

Articles Of Faith

The Bible Baptist Church is a sovereign grace Baptist church, believing in the - faith once for all delivered unto the saints as expressed in the Scriptures, which embraces all the counsel of God (Jude 3; Acts 20:26,27). We hold that our doctrine stands on solid biblical basis as well as in the best historical tradition of Baptists and other true evangelicals. We believe that the very heart of the Gospel is expressed in the Doctrines of Grace, i.e., (1) the total depravity of man, (2) the unconditional election by God, the Father, (3) the particular redemption by the blood of Christ the Son, (4) the effectual calling of the Holy Spirit, and (5) the perseverance of true saints.

God has led our pastor and people to take a clear-cut stand on these Doctrines of Grace for their exposition, defense, and promulgation to the ends of the earth in the evangelical and Christ-centered way, along with the other great and precious truths expressed in these ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

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

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Ps. 119:160 Ps. 119:105; Ps. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45 Ps. 119:89; Pr. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I

Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; Jn. 12:48 Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Romans 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalms 19:7-11 Jn. 5:45-47; Jn. 5:39.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph, 4:6; Jn. 4:24; Ps. 147:5; Ps. 83:18; Ps. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Romans 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I Jn. 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 12:14.

III. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth: that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Jn. 14:16-17; Mat. 28:19; He. 9:14; Jn. 14:26; Lu. 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; Jn. 16:8-11; Jn. 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; Jn. 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Mat. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Luke 3:16; Jn. 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Romans 8:14; Romans 8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27.

IV. OF THE DEVIL. OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness— destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:25; Matt. 37:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I Jn. 4:3; II Jn. 7; I Jn. 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11,16,20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.

V. OF CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "*after their kind.*"

Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:23-26, Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

VI. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the Law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just

condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6,24; Romans 5:12; Romans 5:19; Romans 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1,3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22

VII. OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost, in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Ps. 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

VIII. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Peter 2:24; I Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

IX. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION. OR THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely in the power of the Holy Spirit so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life which we bring forth to the glory of God.

Jn. 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I Jn. 5:1; Jn. 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

X. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Peter 1:2; Titus 1:1; Romans 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isaiah 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Romans 10:13; John 6:37; Isaiah 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isaiah 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

XI. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ bestows on such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification consists in the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness, by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with

God, and secure every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1; Titus 3:5-7; Ro. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

XII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone and openly confessing Him as our only all-sufficient Saviour.

Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Romans 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isaiah 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9-11.

XIII. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we &re made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means - especially the word of God - self-examination, self-denial, prayer, and watchfulness.

Acts 20:32; Rom. 6:5,6; John 17:17; Eph. 3:16-19; I Thess. 5:21-23; Romans 6:14; Gal. 5:17,24; Col. 1:11; II Cor. 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; Phil. 3:7-15; Rom. 7:18,23; I Pet. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-19.

XIV. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God according to which He

graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, as it comprehends all the means in connection with the (end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes Humility, love, prayer, praise, in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regards to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

Ro. 8:28-30; Ro. 9:11-16,22^24; Ro. 11:5; Eph. 1:3-12; I Thess. 5:9; II Thess. 2:13-14; II Tim. 1:9; I Peter 1:2,5,20; John 6:37,44,45; Jn. 10:26-30; Jn. 15:16; Jn. 17:2,9,20; Rom. 11:33; II Peter 1:10; Luke 10:20; Matt. 11:25-27,

XV. OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church, with respect to the internal work of the Holy Spirit and the truth of grace, may be called invisible; and that, as it consists of the whole number of the elect that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the Head thereof, may be termed universal; that as such the Church is the spouse, the body, the fullness of His that filleth all in all; that all persons throughout the world professing the faith of the Gospel and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, and not destroying their own profession by any errors averting the foundation, or unholiness of life, are and may be called visible saints; and of such persons all particular Churches are to be constituted.

Heb. 12:23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23; Eph. 5:23,27,32; I Cor. 1:2; Acts 11:26; Rom. 1:7; Eph. 1:20-22.

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, said Church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or bishops and deacons or elders, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the scriptures; we believe

the true mission of the Church is found in the Great Commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the Church; Third, to teach and instruct as He-has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local Church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only ultimate Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit by the word; that it is scriptural for true Churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every Church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, the will of the local Church is final.

Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, B-II; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3,4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Malachi 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13

XVI. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Romans 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:1,9-20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

XVII. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from

superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:20; Psalms 121:3; Hebrews 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28,29; John 16:8; Rom. 8:35-39.

XVIII. OF THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes as far as possible, particularly by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations that would hinder or prevent the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; that it should be used as preparation of the soul for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

Exodus 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15; John 20:19,26; Acts 2:1; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10; Isa. 58:13; Neh. 13:15-22; Heb. 4:1-4,9.

XIX. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mai. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Proverbs 11:31; I Peter 1:18; Romans 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 2:7; Rom, 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov, 14-32; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34,41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matthew 7:13-14.

XX. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and

good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam, 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13,14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Phil. 2:10-11; Psalms 72:11.

XXI. OF THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST & RELATED EVENTS

1. OF THE STATE OF MAN AFTER DEATH AND OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption, but their souls neither die nor sleep, but return immediately to God Who gave them; the souls of the righteous beings then made perfect in holiness are received into heaven where they sre with Christ and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; the souls of the wicked are cast into hell where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great Day; besides these two places of abode for souls separated from their bodies, the Scriptures know nothing at all.

At the return of Christ at the last Day such of the saints as are found alive shall not die but be changed, and all the dead saints shall be raised up with the self-same bodies, and none other, although with different and glorious qualities, which shall be united again to their souls for ever to be with the Lord. The bodies of the unjust shall., by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor; the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honor shall be raised and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

Gen. 3:19; Acts 13:36; Eccl. 12:7; II Cor. 5:1,6,8; Phil. 1:23; Heb. 12:23; Jude 6,7; I Pet. 3:19; Luke 16:19-31; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42,43,51,52; Acts 24:15; John 5:28,29; 6:39,40; Ph. 3:21.

2. OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

God has appointed a Day wherein He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ to Whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in that Day not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons who have ever lived upon earth shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

The purpose of God's appointing a Day wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy in the eternal salvation of the elect, and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life and receive that fulness of joy and glory with everlasting reward in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be cast into eternal hell and punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

Acts 17:31; John 5:22,27; II Cor, 5:10,11; Matt. 12:36; 25: 31-46; Romans 14:10,12; II Tim. 4:8; II Thess. 1:5,6,7-10.

3. OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ arose bodily from the grave on the third day according to the Scriptures and ascended to the right hand of God the Father where He alone is our merciful and faithful High Priest making intercession for His people; that this same Jesus will one day come again as He went away - bodily, personally, and visibly - to raise and judge the living and the dead. As Christ would have us to be certainly assured that He will truly come again to deter all men from sin and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will He have that Day unknown to men that they may shake off all ! carnal security and be always watchful, since they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and therefore the saints may be prepared to say, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen."

Matthew 28:6,7; Mark 16:19; I Tim. 2:5; Acts 1:9,11; John 14:3; Hebrews 9:28; II Cor. 5:10,11; II Thess. 1:5-7; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 17:26-30; Rev. 22:20.

XXII. OF MISSIONS

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches. Matt. 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 always, even unto the end of the world, Amen,"

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

John 20:21, "Then said Jesus to them again. Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

Rom. 10:13-15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 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!"

XXIII. OF THE GRACE OF GIVING

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith.

II Cor. 8:7, "Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the

church) upon the first day of the week.

I Cor. 16:2, "*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come,*" Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe—"Abraham *GAVE the tenth of the spoils*" Hebrews 7:2,4 and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "*These ye ought to have done*",— Matt. 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30, "*The tithe...is the Lord's.*" Mai. 3:10, "*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.*"

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34,35,37, "*And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet...Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it AT THE APOSTLES' FEET.*"