

**FAMILY WORSHIP
CENTER**

**PLAIN
STATEMENTS
OF
FAITH**

Preface

The times in which we live demand that the Body of Christ strive to adhere to the words of the Apostle Paul, in which he calls us to remain steadfast, unmoveable and always abounding in the work of the Lord (I Cor. 15:58). Modern societies have built their cultures on ideas and theories that shift with the sands of time; but the Kingdom of God operates according to fixed and eternal principles. Seasons may change; even people's customs tend to evolve. But one thing is immutable: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Holy Scripture is God's timeless voice to all generations, commanding all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Therefore the Bible requires the Christian to incline his or her ear to God's Holy Word and to develop his or her beliefs accordingly. The Lord has faithfully given and preserved His Word through the ages in order for all persons to be able to read of His grace, majesty and His boundless love that is offered to all those for whom Christ died (I Jn. 2:2).

The nature and scope of our glorious redemption from sin, along with the beauties and joys of a full and free salvation, make necessary our stance in defense of the historic traditional texts and doctrines. These manuscripts and teachings were reverently passed down to us in written form from the hands of the earliest disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We, as servants of the Triune Godhead, join in fellowship with all the redeemed saints of God around the world (whatever his or her Protestant denomination) who still contend for a saving faith that is based solely upon a belief in Christ's virgin birth, His sinless life, His veritable sufferings, His atoning death on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead and His visible ascension.

In the following pages we outline, for your consideration and meditation, some essential truths which lead to a healthy theology of the heart and mind. Each statement of faith will promote piety among believers and a spur them on to a devoted life as we all await the coming of the Lord Jesus.
– This pamphlet is adapted from the original 'Declaration of Faith' of the ICFG.

Brother Darrell Sutton

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible is God's precious Word: true, "immutable, steadfast, and as unchangeable as is its author, the Lord Jehovah. Our belief is that it was written by holy men of old as they were moved upon and ²²inspired by the Holy Spirit, that it is a ³³lighted lamp to guide wayward sinners to the heights of righteousness and glory. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings-historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic-as appeared in the original manuscripts; and that God's Word mirrors our sinful heart while at the same time revealing the face of a crucified Savior who himself trusted in the divinely inspired Word(s) of God. Jesus never questioned the validity of the Masoretic text of His day. Yet, He boldly proclaimed the Words of God which were traceable to Moses and the prophets of old.⁴⁴ Holy Scripture equips the believer for Christian life, is able to heal and quicken the human heart, and is the only true ground of Christian fellowship and unity. These are ⁵⁵Words that testify of Jesus;⁶⁶ The sum and total of the 66 books of scripture are to be revered and studied knowing that His Words are Spirit and Life (John 6:63).

*Note on the preservation of scripture

We believe that God has continually preserved His canonical Words through the generations. Thus ensuring that knowledge of His redemptive work would be available to all. Our belief is that neither jot nor tittle has been lost, that the same God who 'preserved' His Son, The Living Word, while he was in this world was/is fully capable of maintaining His written Word which also came from above. It is for this reason that we use the AV 1611 for congregational reading.

Every believer has the right to read any version he/she desires, and is obliged to seek his or her own spiritual edification. We only seek to differentiate between the traditional text which was faithfully passed down thru the centuries (which the AV1611 is based upon), and the critical text created in 1881 by Westcott and Hort. *We do not believe that the King James Bible was/is inspired in any sense of the word.*

Scripture References Where Taught

¹Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35. Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven. Ps. 119:89.

²² All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:16, 17.

³³ Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

⁴⁴ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 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 men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. II Peter 1:19-21.

⁵⁵ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. John 5:39.

⁶⁶ Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. II Timothy 2:15.... Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Phil. 3:16. (Also I John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; I Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11; I John 4:6; Jude 3; Ephesians 6:17; Ps. 119:59, 60; Phillippians 1:9-11.)

II. THE ETERNAL GODHEAD

We believe that there is ⁷¹but one true and living God, who is creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them (Gen1:1); and that God is eternal, unending, everlasting, immutable and unchanging. We affirm the unity of the Godhead, that there are three persons, co-equal in every divine perfection, who, execute distinct but harmonious roles in the wonderful plan of redemption:

The Father—who, being the architect of the divine plan of redemption ⁸²was separated from us by sin. ⁹³Yet whose heart was so filled with love that He gave His son in the fullness of time that he might be born into this world to accomplish so great a redemption on our behalf.

The Son—¹⁰⁴co-existent and co-eternal with the Father, who, conceived by the Holy Spirit and ¹¹⁵born of the Virgin Mary took upon Himself the form of a man, bore our sins, carried our sorrows, and by the shedding of His precious blood upon the cross of Calvary purchased redemption for all that would believe upon Him. Then, bursting the bonds of death and hell rose from the grave and ascended on high leading captivity captive, ¹²⁶ that as the great Mediator between God and man, He might stand at the right hand of the Father making intercession for those for whom He laid down His life.

The Holy Spirit—the ¹³⁷third person of the triune Godhead, eternal, co-existent, and co-equal with the Father and the Son in every sense of the word. His chief operations consist of conviction of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. ¹⁴⁸He draws sinners to the Savior, reproving, pleading, searching, comforting, guiding, quickening, instructing, glorifying, baptizing and enduing believers with power from on high, daily sanctifying a holy remnant as He prepares them for the coming of the Lord.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁷¹ ...Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. Isaiah 43:10...Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any. Isaiah 44:8.

⁸² According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world Eph 1:4.

⁹³For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

¹⁰⁴In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. John 1:1-3. (Also Job 38:4-7)

¹¹⁵ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son and they shall call his name Emmanuel. Matt. 1:23.

¹²⁶ I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. Isa. 43:11. For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all. I Tim. 2:5. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Ephesians 2:18.

¹³⁷For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. I John 5:7.

¹⁴⁸ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me. John 15:26. (Also II Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 8:11; John 16:7-14.)

III. MAN, CREATED AND FALLEN

We believe that man was ¹⁵created in the image of God, before whom he walked in holiness and purity, but that by voluntary disobedience and transgression he fell from Eden's purity and innocence to a place of depravity. ¹⁶In consequence of this sin, man lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and that he became subject to the power of the devil.¹⁷ Not by constraint but by choice, Sinners are shapen in iniquity and ¹⁸utterly devoid by nature of that holiness required by the law of God. Indeed every child of Adam is born into this world with a nature that is essentially and unchangeably bad apart from divine grace, ¹⁹guilty and without excuse, justly deserving the condemnation of a just and holy God.

*Note on the Genesis account of creation

We believe that the story of Man's beginning in this world is true and not to be regarded as myth or as fiction. Genesis records the actual history of this world as God would have us to believe it and not as a figurative narrative.

Scripture References Where Taught

¹⁵ God created man in His own image. Gen. 1:27

¹⁶

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned. Rom. 5:12. By one man's obedience many were made sinners. Rom. 5:19 (Also John 3:6; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7.)

¹⁷ We have turned every one to his own way. Isa. 53:6. (Also Gen. 6:12; 3:9-18.)

¹⁸

Among whom also we 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. Eph. 2:3. (See Rom. 1:18, 2:1-16; Matt. 20:15; Gal. 3:10; Ezek. 18:19,20.)

¹⁹

...So that they are without excuse. Rom. 1:20. That every mouth may be stopped, all the world may become guilty before God. Rom. 3:19. (Also Gal. 3:22.)

IV. OUR PERFECT REDEMPTION

We believe that ²⁰while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, the Just for the unjust; ²¹freely, and by divine appointment of the Father taking the sinner's place, bearing his sins, receiving his condemnation, dying his death, ²²fully paying his penalty, and signing with His life's blood, the pardon of everyone who should believe upon Him; ²³that upon simple faith and acceptance of the atonement purchased on Mount Calvary, ²⁴the vilest sinner may be cleansed of his iniquities and made whiter than the driven snow.

We affirm that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and was made to be a curse for us, dying in our room and stead, and that no repentance, no feeling, no faith, no good resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to the rules and regulations of any church, nor all the churches that have existed since the days of the Apostles can add in the very least degree to the value of the blood, or to the merit of the finished work wrought for us by Him who united in His person true and proper deity with perfect and sinless humanity.

Scripture References Where Taught

²⁰

He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. Isa. 53:5

²¹

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:4.

²²

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. Isa. 55:7

²³

Wherefore the is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto god by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25

²⁴ Come now, and let us reason, together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18.

V. SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

We believe that ²⁵the salvation of sinners is wholly through grace; ²⁶that we have no righteousness or ²⁷goodness of our own ²⁸wherewith to seek divine favor, and must come. Therefore, throwing ourselves upon the ²⁹unfailing mercy and love of Him who bought us and washed us in His own blood³⁰ and pleading the merits and the righteousness of Christ the Savior, while standing upon His word, we accept the ³¹free gift of His love and pardon.

We further believe that, owing to universal death through sin, no one can enter into the kingdom of God unless born-again, and that no degree of reformation, however great, no attainments in morality however high can produce new birth in Jesus.

*We do not believe in any teaching, which leads one to seek the aid of deceased saints, which promotes sacraments (baptisms & communion), birthright, or Church membership as a form of salvation, or causes the seeker to believe that good works alone are enough for right-standing with God. It is only by trusting in the shed blood of Jesus can one expect to be saved from their sins. {Not of works lest any man should boast Eph 2:9}

Scripture References Where Taught

²⁵ By grace are ye saved. Eph. 2:8.

²⁶ ...There is none righteous, no, not one. Rom. 3:10

²⁷ All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

²⁸ We are all as an unclean thing, for all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

²⁹ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believed on me hath everlasting life. John 6:47.

³⁰ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were fall off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:13

³¹ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6:23

VI. REPENTANCE AND ACCEPTANCE

We believe that ³²upon sincere repentance, godly sorrow for sin, and a whole-hearted acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ, they who call upon Him may be ³³justified by faith, through His precious blood and ³⁴that in place of condemnation they may have ³⁵the most blessed peace, assurance and favor with God, that with open arms of mercy and pardon the Savior waits to receive each penitent who will in unfeigned contrition and ³⁶supplication for mercy, open the door of his heart and accept Him as Lord and King.

³² If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:19.

³³Being justified by faith, we have peace with god through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have access, by faith, into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in home of the glory of God. Rom. 5:1,2.

³⁴There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. Romans 8:1.

³⁵To give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:77-79.

³⁶...Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37.

Scripture References Where Taught

VII. REGENERATION

We believe that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given.³⁷ It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God.³⁸ That old things are passed away and all things are become new, when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. Fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct will manifest genuine regeneration. Good works will be its proper evidence and fruit³⁹ having had imputed to him or her the righteousness of the Redeemer, and having received of the Spirit of Christ, new desires and a new perspective of life, time, and eternity, fills the blood-washed heart⁴⁰ so that his or her desire is now to openly confess and serve the Master, seeking ever those things which are above

Scripture References Where Taught⁴¹

³⁷ ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3.

³⁸ 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. John 5:24/Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. II Cor. 5:17.

³⁹ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20. Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God hath sent 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 3:24, 25.

⁴⁰ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the unglodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. Psalm 1:1, 2

VIII. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

We believe one's 'justification' to be the legal declaration made by God⁴² whereby someone who has trusted in the finished work of Christ is now declared to be 'not guilty.' It is not that sin was never present, but that Christ's blood has produced a true atonement through which one may find genuine and lasting peace with God.⁴³ We teach therefore, that justification before God is an act of God by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ,⁴⁴ repent of their sins and confess Him as sovereign Lord (Rom 10:9, 10). This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man and involves the placing of our sins on Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us. By this means God is enabled to be just, and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Rom 3:26).

Scripture references where taught

⁴² "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Gal 2:16

⁴³ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 5:1

⁴⁴ And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses." Acts 13:39

IX. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that every believer in Christ is sanctified, set apart unto God by Justification and is therefore declared to be holy and therefore identified as a saint. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous and must not be confused with progressive sanctification.⁴⁵

At the same time we recognize that there is a work of the Holy Spirit which is progressive in nature, by which believers in Christ are brought more and more into conformity with the image of Jesus.⁴⁶

Believing that each and all believers are a part of a daily conflict—the inward man battling against the flesh—we understand that the Holy Spirit has made provision for our victory thru the Cross of the Lord Jesus. The conflict, battle, struggle or war between flesh and Spirit stays with the believer all of his earthly days. Any attempt to eradicate the sin nature is unscriptural according to the Word of God and is to be eshewed. Yet victory over sin is a possibility only thru the help, aid and assistance of the Holy Spirit who was given to comfort and strengthen the believer.⁴⁷

Scripture References Where Taught

⁴⁵ 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 their's and our's. I Cor 1:2

⁴⁶ 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. Rom 8:29

⁴⁷ That ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old man which is corrupt according to the 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. Eph 4:22-24

X. SEPARATION

We believe that separation is the result of sanctification and that this is clearly taught throughout the Old and New Covenants, and that scripture reveals a time of apostasy and worldliness in the last days which shall progressively become more prominent.⁴⁸

We affirm that a total and unreserved consecration to God is necessary for these last days as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.⁴⁹

Scripture References Where Taught

⁴⁸ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; I Tim 3:1

⁴⁹ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Mat 24:36-39.

XI. THE DAILY CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that having been cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ and having received the witness of the Holy Spirit at conversion, ⁵⁰it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily and ⁵¹become partakers of His holiness; ⁵²growing constantly stronger in faith, power, prayer, love and service, first as babies desiring the sincere milk of the Word; ⁵³then as dear children walking humbly, seeking diligently the hidden life, ⁵⁴where self decreases and Christ increases; then as strong men having on the whole armor of God ⁵⁵marching forth to new conquests in His name beneath His blood-stained banner, ever living a patient, sober, unselfish, godly like that will be a true reflection of Christ within.

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. But the flesh, with its fallen, Adamic nature, which in this life is never eradicated, being with us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, needs to be kept by the Spirit constantly in subjection to Christ, or it will manifest its presence in our lives to the dishonor of our Lord. (Rom 6:11-13; 8:2,4 12-13; Gal 5:16-23; Eph 4:22-24; Col2: 1-10; I Pet 1:14-16)

Scripture References Where Taught

⁵⁰ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification. I Thessalonians 4:3. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thess. 5:23

⁵¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Cor. 7:1

⁵²The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Prov. 4:18.

⁵³Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection. Heb. 6:1.

⁵⁴ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5

⁵⁵An highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. Isaiah 35:8
(Also I Peter 2:2) .

XII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that water baptism ⁵⁶in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, according to the command of our Lord, is a blessed outward sign of an inward work. It is a beautiful and solemn emblem reminding us that ever as our Lord died upon the cross of Calvary ⁵⁷so we reckon ourselves now dead indeed unto sin, and the old nature nailed to the tree with Him, and that even as He was taken down from the tree and buried, ⁵⁸so 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 should walk in newness of life.

We believe in ⁵⁹commemorating and observing of the Lord's supper by the sacred use of the broken bread, a precious type of the Bread of Life even Jesus Christ, whose body was broken for us; and by the juice of the vine, a blessed type which should ever remind the participant of the shed blood of the Savior who is the true Vine of which His children are the branches. This ordinance is as a glorious rainbow that spans the gulf of the years between Calvary and the coming of the Lord, when in the Father's kingdom, He will partake anew with His children; and that the serving and receiving of this blessed sacrament should be ever preceded by the most solemn heart-searching, ⁶⁰self-examination, forgiveness and love toward all men, that none partake unworthily and drink condemnation to his own soul.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁵⁶ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matt. 28:19. (Also Acts 1:47, 48; Gal. 3:27, 28.)

⁵⁷Therefore, 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. Romans 6:4 (Also Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:20, 21; Acts 22:16).

⁵⁸Then they that gladly heard His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41 (Also Matt. 28:19, 20).

⁵⁹For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come. I Cor. 11:26. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. I Cor. 11:28

⁶⁰Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. II Cor. 13:5.

XIII. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism of ⁶¹the Holy Spirit is the incoming of the promised Comforter in mighty and glorious fullness ⁶²to endue the believer with power from on high; to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus; to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him; to foster the spirit of prayer, holiness, sobriety; to equip the individual and the church for practical, efficient, joyous, Spirit-filled soul-winning in the fields of life, and that this being still the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, the believer may have every reason to expect His incoming to be after the same ⁶³manner as that in which He came upon ⁶⁴Jew and Gentile alike in Bible days, and ⁶⁵as recorded in the Word, that it may be truly said of us as of the house of Cornelius: the Holy Ghost fell on them as on us at the beginning.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁶¹ I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; 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. John 14:16, 17

⁶²For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost...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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:5, 8

⁶³

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4

⁶⁴

Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Acts 8:17

⁶⁵ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Acts 10:44-46.

XIV. THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit has the following ⁶⁶gifts to bestow upon the believing church of the Lord Jesus Christ: ⁶⁷wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation; but that, according to the degree of grace and faith possessed by the recipient, these gifts are divided to every man severally, as He, the Holy Spirit, will. They are to be most earnestly desired and coveted, ⁶⁸in the order and proportion wherein they prove most edifying and beneficial to the church, and ⁶⁹the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, should be put forth, ⁷⁰cultivated, and diligently guarded as the resultant adornment, the constant, eloquent, and irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁶⁶ Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant....Covet earnestly the best gifts. I Cor. 12:1, 31. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. I Cor. 12:11

⁶⁷ Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. I Cor. 14:12.

⁶⁸ Having then gifts 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 upon 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 showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8

⁶⁹ Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. John 15:8

⁷⁰ And now also the axe is laid upon the root of the trees: every tree, therefore, which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Luke 3:9

XV. DIVINE HEALING

We believe that divine healing is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ ⁷¹to heal the sick and the afflicted in answer to believing prayer, that He who is the same ⁷²yesterday, today and forever has never changed but is ⁷³still an all-sufficient help in the time of trouble, able to meet the needs of, and quicken into newness of life the body, as well as the soul and spirit in answer to the ⁷⁴faith of them who ever ⁷⁵pray with submission to His divine and sovereign will.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁷¹Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matthew 8:17.

⁷² Whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say Arise, and walk? Matthew 9:5.

⁷³These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them/ they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:17, 18.

⁷⁴And now, Lord, behold their threatenings; and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they shall speak Thy Word, by stretching forth Thine hand to heal; that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Thy holy child Jesus. Acts 4:29, 30.

⁷⁵Is 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. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. James 5:14-16.

XVI. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent, that He will descend from Heaven ⁷⁶in the clouds of glory with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, and that at this hour, which no man knoweth beforehand, the dead in Christ shall rise, then the ⁷⁷redeemed that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and that so shall they ever be with the Lord. Further, seeing that a thousand years is as a day with the Lord, and ⁷⁸that no man knoweth the hour of His appearance, which we believe to be near at hand, each day should be lived as though His coming were imminent.

⁷⁹Expected to appear at even, yet in obedience to His explicit command, "Occupy till I come," the work of spreading the gospel, the sending forth of missionaries, and the general duties for the upbuilding of the church ⁸⁰should be carried on as diligently, and thoroughly, as though neither ours nor the next generation should live in the flesh to see that glorious day.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁷⁶ 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. I Thess. 4:16, 17.

⁷⁷...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. Titus 2:12, 13.

⁷⁸But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Watch, therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh. Matthew 24:36, 42, 44.

⁷⁹Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Hebrews 9:28.

⁸⁰...Occupy till I come. Luke 19:13.

XVII. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

We believe that the dead both small and great shall be raised up and stand with the living before the ⁸¹judgment seat of God; and that when a solemn and awful separation shall take place wherein the ⁸²wicked shall be adjudged to everlasting punishment and the righteous to life eternal, and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or in hell on principles of righteousness as set forth in His holy Word.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁸¹ 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. II Corinthians 5:10

⁸²The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matthew 13:41-43,

XVIII. HEAVEN

We believe that Heaven is the ⁸³indescribably glorious habitation of the living God, that thither the Lord as ⁸⁴gone to prepare a place for His children; and that unto this four-square city, whose builder and maker is God, the earnest believers who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and have overcome by the word of their testimony will be carried; that the Lord Jesus Christ will present them to the Father without spot or wrinkle, and there in unutterable joy they will ever behold His wonderful face, in an everlasting kingdom whereunto comes no ⁸⁵darkness nor light, neither sorrow, ⁸⁶tears, pain, nor ⁸⁷death, and wherein hosts of attending angels sweep their harps, sing the praises of our King, and bowing down before the throne, cry: "Holy, holy, holy."

Scripture References Where Taught

⁸³ Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. I Corinthians 2:9.

⁸⁴In 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. John 14:2.

⁸⁵And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever. Rev. 22:5.

⁸⁶And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. Rev. 21:4.

⁸⁷Therefore are they before the throne of God, and sever Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light upon them, nor any heat. For the Lamb, which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water. Rev. 7:15-17.

IXX. HELL

We believe that hell is a place of outer darkness and deepest sorrow, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, a place prepared for the devil and his angels where there shall be weeping and ⁸⁸wailing and gnashing of teeth, a place of grief and eternal regret on the part of them who have rejected the mercy, love and tenderness of the crucified Savior, choosing death rather than life. We affirm that there, into a ⁸⁹lake that burns with fire and brimstone, shall be cast the ⁹⁰unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars, and they who ⁹¹have rejected and spurned the love and sacrifice of a bleeding Redeemer, —passing the cross to their doom, ⁹²in spite of every entreaty and warning of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁸⁸ The Son of man shall send forth His angles, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41, 42.

⁸⁹ 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 forever and ever. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:10, 15.

⁹⁰ The same shall drink of the wrath of god, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever. Rev. 14:10, 11

⁹¹ Then shall He say unto them...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt. 25:41. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:43, 44.

⁹² ...As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Ezek. 33:11.

XX. WORLD MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

We believe that God has called the church to continue the ministry of Christ in the earth by proclaiming the Gospel message afar and nearby. The church is to be an assembly of people gathered together for the purpose of evangelizing the world for Jesus. Through urban or rural missions, the message of Christ is to be presented nationally & internationally. Literature and media, and other technologies, are effective means for reaching the lost and are to be utilized to their fullest potential.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, and that the end of all things is at hand, we believe that the redeemed children of the Lord Jehovah ⁹³should rise and shine forth as a light that cannot be hid, a city set upon a hill, ⁹⁴speeding forth the gospel to the ends of the earth, girding the globe with the message of salvation, declaring with burning zeal and earnestness the whole council of God; that when the Lord of Glory shall appear, they shall be found standing, with their loins girded about with truth, their activities and ministry laden down with the wealth of jewels they have won and guarded for Him, the precious ⁹⁵souls, whom, by their faithful testimony they have been instrumental in leading from ⁹⁶darkness into light. Further, we affirm that soul winning is ⁹⁷the one big responsibility of the church upon earth. Therefore every weight and hindrance which would tend to quench the flame or hamper the efficiency of ⁹⁸world-wide evangelism should be cut off and cast away as unworthy of the church, ⁹⁹detrimental to the most sacred cause of Christ and contrary to ¹⁰⁰the great commission by our Lord.

Scripture References Where Taught

⁹³ 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; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. II Tim. 4:1, 2.

⁹⁴ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Eph. 5:16.

⁹⁵ ...He that winneth souls is wise. Prov. 11:30.

⁹⁶ Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. James 5:20.

⁹⁷ Son of man I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Ezek. 3:17:18.

⁹⁸ ...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth. John 4:35-37.

⁹⁹ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest. Matt. 9:38.

¹⁰⁰ ...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15.

XXI. TITHING AND OFFERINGS

We believe that the method ordained of God to sustain His ministry and the spread of the gospel after His command is “Tithing”¹⁰¹ and is generally accepted throughout Christendom not only as God’s method to take care of the material and financial needs of His church, but to raise the spiritual morale of His people to the extent that God must bless them. We are commanded in Malachi 3:10 to “*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.*”¹⁰²

In the matter of “giving” and “free-will offerings,” they are ordered of the Lord and practiced in Family Worship Center as part of god’s plan for the church’s material needs and the spirituality of His people.¹⁰³ We are admonished in Luke 6:38, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom, for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

Being “joint heirs” with Him we know that giving unto His kingdom which is also ours is an enjoyable thing, it being more blessed to give than to receive, for we are commanded in II Corinthians 9:7, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of a necessity: for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.”

Scripture References Where Taught

¹⁰¹ Mat 23:23 reveals that Christ himself believed in the tithe as the form of support for the Temple ministries and that being of His body, His Church ought to continue its practice for the promulgation of the Gospel.

¹⁰² The tithe did not originate with the Mosaic Law. We find the tithe practiced as far back as Abraham, at his return from the slaughter of the Kings (Gen 14:17-24). In Hebrews 7:1-10, it is obvious that the early Church believed that this story was authentic, valid and worthy to be used as a reference when explaining the differences between law and grace. The tithe was not displaced at the Cross. It is required as long as you are prosper in the Lord.

¹⁰³ According to scripture, Jesus is after the order of Melchizedec and we are of the seed of Abraham. As long as the Church is here on earth we are to pay tithes to our High Priest (Jesus). Each local Church is to be a repository of faithfulness as men and women alike of all ethnic groups show their love for the Lord and returning unto Him the tenth portion of that with which He has blessed them.