

Doctrine

1. Scripture-

I believe the Bible is God's Holy Word that was written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it is truth without any error or contradiction and is, and will always be until the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of God's will for man. It is the authority and standard that all conduct and opinions are tried against.

By the "Holy Bible" I mean the collection of 66 books, from Genesis to Revelation which as originally written doesn't just contain and tell God's Word, it IS God's Word. The whole of the Bible is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The Scriptures do not reveal everything there is to know about God and His purposes but what He has chosen to reveal in His wisdom is sufficient, understandable, and what humanity is ultimately accountable for before Him. Ps 19; Rom 1:20; Heb 1:1-4; Matt 5:17-19; Deut 29:29; 2Pt 1:3-4, 16-21

By "inspired" I mean that (as 1 Peter 1:19-21 says) every book of the Bible was written by holy men, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Their writings were completely free from error and were supernaturally and verbally inspired and have been providentially preserved and are sufficient for faith and authority. Ps 119:1-176; 2Tim 3:15-17; 2Pt 1:21; 1Cor 2:12-13

2. The Trinity-

I believe there is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, personal, and eternal Being, the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Ruler of all creation. He is unlimited and unchanging in holiness and all other divine attributes. He is all-present, all-powerful and all-knowing; and His wisdom extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His responsible creatures. He is worthy of the highest love, reverence, and obedience of everyone and everything everywhere. John 4:24; 1 Tim 1:17

I believe that this God has revealed Himself in Scripture as existing eternally in three distinct persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit; and these three are the one living and true God, having the same divine nature and worthy of the same faith and obedience. It is the unity, order, and relationship of these three Persons in one God that fundamentally establishes creation, redemption, and final glorification in the coming Kingdom and New Creation. Matt 28:19; Deut 6:4; John 1:1; 10:30; Heb 1:1-3, 8-9; Acts 5:3-4; 1John 5:7

3. God the Father

I believe God as Father reigns with care over His creation, His creatures, and the course of human history according to His purposes. His fatherhood provides the true pattern for all the families on earth. Matt 5:45; 6:25-34; Eph 4:6

I believe God the Father and God the Son share a unique relationship as members of the trinity. Matt 6:25-34; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:14, 18; 3:35; 5:17-26; 6:27; 8:27-28; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; 1Cor 8:6; Col 1:15

I believe God the Son has become the exclusive way for fallen humanity to be born again into a relationship with God the Father and becoming His child. The reality of

being God's child and having Him as our Father should promote and control the way we worship and live our daily lives. Understanding God as "Father" allows us to understand the Biblical concept of adoption, wherein God no longer treats us as sinners but as sons in Christ Jesus. Matt 5:48; 6:8-14, 25-34; 7:11; 11:25-27; 12:50; 23:9; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 6:36; 12:32; John 6:37, 40, 44-46; 6:65; 12:49-50; 13:3; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Rom 8:14-15; 1Cor 8:6; Gal 4:6; Eph 4:6; Col 1:15; Heb 12:9; 1Pt 1:17

4. Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the only begotten Son of the Father, and equal with the Father and the Spirit in the trinity.

I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ became fully man without ceasing to be fully God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God, redeem humanity, and restore all of creation.

I believe that Jesus Christ accomplished this redemption through His perfect obedience unto death on the Cross as the perfect sacrifice for sin; that this redemption is guaranteed by His physical Resurrection from the dead and by His subsequent Ascension into Heaven, where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father reigning with all authority and fulfilling His high Priestly ministry of intercession and advocacy for His people.

I believe in Jesus Christ's ultimate return to receive His Bride, at the pre-tribulation Rapture; His literal thousand-year reign on earth as the Davidic King of Israel, and His eternal reign with the Father over the New Heavens and New Earth. Col 2:9; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 1:31-35; 24:39-43; Matt 1:20-21; 24:29-31; Heb 4:15; 7:25-

8:1; 10:5-18; 1John 2:1-2; John 20:27-29; Acts 1:11; 1Thess 4:16-18; Rev 20:4-6; 1Cor 15:4-8, 23-28

5. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same nature. He was active in creation, He relates to the unbeliever by restraining them of evil, and convicts of sin. He bears truth to the Gospel in preaching and testimony, and He is the agent in regeneration. He: seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

I believe the Holy Spirit permanently and completely indwells every believer at the moment of salvation and unites them to Christ. In doing so, He is the guarantee of the believer's final redemption and is ever-present to empower, instruct, and lead the believer to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ through godly living for evangelism, discipleship, and missions.

I believe the Spirit's desire is to exalt the Risen Lord as the head of the church and to continue His ministry on earth by giving gifts to each member of the Body of Christ for the edification of the church and the good of the world; and I believe the "sign gifts" such as prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues ceased after the apostles and prophets laid the foundation for the church as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority recognized. Eph 1:13-14; 1Cor 12:4-7, 13; 13:8-13; Rom 8:9, 26-27; John 14:16-18; 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 13:2; Gal 5:16; 2Cor 12:12; Heb 2:3-4, . 1 Cor.13:8

6. Man

I believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted and taught literally and not as allegory or figuratively. Man was created directly in the image of God after His own likeness, man's figure is not the result of evolution or a change in species, or a development over many years from a lower form to a higher form. I believe Genesis 2:7 that man was formed from the dust of the ground that God breathed life into, and Genesis 2:22 God formed woman from the rib of man as a helpmeet for him.

In accordance with the creation of mankind into two distinct genders, I believe that the only legitimate marriage is between a man and woman. As such, any sexual activity outside of the marriage covenant between a man and woman is a sinful perversion of God's design.

All human life has value and is sacred from the time of fertilization throughout the whole human life. I believe in accordance with Jeremiah 1:5 that before we are in the womb, God knows us and has a plan for us and the taking of that life is an act against God- regardless of reasoning. Gen. 1:1; Ex 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 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.

7. Sin

All mankind was created innocent before God under the law of his Maker, but through the voluntary act of breaking that law, man fell from his sinless and happy state. As a consequence, all mankind are now sinners, as Romans 3:23 states "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

Our sin is our choice as we willfully reject God and all are under condemnation in their natural state without any defense or excuse. I believe because of our sin nature we are completely depraved, meaning that, apart from Christ changing our hearts, there is no good deed we can do to please God or merit righteousness. However, I don't believe man's depravity is greater than the appeal and power of the Gospel. I reject that people have been condemned before they were ever born because of a lack of being elected by God for salvation. Rom 1:20, Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12, 19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek.18:19-20; Rom. 1:20, 28, 32; Gal. 3:22

8. Salvation

In order to be saved, sinners must be born again-which results in them becoming a new creature. Salvation is received by repentance and faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and receiving the Grace of God. Grace is a gift of God that we cannot earn or merit, it is offered freely on the basis of faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." The evidence of receiving this grace is a changed life that demonstrates the fruits of the spirit.

I believe in a provisional view of soteriology, that God has provided and made a way for all to respond to the appeal of the Gospel and to be saved. I believe it is the duty of all people to respond in humility, repentance, and faith in the finished work of Christ for salvation, and that nothing prevents the greatest sinner on earth from receiving God's grace other than their own voluntary rejection of the Gospel and their love for their sin. I

affirm the truth of 2 Peter 3:9 that "God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance".

A. Atonement

Because of his fallen state there was nothing man could do to atone for his sins. So Jesus Christ, took on Himself the form of a man, but yet was without sin. He honored the law by His personal obedience, and His death was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners place: The just dying for the unjust.

Atonement for sin is made available to all but it is only applied to those who accept the gift of salvation. 1 John 2:2 states "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25

B. Justification

I believe that the great exchange of salvation is that when we accept the gift of Grace, we receive Christ's righteousness and He takes our sin. Therefore, when God looks at us, He no longer sees our transgression, but He sees the righteousness of His son. This is not based on any work or good deed that we have done, but solely on the basis of His righteousness on us. Acts 13:39, Isa. 53:11, Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:1, 9

C. Perseverance of the Saints

I believe those who are true and real believers endure unto the end; their attachment to Christ is what distinguishes them from superficial professors of faith- As Jesus said in John 8:31- "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed". Those who are saved are sealed by the Holy Spirit and cannot be removed from the saving hand of the Father. John 10:28, Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Peter. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:35-39

9. The Church

A Baptist church is a congregation of saved and baptized believers joined together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel. The church observes the Ordinances of Christ, and is governed by His laws and exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges given by His Word.

The offices of the church are Pastor (or overseer) and deacons, who are men that meet the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1.

The true mission of the church is to fulfill the Great Commission given in Matthew 28. To make disciples, Baptize, build the church, and teach and instruct as He commanded. The church is self-governed and the head of the church is Christ, and no other organization or hierarchy. The will of the local church is final in all matters of membership, policy, government, and discipline. Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; 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

10. Satan

Satan was once one of the angels, but because of pride and a desire to be like God, he fell and took with him a host of angels. He is now the evil prince of power of the air and the ungodly god of this world. He is man's great tempter, the enemy of God, the accuser of saints, the author of all false religions and idols, the lord of the antichrist, and the leader of all the powers of darkness-However, as Revelation 12:10 says, he is destined for a final defeat at the hand of God's Son where he will be cast down, and be sentenced for eternal justice in hell, which was prepared for him and his angels. Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Peter 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Peter.5:8; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15

11. Last Things

It is appointed to every man a time to die. After death the individual faces a judgment of God (Heb 9:27). Jesus will one day return to rapture His people (1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thess 4:15- 5:11). There are no prophecies that have to be fulfilled before the rapture (Matt 24:42-44, 50; 1 Thess 5:2). The Scriptures are clear that no man will know the time of the rapture. Christ's return is imminent (John 14:3).

After the rapture the world will experience a seven-year period full of trouble like it has never seen before (Dan 9: 24-27; 12:1). It will see three and one-half years of tribulation followed by another three and one-half years of a great tribulation (2 Thess 2:7; Matt 24:1-21). The purpose of this time is to pour out God's wrath on the unbelieving world and to judge the nation of Israel (Rev 6:16-17; Dan 9:24). After the first three and one-half years, Israel will side with a rising leader (Dan 9:27). This leader is the anti-

Christ. The Great Tribulation period (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:4-26) is a second three and one-half years that will end at Armageddon as the anti-Christ and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:11-21).

The second coming of Jesus Christ will be in the same manner that He left the earth. He will be coming from the heavens in the flesh (Acts 1:11). His return will be sudden and surprising, in power and glory (Matt 24:30; 25:1-13; Mark 13:26; 1 Thess 5:2-3). In His return He will set up a literal, physical, one-thousand-year kingdom on this earth (Rev 20). Only believers will enter into the millennial kingdom, as unbelievers will be removed from the earth prior to its inauguration (Matt 24-25). Christ will fulfill all his covenants not yet fulfilled at this time (Rom 11). These covenants include the Abrahamic Land Covenant, Davidic, Palestinian and New Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:17-21; 2 Sam 7:12; Deut 30:1-10; Jer 31:31).

Following the millennial reign of Christ all New Testament believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11-15). At the great white throne of judgment unbelievers will be judged according to their works. The result of the judgment for unbelievers, Satan and the fallen angels, is the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15). The final state of believers is on the new earth with new resurrected bodies. Believers will enjoy eternity with God in His presence. Heaven is a place of great and unimaginable beauty, a place of perfect worship, perfect pleasure, perfect service and perfect life (Luke 19:17; Rev 5:10; 22:3).

12. Missions

I believe that the local church, and the members of it, has been sent into the world to seek and to save those who are lost in sin and unbelief, just as the Father sent His Son;

that in obedience to the Lord's Great Commission the Gospel is to be proclaimed to every people group and disciples are to grow to maturity, serve in ministry, and invest their lives to multiply more disciples and local churches.

I believe that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation so that there is no other Name by which men may be saved and that believers have the holy responsibility in the power of the Spirit and with an attitude of love to proclaim this Good News by means of investing in relationships with the lost and inviting them to repent of their sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that the Great Commission involves the planting of local churches by evangelism, establishing local churches by discipleship, and multiplying local churches by world missions. Obedience to this commission will result in numerical growth of believers, their spiritual growth in understanding God's Word, and geographical growth of local churches. John 20:21; Luke 19:10; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Rom 1:16-17; 1Thess 1:5; Rom 15:24; 3Jn. 5-8; Acts 13:2-3; 14:26-27; 15:40; 4:12; Gal 1:6-9; 2Cor. 5:14-21; 1Cor 15:3-4

13. Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of our faith. God commands us to bring our gifts into the storehouse on the first day of the week. We do not PAY tithe, but we give back to God what is His. Leviticus 27:30 says "the tithe is the Lords". In the New Testament in Acts 4 their gifts were brought into the church, this is our model we follow. 1 Cor 16:2, Heb 7:2,4, Mal 3:10

14. Christian Living and Conduct

I believe it is the responsibility of every believer to live in a manner worthy of their holy calling in Jesus Christ being led by the Spirit so as to not fulfill the lusts of the sin nature; that since the sin nature still resides in the believer until glorification, it must be kept in constant subjection by the filling of the Spirit, the indwelling of the Word of Christ, and the obedience of faith.

I believe the home is the God-intended place for nurturing Christian faith and living. Foundational to the home is the institution of marriage between one man and one woman for one lifetime as ordained by God from the beginning; wherein a believing man and woman become one for the purpose of physical, emotional, and spiritual intimate companionship, fruitful partnership, and the godly nurture of children. Divorce (except for abandonment by an unbelieving spouse or unrepentant adultery or unrepentant abuse of this covenant) and sexual immorality are serious sins against this life-long covenant. Nevertheless, like all sin, these sins are covered by the blood of Christ and can be forgiven in those who are redeemed and seek forgiveness with a repentant heart.

I believe that alcohol has no place in the life of a believer. Drinking, both socially and privately, are not beneficial to the Christian, and especially in the life of a pastor. Alcohol is destructive and addictive and is also a stumbling block. As someone going to a country that is often associated with alcohol and drunkenness I have seen the damage that this does to families and to personal testimonies. As a follower of Christ I desire to be above reproach and alcohol will have no place in my life. Rom 14:21, Proverbs 20:1, Ephesians 5:18, Proverbs 31:4-7 1Pt 1:14-16; Eph 4:22-24; Col 1:9-12; Gal 5:16, 25; Rom 6:11-

23; 13:14; Eph 5:15-23; Col 3:16-21; Deut 6:6-9; 1Tim 3:4-5; Titus 1:6, 18-24; 2Cor 6:14; Mal 2:14-16; Heb 13:4; 2Tim 3:14-17

Ministry Philosophy

- I am, and will always be, a Baptist. Not as a matter of preference, but because I believe the truth of scripture is best expressed in the doctrines of Baptist theology.
- I believe in a balanced view of ministry, not falling to either extreme of progressivism or “legalism” and that is focused on seeing all people, regardless of age or social status, come to know God.
- The focus of my ministry is to reach, teach, minister, and multiply.
- I use the King James Bible for my speaking ministry and have no plans to change.
- I believe a worship service has two vital parts with two distinct audiences. In our time of worship and praise to God we bring him the honor He deserves through worship and singing. The preaching of God’s Word is equally as important as God ministers to us through the teaching of the Truth of Scripture.
- The doctrines of the local Baptist church are not based on preference, so they cannot be abandoned for the sake of ecumenicalism. The goal of the church is to be faithful to the calling Christ has given to go into the world and reach them with the Gospel, teach them, and baptize them. So there cannot be cooperation with those who believe in a different Gospel, different teaching, and different baptism. I do not believe Baptists have to be completely separated from other Christians when it comes to

causes outside of the church (such as opposing abortion, standing for traditional marriage, etc.) but there must be a separation involving things related to the working and teaching of the church regarding those with different beliefs.