizations.

*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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It is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Each local church, however, through its elders and their understanding and application of Scripture, should be the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. The elders should determine all other matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government as well.

*Acts 15:19 – 31 - Wherefore **my sentence is**, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: **It seemed good unto us**, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For **it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us**, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.*

The purpose of the churches is to glorify God by Jesus Christ.

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*Ephesians 3:21 - Unto him **be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages**, world without end. Amen.*

By preserving the truth and doctrine of the faith;

*1 Timothy 3:15 - But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

By serving as His temple;

*1 Peter 2:5 - Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

By building itself up in the faith;

*Ephesians 4:13 - 16 - **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***

By instruction of the Word;

*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.***

*2 Timothy 2:15 - **Study to shew thyself approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*2 Timothy 3:14 - 17 - But **continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of**, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the*

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holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

By fellowship;

*Acts 2:42 - And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.** And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And **they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God,** and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

*1 John 1:3 - That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us:** and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

By keeping the ordinances;

*Acts 2:38 - 41 - 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves 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.*

*Luke 22:17 - 19 - And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.***

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And by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world.

Matthew 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:

Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The scriptures teach the calling of all saints to the work of service;

*1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

*Ephesians 4:12 - For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*Revelation 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, **to give every man according as his work shall be.***

And the responsibility of the church to cooperate with Christ as He accomplishes His purpose in the world. To that end, He gives the church spiritual gifts. He gives men chosen for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.

*Ephesians 4:7 - 12 - **But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men.** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

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And He also gives unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the Body of Christ.

*Romans 12:5 - 8 - So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.***

There were two kinds of gifts given the early church: miraculous gifts of divine revelation and healing, given temporarily in the apostolic era for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles' message.

*Mark 16:19 - 20 - So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following.** Amen.*

*Hebrews 2:3 - 4 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us by them that heard him: God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles,** and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

*2 Corinthians 12:12 - Truly **the signs of an apostle** were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

And ministering gifts, given to equip believers for edifying one another. With the New Testament revelation now complete, Scripture becomes the sole test of the authenticity of a man's message and confirming gifts of a miraculous nature are no longer necessary to validate a man or his message.

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*1 Corinthians 13:8 - 12 - Charity never faileth; but whether there be **prophecies, they shall fail**; whether there be **tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be **knowledge, it shall vanish away**. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

Miraculous gifts can even be counterfeited by Satan so as to deceive.

*Matthew 24:24 - For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and **shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect**.*

*Revelation 13:13 - 14 - And **he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.***

The only gifts in operation today are those non-revelatory equipping gifts given for edification.

*Romans 12:5 - 8 - So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

We find that no one possesses the gift of healing today, but that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith and will answer in accordance with His own perfect will for the sick, suffering, and afflicted by His own providence.

*Luke 18:1 - 8 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint**; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him,*

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*saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And **the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?** I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

*2 Corinthians 12:6 - 10 - For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, **there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.** For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore **I take pleasure in infirmities**, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

*James 5:13 - 16 - Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. **Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

*1 John 5:14 - 15 - And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

And that even the apostles, with the power of God to heal, were subject to His will and providence by the moving of the Holy Spirit.

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*Acts 28:8 - And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom **Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.***

*Philippians 2:26 - 27 - For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed **he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him;** and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.*

*2 Timothy 4:20 - Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have **I left at Miletum sick.***

There are two ordinances, or statutes, that have been committed to the local churches to preserve the truth of the doctrine of the Kingdom of God in a picture: baptism (The doctrine of the resurrection) and the Lord's Supper (The doctrine of the Lord's table of fellowship in the kingdom of God).

*Acts 2:38 - 42 - 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves 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. And **they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in **breaking of bread,** and in prayers.*

Christian baptism is performed by the proper ordained authority in the local church (bishops). Baptism started with John, who was given authority by God to preach the gospel of the kingdom and to baptize.

*John 1:33 - And I knew him not: but **he that sent me to baptize with water;** the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.*

Church Administration

This authority was committed to the apostles by the Lord.

*John 4:2 - (Though **Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,**)*

These apostles were responsible as the leaders of the church at Jerusalem.

*Acts 4:35 - And **with great power gave the apostles witness** of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down **at the apostles' feet**: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*

As disciples began to be made through the preaching of the Word, the apostles sent men with authority from the church at Jerusalem to confirm these new disciples in the faith.

*Acts 8:14 - Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, **they sent unto them Peter and John**:*

To organize their assemblies into churches and ordain elders among them that were to be the overseers of that church.

*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.*

Baptism then is performed by the authority of Christ vested in the local church through its' overseers who are responsible to Christ for the flock and is accomplished by complete immersion of the new believer.

*John 3:23 - And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, **because there was much water there**: and they came, and were **baptized** (*baptizō* - to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge).*

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*Acts 8:36 – 39 - 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? 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. 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.***

Baptism is the solemn and sincere act of obedience to the crucified, buried, and risen Savior as testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in Christ and his willing subjection to the authority of Christ by way of:

- The Word of God
 - *John 8:31 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;***
 - *Luke 6:46 - **And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***
- And the local church
 - *John 13:20 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.***
 - *Hebrews 13:17 - **Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:** for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*
 - *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.*

And represents his union with Jesus in death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

*Romans 6:4 - 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.***

Church Administration

It is intended to preserve the doctrine of the resurrection according to our hope and His promise until the day of its' fulfillment.

*Colossians 2:12 - **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him **through the faith of the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead.*

*2 Corinthians 4:14 - Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus **shall raise up us also** by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the Body of Christ, the local church to which a believer is added.

*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.*

The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination.

*1 Corinthians 11:28 - But **let a man examine himself**, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

It also preserves a picture of the doctrine concerning the fellowship of His saints at His table in His coming kingdom.

*Luke 22:16 - 18 - For I say unto you, **I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God**. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, **I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come**.*

Whereas the elements of Communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, participation in the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ, and so is present, fellowshiping with His people.

Church Administration

1 Corinthians 10:16 - The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

The Word of God declares that in the fulness of time, the earthly congregations are to be gathered together into one assembly with all those saints who fell on sleep in Christ and that this gathering of the body of Christ will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture.

*1 Corinthians 15:51 - 52 - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In 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.***

*1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 - 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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** 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. For 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: Then 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.*

*Hebrews 12:22 - 23 - But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To **the general assembly and church of the firstborn**, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

*Revelation 12:5 - 6 - And she brought forth **a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:** and **her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.** And the woman fled into the*

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wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

This congregation of church saints is distinct in Scripture from the nation of Israel with different promises, a different inheritance, a different destiny, and a different purpose in the work of God.

*1 Corinthians 10:32 - Give none offence, neither to **the Jews**, nor to **the Gentiles**, nor to **the church of God**:*

The church, this congregation of saints, spoken of in this future gathering is the bride of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 11:2 - For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused you to one husband**, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

*Ephesians 5:31 - 32 - For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

*Revelation 19:7 - 8 - Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready**. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

of which Christ is the Head.

*Ephesians 1:22 - 23 - And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him **to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

*Ephesians 4:15 - But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, **which is the head, even Christ**:*

*Colossians 1:18 - And **he is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Church Administration

Church Finance

God's plan of finance for the church is set forth in Scripture as tithes and offerings. This has ever been the case of the household of faith, long before the giving of the law at Sinai:

*Genesis 14:18 - 20 - And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he [Abraham] gave him tithes of all.***

The tithe, while it is that which is least of God's holy things as it pertains to the things of this life

*Matthew 23:23 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye pay tithe** of mint and anise and cummin, and **have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith:** these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

Yet belongs to the Lord

*Malachi 3:8 - Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,** and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

And as such, His people are to be faithful to Him in even these least things

*Luke 16:9 - 11 - And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. **He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:** and he that is unjust in the*

Church Finance

least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

It is the privilege and obligation of the believer to pay his tithe and give his offering to the Lord Jesus Christ by the church.

*Hebrews 7:8 - And here men that die receive tithes; but **there he receiveth them**, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.*

This giving is to be done cheerfully, willingly, and systematically to enable the church to foster the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 9:11 - 14 - If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. Do ye not know that **they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple?** and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath **the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.***

*2 Corinthians 9:5 - 7 - Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.***

Missions

The work of evangelizing the lost and heralding the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching is the sole responsibility of the local new testament church by the commission of Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 28:18 - 20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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.***

Qualified men ordained as missionaries are divinely called and ordained by churches;

*Acts 13:1 - 2 - Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.** And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

And it is the responsibility of churches to support the work of these missionaries rather than extra-scriptural or para-church organizations.

*1 Corinthians 9:13 - 14 - Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath **the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.***

Missions

These missionaries are to be sent forth by the church to proclaim the word of the gospel of Jesus Christ;

*Romans 10:14 - 15 - How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

*Acts 8:5 - Then **Philip went down** to the city of Samaria, and **preached Christ** unto them.*

To baptize those who believe the truth of His word;

*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.*

And to organize them into churches of like faith, practice, and order according to the commandments of Jesus Christ.

*Acts 8:14 - Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they **sent unto them Peter and John**: Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them**, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then **laid they their hands on them**, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

Local, New Testament churches are the only organizations that are authorized by our Lord to carry out this great commission on His behalf.

Matthew 16:16 - 18 - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in

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*heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Angels

Angels

Holy Angels. Angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they are created to serve God, minister to those who are the heirs of salvation, and to worship Him.

*Luke 2:9 - 14 - And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the **angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.***

*Hebrews 1:6 - 7 - And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, **And let all the angels of God worship him.** And of the angels he saith, **Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.***

*Hebrews 1:13 - 14 - But to which of the angels said he at any time, **Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?** Are they not all **ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?***

*Revelation 5:11 - 14 - And I beheld, and **I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne** and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; **Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.** And the four beasts said, **Amen.** And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*

Angels

Fallen Angels. Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator.

Isaiah 14:12 - 17 - 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! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend 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: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Ezekiel 28:12 - 19 - Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall

Angels

be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

By taking numerous angels with him in his fall.

*Matthew 25:41 - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for **the devil and his angels**:*

*Revelation 12:3 - 4 - And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And **his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

And by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve.

*Genesis 3:1 - 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?***

Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man.

*Isaiah 14:13 - 14 - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend 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: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.***

*Matthew 4:1 - Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted of the devil.***

*Revelation 12:9 - 10 - And **there was war in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and*

Angels

the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

He is the prince of this present world

*2 Corinthians 4:3 - 4 - But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** 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.*

*Ephesians 2:2 - Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

Who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*John 12:31 - 33 - Now is the judgment of this world: **now shall the prince of this world be cast out**. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.*

*Colossians 2:14 - 15 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And **having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.***

*Romans 16:20 - And **the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

And that he shall be eternally punished 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.*

Last Things

Death. The Word of God declares that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness.

*Revelation 6:9-11 - And when he had opened the fifth seal, **I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.***

*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; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.***

That the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ.

*Luke 23:43 - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.***

*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:*

2 Corinthians 5:8 - We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

That there is a separation of soul and body

*Philippians 1:21-24 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But **if I live in the flesh**, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ**; which is far better: **Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.***

Last Things

And that, for the redeemed, such separation will continue until the rapture.

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 - 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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 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. For 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**: Then 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.*

Which initiates the first resurrection.

*Revelation 20:4-6 - 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; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection**. 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.*

When our soul and body will be reunited to be glorified forever with our Lord.

*Philippians 3:21 - Who shall **change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

1 Corinthians 15:35 - 44 - But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but

Last Things

*bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

*1 Corinthians 15:50 - 54 - Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed,**** In 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.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

*2 Corinthians 5:8 - We are confident, I say, and willing rather to **be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.***

The Scriptures teach the bodily resurrection of all men

*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, And shall come forth;** they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

The saved to eternal life.

Last Things

John 6:39 - 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.

Romans 8:10-11 - And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

*Romans 8:19 - 23 - For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.***

*2 Corinthians 4:14 - Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus **shall raise up us also by Jesus**, and shall present us with you.*

And the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

*Daniel 12:2 - And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and **some to shame and everlasting contempt.***

*Revelation 20:12-15 - 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. 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

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The Scriptures reveal that the souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second resurrection.

*Luke 16:19-26 - There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 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; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 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.*

When the soul and the resurrection body will be united.

*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, And shall come forth;** they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

They shall then appear at the Great White Throne Judgment.

*Revelation 20:11 - 12 - 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. 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.*

And shall be cast into hell, the lake of fire.

*Matthew 25:41-46 - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not:*

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*sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. **And these shall go away into everlasting punishment:** but the righteous into life eternal.*

Cut off from the presence of God forever.

*2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 - And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;***

The resurrection of the saints in the rapture. We see in scripture the personal, bodily appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ before the tribulation to translate His church from this earth.

*Matthew 24:44 - Therefore **be ye also ready:** for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

*John 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. **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.***

*Isaiah 26:20 - **Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:9 - For **God hath not appointed us to wrath,** but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*1 Corinthians 15:23 - 24 - But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; **afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end,** when he shall have delivered up the kingdom*

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to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53 - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In 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.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*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. For **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: Then 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.***

*Titus 2:13 - **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

And that between this event and His glorious return with His saints, He is to reward believers according to their works.

*1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.** If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

*2 Corinthians 5:10 - For **we must all appear before the judgment 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.*

The Tribulation Period - immediately following the removal of the saints who are in Christ from the earth, the

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righteous judgment of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world.

*Jeremiah 30:7 - Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even **the time of Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it.*

*Daniel 9:27 - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and **in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.***

*Daniel 12:1 - And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time**: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 - For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

*Revelation 16:1 - And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, **Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.***

These judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth.

*Matthew 24:27-31 - For as **the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the***

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***Son of man be.** For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately **after the tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:** and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

*Matthew 25:31 - 33 - **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 - For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.** And then shall that **Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

At that time the tribulation saints will be raised and the living will be judged.

*Revelation 20:4-6 - 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; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years*

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were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** 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.

This period includes the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy.

*Daniel 9:24-27 - And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:** and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

*Matthew 24:15 - **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,** (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

The Second Coming and the Reign of Christ. After the tribulation period, Christ will come to earth to occupy the throne of David.

*Luke 1:31 - 33 - And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and **the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:***

*Matthew 25:31 - **When the Son of man shall come in his glory,** and all the holy angels with him, **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:***

*Acts 1:6 - 7 - When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.***

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*Acts 2:29 – 30 - Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore **being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;***

*Acts 15:14 – 16 - Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:***

And establish His kingdom on the earth.

*Revelation 20:1-7 - 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; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.***

During this time the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth.

*Daniel 7:17-22 - These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. **But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.** Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; **Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.***

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*2 Timothy 2:12 - **If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:***

*Revelation 19:11-16 - And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***

This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, and by the removal of Satan from the world.

*Daniel 7:19 - 27 - Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the***

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dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Revelation 20:1-7 - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 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; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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.

The kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

*Isaiah 65:17-25 - For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, **I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people:** and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and*

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another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

*Ezekiel 37:21-28 - And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all:** and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.*

*Zechariah 8:1-15 - Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of***

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truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour. But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts. For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

To restore them to the land that they forfeited through their disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15-22 - But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall

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be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.....

The result of their disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside.

*Matthew 21:43 - Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.*

*Romans 11:1 - 3 - I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.** Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.*

But will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing.

*Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Behold, **the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every*

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man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

*Romans 11:25 - 29 - 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 fulness of the Gentiles be come in.** And 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:** For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

The time of our Lord's reign on earth will begin after the great tribulation and the destruction of this present world, and it will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life.

*Isaiah 65:17-25 - For, **behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create:** for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the*

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bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 36:33-38 - Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

And after 1,000 years Satan will be loosed one final time to deceive the nations. At this time He will be finally defeated and consigned to eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:7 - And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 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.

The Judgment of the Lost. Following the release of Satan after the 1,000-year reign of Christ, Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city, at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven. Following this,

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Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, whereupon Christ, who is the Judge of all men

*John 5:22 - For the Father judgeth no man, **but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:***

Will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne Judgment. This resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment.

*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, And shall come forth;** they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

They will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire.

*Matthew 25:41 - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:***

*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. 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.** 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

What It Means To Be a Christian

Being a Christian is more than identifying yourself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, Jesus Christ, mankind, sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. Christianity is defined by the doctrine that was taught by the Lord to His apostles. Christ commanded them to teach others also, and those who continued steadfastly in that doctrine were called Christians. Specifically, it starts with faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the risen Lord, and an acknowledgment of the truth of what God has declared concerning His Son as Lord of all. The accompanying fruit of that faith is obedience to the One whom God has appointed - His own Son, Jesus Christ. Consider the following truths found in Scripture.

God is sovereign creator. Contemporary thinking says man is the product of evolution. But the Bible says we were created by a personal God to love, serve, and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals it was Jesus Himself who created everything.

*Psalm 100:3 - Know ye that the LORD he is God: **it is he that hath made us**, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*John 1:3 - **All things were made by him**; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*Colossians 1:16 - For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him**:*

Therefore, He also owns and rules everything.

*Psalm 103:19 - The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and **his kingdom ruleth over all**.*

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*John 17:1 - 2 - These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As **thou hast given him power over all flesh**, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*

That means He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship. This is the true understanding of His title as Lord.

*Luke 6:46 - And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***

Since Jesus is the Word of God, accordingly the Word has complete authority over our lives.

*Revelation 19:13 - And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God.***

God is holy. God is absolutely and perfectly holy.

*Isaiah 6:3 - And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.***

Therefore, He cannot commit or approve of evil.

*James 1:13 - Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:***

God requires holiness of us as well.

*1 Peter 1:16 - Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.***

Mankind is sinful. According to Scripture, everyone is guilty of sin. That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own.

*Romans 3:10-12 - As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are***

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*together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

*Romans 3:23 - **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***

Sin demands a penalty. God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death. That is why simply changing our patterns of behavior cannot solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

*Ezekiel 18:4 - Behold, **all souls are mine;** as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul that sinneth, it shall die.***

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

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners.

*1 Peter 3:18 - For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***

Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's justice and Christ's perfect life satisfied the demands of God's holiness.

*2 Corinthians 5:21 - For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.***

Thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him.

*Romans 3:26 - To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: **that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***

The Character of Saving Faith. True faith will always involve repentance.

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*Mark 1:15 - And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe** the gospel.*

Repentance is a change of mind that turns from unbelief towards God to faith in God by agreeing with God concerning what He has declared to be true in His Word.

*1 Thessalonians 2:13 - For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, **ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

*2 Timothy 2:25 - In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them **repentance to the acknowledging of the truth**;*

In scripture we see that this includes acknowledgment of the fact that we are sinful,

*2 Corinthians 7:10 - For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

Confessing our sins to Him in Acknowledgment of the truth,

*Mark 1:5 - And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, **confessing their sins**.*

And making a conscious choice to turn from our own ways to His Truth

*Luke 13:3 - I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:9 - For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how **ye turned to God** from idols to serve the living and true God;*

And pursue Christ

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*Matthew 11:28-30 - **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you**, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

And walk in obedience to Him.

*1 John 2:3 - And **hereby we do know that we know him**, if we **keep his commandments**.*

It is not enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God

*James 2:19 - Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble**.*

But they do not love and obey Him. True saving faith always responds in obedience.

*Ephesians 2:10 - For we are **his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which **God hath before ordained that we should walk in them**.*

Glossary of Terms

Atonement - to cover over or a covering; specifically, the provision of the blood of Jesus Christ to cover the soul of the sinner as protection from the deserved wrath of God. The believer is covered with His righteousness and his sin will not be imputed to him, or accounted to him and held against him.

Baptism - the act of fully immersing in water one who has been taught, understood, and believed the gospel of Jesus Christ. This act is performed according to the commandment of Jesus Christ, by the authority of the local church, and places the believer into that church, or body of Christ, by which he has been baptized.

Blasphemy - to speak reproachfully, rail upon, or to speak evil of God by speaking anything about Him that is not true. To diminish the glory of God by viewing Him as if He were like His creatures, rather than seeing Him as He is according to the truth of what He has revealed of Himself in Scripture.

Election - the act by which God chooses men according to His own purpose and grace to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.

Great Tribulation - the final 3 ½ years (not 7) of this world's history immediately prior to the Lord's return as taught by Jesus Christ, Daniel the prophet, and John in the book of Revelation. Its' beginning is marked by the abomination of desolation and its' end is marked by the sun and moon going dark and the stars falling from heaven. Immediately after this period of time, the Lord Jesus will visibly return to set up His kingdom on earth.

Glossary of Terms

Justification – the act of God by which He declares His righteous judgment concerning the repentant sinner and declares the sinner to be righteous before Himself by the act of His own righteousness through the shedding of His blood on the cross.

Propitiation – the satisfaction of the demands of God’s holy and righteous law by His Son Jesus Christ on the cross through the shedding of His own blood. Jesus is the one by whom the holy justice of God has been turned aside and satisfied for those who believe.

Rapture – taken from the Latin form of the Greek word *harpazō*, meaning to snatch away or claim for one’s self eagerly. Spoken in reference to the event prior to the great tribulation when Christ will appear to catch away His saints in the air and take them to be with Him forever.

Reconciliation – the act whereby God, in an act of His own grace, restores the sinner to favor and fellowship with Himself by His Son Jesus Christ.

Redemption – the act whereby God provided the ransom payment due for the purchase of His people, thus securing their release from bondage to sin and death.

Repentance – the act of turning, or a change of direction or mind; specifically, of men turning from unbelief to faith, from dead works to holy service to the living God, from sin unto righteousness, and from darkness unto light.

Sanctification – spoken of the act of God by the work of the Holy Spirit in setting apart men unto Himself, and the ongoing work of God in the hearts and lives of believers to conform them into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.