DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Scriptures

The Scriptures are the words of God, not man. Because these words are from God and not man, only written down by man, they are perfect. They are without flaw and therefore when we read the Bible, we are reading the literal word of God. Faith comes from hearing the Word. The Word is therefore essential to having faith and remaining faithful. We are not simply to read it once and be done. We are to continually use the Bible as a way to dwell on God through His words, as well as to look to the Bible for answers. We are to live by the Word and we also have a responsibility to handle to Word correctly.

(1 Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1; Matthew 4:4; Psalm 12:6; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 2:15)

The Triune God

We worship a God that is three in one. We believe that there is one God, in three parts. These three parts are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three parts of the one God are equal and always agree. Each part is in the same mind. The three parts of the one God are revealed throughout scripture. They were all present at the beginning of creation and have been present always, even before we were aware.

(Genesis 1:26-27; 1 John 5:7; Matthew 28:18-20; Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29)

God as the Father

God the Father has all authority. God the Father is the father to the fatherless and protector of the oppressed. He has an unchanging nature. God is not a human and therefore does not struggle as we struggle. He is completely perfect, and His thoughts and actions are far above and beyond ours. His plan is perfect even when we cannot comprehend it.

(Numbers 23:19; Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 55:8-9; Ephesians 4:6; Matthew 23:9; Psalm 68:5; James 1:17; Matthew 28:19)

God as the Son

Jesus Christ is the son of God and the incarnation of God. Jesus was sent to the earth in order to be the perfect sacrifice in order to resolve the sin that was separating God and mankind. Jesus lived a perfect life. While He lived his life here on earth, he gathered followers and taught them his Word. He is the perfect example. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we have the opportunity to be in relationship with God again and to one day dwell with Him in Heaven. Jesus did not remain dead but overcame death so that He could give us life. Because of Jesus overcoming the grave, we are also able to overcome the grave when we become followers of Him.

(Colossians 2:9; John 1:14; John 10:30; Colossians 1:15-17; Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 28:19; John 3:16-17; 1 Peter 3:18)

God as the Holy Spirit

God sent down the Holy Spirit in order to dwell in us. The Holy Spirit is to be our guide like Jesus was the guide to the disciples. The Holy Spirit is a helper that will lead and direct us in the way that we should go. When we are baptized, we are born of the water and the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to us when we accept Jesus and are baptized. We have been given the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit also acts as our intercessor and pleads to God on our behalf when we are in need of help.

(2 Corinthians 3:17; John 14:16-17; Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Matthew 3:16-17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-5; John 14:26; Acts 4:31; John 3:5-6; Titus 3:6; Romans 8:26)

Mankind

We are created in the image of God. In the beginning, we were sinless, but because of the sin of Adam and Eve, we are all born with a sinful nature. This sinful nature causes us to desire the flesh instead of God. Because of our sin we deserve to die, but because of the love of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our sins have been forgiven and our debt has been paid. We are given the opportunity to accept this free gift of life through Jesus. When we accept this gift, we are washed clean and become blameless in the sight of God. Even before we ever accept this gift, God loves us and desires to be with us. God sees everything about us and everything that we do, and yet He still loves us and because of that He has created a way for us to be with Him again. God the Father has given Jesus the son as an atonement for our sins. Through Jesus we have been given the Holy Spirit as our helper. We are in need of a helper because the desires of God and the desires of our sinful nature go against each other. Because of this we are in a constant battle between the desires of our flesh and the desires of The Spirit. God knows this which is why He sent his Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in the way we should go.

(Genesis 1:27; Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:13; Galatians 5:17)

Salvation

Salvation occurs when we receive the gift of eternal life available to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is something that is given to us and is not a result of our own works. It is impossible for us to be saved simply through ourselves. We have all sinned and therefore are all in need of salvation. Because of the power of God, nothing is able to separate us from the love of God. Salvation is always available no matter how far one is from God. Through the declaration of Jesus as one’s Lord and through the belief in Jesus defeating death, one is saved. When we accept the gift of salvation, we are made new through God.

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 19:25-26; Romans 3:23; Romans 8:38-39; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:16-17)

The Church

The Church is to act as the hands and feet of Jesus until his return. We are to show the attributes of Christ to the world as well as are responsible for going out and spreading the Gospel. The Church is the followers of Christ and is not merely a meeting spot.

(1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:11-12; Mark 16:15-20; )

Baptism

Baptism is to be performed as a way of symbolizing one’s decision to walk with the Lord. It demonstrates an act of faith which comes as not only an encouragement to the believer, but also as an encouragement to the rest of the body of Christ. Everyone is able to be baptized if they have accepted Jesus and have chosen to follow Him with their lives. As Jesus was baptized, and as we are commanded to be baptized when we accept the Lord as our Savior, we continue baptism to remain faithful to God’s command and to demonstrate the decisions of faith within the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 10:48; Mark 16:16; Luke 3:21-22)

Communion

Communion is to be taken as a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. It also reminds us of our continual need for that sacrifice to cleanse us of our sins. We take communion continually because even when we become Christians we sin and are in need of constant forgiveness and grace which comes only through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. (John 6:35; Luke 22:19-20; Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 2:42-46)

Missions

As the Church we have been given the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. We have been commanded by Jesus to go out into the world and to preach the Good News to everyone. We were saved through once hearing the Word and then receiving that word. How will others hear and receive the Word if we are not willing to go and tell it? We desire the second coming of Jesus, but Jesus will not come until all have heard. Therefore, as we eagerly await His return, we should also be eager to go and spread His word so that others will be ready when He comes. The Church is to also encourage and send people off to spread the Gospel. This is one of the functions of the body. The Church will teach, send, and support so that others may go and teach and send.

(Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:47; Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14; Romans 10:13-14; Acts 13:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:16-18)

The Future and Return of Christ

We as the Church are to be ready and eagerly awaiting the return of Christ. While we wait we have been instructed to follow the Word. We are to say no to the things of the world as we wait for Jesus. We are to not lack the gifts of the spirit and to keep in the love of God, therefore ready for His return. We are awaiting the New Heaven and New Earth for which God will bring. For we are to remember that He is always faithful through the end.

(Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Peter 3:13; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Jude 1:21)