

Welcome Hall Evangelical Church

Statement of Faith

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Statement of Faith

1. The Scriptures

The sixty six books of the Old and New Testaments are the infallible, inspired and complete word of God to man¹. Nothing must be added to them, whether a supposed revelation of the Spirit or human tradition, neither must any part be denied². They contain all that is necessary for faith and conduct³. Now that we have the completed Scriptures we have no need of miraculous gifts such as those given by God in apostolic times to authenticate their preaching⁴. These special gifts like miraculous healing or speaking in foreign languages (tongues) passed away with the apostles.

1. Infallible, inspired, complete

Ps. 12v6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times.

Prov. 22v20,21 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, 21. That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Jn. 10v35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

1 Thess. 2v13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe .

2 Tim. 3v16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

1 Pet 1v23, 25 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 25. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

2 Pet 1v21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2. Nothing to be added or taken away

Matt. 15v6 ...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Gal. 1v8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Rev. 22v18,19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

3. All things necessary for faith and conduct

Ps. 119v9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Ps. 119v49, 50 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. 50. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Ps. 119v105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Is. 8v20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Matt. 4v4,7,10 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 7. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 10. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Acts 20v32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

4. Purpose of miraculous apostolic gifts

2 Cor. 12v12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Heb. 2v2-4 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

2. The Godhead

There is one living and true God¹ who exists in three Divine persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit². These three are equal in nature, power and eternity³.

1. One living and true God

Deut. 6v4 Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD:

Ps. 135v15-17 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the works of men's hands. 16. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; 17. They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths.

Jer. 10v10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

I Thess. 1v9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

2. God in three persons

1 Jn. 5v7 For there are three that bear record In heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Is. 48v16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Is. 61v1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Matt. 3v16,17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17. And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matt. 28v19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

2 Cor. 13v14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

1 Pet. 1v2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

3. Equality of the three persons in nature power and eternity

Job 26v13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

Ps. 90v2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting unto everlasting, thou art God.

Ps. 139v7,8 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8. If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

Jer. 23v5,6 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Matt. 1v23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jn. 1v1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2. The same was in the beginning with God. 3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Jn. 10v30,31,33 I and my Father are one. 31. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him... 33. The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Acts 5v3,4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4. Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Rom. 9v5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Tit 2v13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Heb. 1v8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

3. Creation And Providence

God made the heavens and the earth and everything in them¹ in six literal twenty four hour days². As a faithful Creator God sustains³ and governs⁴ all his creatures and their actions so that nothing happens by chance or apart from his control⁵.

1. God the creator

Gen. 1v1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..... [rest of Genesis 1]

Ps. 33v6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Acts 17v24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Col. 1v16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Heb. 11 v3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

2. Creation in six literal days

Gen. 1v31 - 2v1 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. 1. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Ex. 20v8, 11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.....11. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Ex 31v16, 17 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

3. God sustains his creation

Neh. 9v6 Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Ps. 36v6 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

Col. 1v17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Heb. 1v3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high.

4. God governs his creation

Ps. 135v6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

Dan. 4v35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Acts 17v25-26 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Acts 17v28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

5. No chance: all under God's control

Gen. 50v20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Prov. 16v33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

Is. 26v12 LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

Acts 2v23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Rom. 11v36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Eph. 1v11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

4. The Fall Of Adam

God created man upright and perfect, capable of standing yet free to fall¹. Through the guile of Satan in the person of a serpent² Eve was deceived³. He then seduced Adam who wilfully transgressed God's command and ate the forbidden fruit⁴. By this sin our first parents fell from their original righteousness⁵ and communion with God⁶.

1. Man's original state

Gen. 1v27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Ecc. 7v29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Rom. 2v15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;

Eph. 4v24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col. 3v10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

2. Satan in the person of a serpent

Rev. 12v9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

3. Eve deceived by Satan

Gen. 3v1-6 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden ? [and so to verse 6]

Gen. 3v13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

2 Cor. 11 v3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 Tim. 2v14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

4. Adam transgressed God's command

Gen. 3v6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

5. Fall from original righteousness

Gen. 2v17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen. 3v7-8 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Job 31v33 If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:

Rom. 3v23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Eph. 2v1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

6. Fall from communion with God

Is. 59v2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

5. The Fall Of All Mankind

God had appointed Adam to stand in the place of all Mankind. When he fell, the guilt of his sin was imputed to all his natural born descendants¹. All are therefore born as children of God's wrath, having a nature defiled in all the faculties of soul and body². All add to their guilt by constantly sinning³. No one can save himself from the just penalty of eternal hell⁴ unless Jesus Christ, the only Mediator intervenes for him⁵.

1. Adam's sin imputed to all mankind

Rom. 5v12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom. 5v15-19 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1 Cor. 15v21-22 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Cor. 15v45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Cor. 15v49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2. Men born with a depraved nature

Ps. 51 v5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Jer. 17v9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Rom. 3v9-18 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. [and so to verse 18]

Eph. 2v3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Tit. 3v3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

3. Added guilt by constant sinning

Gen. 6v5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Job 15v16 How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Is. 65v2-3 I have spread out my hands all day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; 3. A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

4. Eternal hell the just reward for sin

Matt. 25v41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Lk. 16v22-24 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Rom. 6v23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5. Jesus Christ's intervention as Mediator

Is. 43v11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Acts 4v12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1 Tim. 2v5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6. Free Will And Accountability

Man, by his fall into sin has completely lost all ability of will to perform any of the spiritual good which accompanies salvation¹. Man, however, is a responsible creature and accountable to God for all his actions². He is duty bound to obey all God's laws³ and to repent and believe the gospel⁴.

1. Man with no ability of will for good

Jn. 6v44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Jn. 15v5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Rom. 3v10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one.

Rom. 5v6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom. 8v7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Eph. 2v1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2. Man accountable to God

Ps. 62v12 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Mt. 16v27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Rom. 2v5-9 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6. Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7. To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8. But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9. Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

3. Man's duty to obey God's laws

Matt. 22v37-39 Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38. This is the first and great commandment. 39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Rom. 13v8-10 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying,

namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Jam. 2v8-10 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: 9. But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. 10. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

4. Man's duty to repent and believe the gospel

Mk. 1v14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Acts. 17v30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

7. God's Eternal Decree

Before the foundation of the world God graciously predestinated to salvation a great number of sinners¹. For these chosen² people of God the eternal Son of God was chosen of his Father to become the willing Mediator³.

1. God's gracious predestination before the world began

Rom. 9v11-13 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12. It was said unto her [Rebecca], The elder shall serve the younger. 13. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Eph. 1v4-5 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph. 1v11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

2 Tim. 1v9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2. God's election of his people

Jn. 15v16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

2 Thess. 2v13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1 Pet 1v1,2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

3. Christ the willing Mediator chosen of God

Is. 42v1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Is. 42v6-7 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7. To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Is. 49v6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Jn. 17v2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Statement of Faith

1 Tim. 2v5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

8. The Person Of Christ

To accomplish the salvation of his people the eternal Son of God came into the world¹, taking man's nature² in the womb of the virgin Mary³. In this way two whole and perfect natures - Godhead and Manhood - were joined together in one person, never to be divided⁴.

1. The eternal Son of God came into the world

Jn. 3v17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Jn. 11 v27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

1 Tim. 1v15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Jn. 1v2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

2. Christ took man's nature

Jn. 1v14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Rom. 8v3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Phil. 2v5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Heb. 2v14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

3. The womb of the virgin Mary

Mt. 1v23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Lk. 1v27,31,35 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.. .31. And, behold, thou shalt conceive In thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS...35. And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Gal. 4v4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

4. Two natures joined and never to be divided

Rom. 1v3-4 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Rom. 9v5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Col. 2v9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Tim. 3v16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

9. The Work Of Christ

For his elect people¹ the Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life in complete obedience to God's Law². He suffered and died to reconcile them to God³. He became the propitiation for their sins⁴: bearing in their place the wrath of God, fully satisfying God's just demands⁵ and purchasing by his blood eternal redemption for them⁶. He was buried and he rose again the third day⁷ in the same body in which he had suffered⁸. In this body he ascended back to heaven⁹ and there sits at the right hand of God interceding as Great High Priest for his people¹⁰.

1. Christ died for his chosen people

Jn. 10v11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Acts 20v28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Rom. 8v32-35 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Eph. 5v25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

2. Christ's perfect obedience to God's laws

Ps. 40v7-8 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me 8. I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Is. 42v21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

Matt. 3v15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Matt. 5v17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Rom. 5v19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Rom. 10v4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

3. Christ suffered and died to reconcile his people to God

Rom. 5v10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

2 Cor. 5v19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Col. 1v21-22 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled **22**. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

4. Christ the propitiation for his people's sins

Rom. 4v25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God;

1 Jn. 1v2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Jn. 4v10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

5. Christ bore God's wrath and satisfied God's just demands

Is. 53v4-6,10 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5**. But 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. **6**. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.....

10. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

1 Pet 2v24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Rom. 5v9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

1 Thess. 5v9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Christ purchased eternal redemption

Heb. 9v11,12 But Christ being come an high priest.....by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

1 Pet. 1v18,19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

7. Christ was buried and rose again the third day

Ps. 16v10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Is. 53v9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

1 Cor. 15v3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

8. Christ rose in the same body which he had suffered

Lk. 24v39-40 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

Jn. 20v27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

9. In this same body he ascended back to heaven

Ps. 68v18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Lk. 24v50-51 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Acts 1v9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

1 Tim. 3v16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

10. Christ at God's right hand interceding for his people

Mk. 16v19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Rom. 8v34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Heb. 7v25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Heb. 9v24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

1 Jn. 2v1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

10. Salvation Applied

God is the sole author of salvation¹. He is pleased in his appointed time to call each of his elect to salvation through Jesus Christ². This effectual call is the work of the Holy Spirit through the word of God³. By him a new spiritual life is planted in the soul⁴. This enables the sinner to see the guilt and pollution of his sin, to repent of it⁵ and to place his faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord⁶.

1. God the sole author of salvation

Lk. 1v47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

1 Tim. 1v1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.

1 Tim. 2v3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

Tit. 1v3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

2. God calls his elect to salvation through Jesus Christ

Rom. 8v30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

1 Cor. 1v9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Tim. 1v8-9 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

3. The effectual calling of God is the work of the Holy Spirit through God's word

Ezek. 36v27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Jn. 3v8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.

Rom. 10v17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Thess. 2v13-14 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14. Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. God's Spirit plants a new spiritual life in the soul

Ezek. 36v26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Jn. 3v5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Rom. 8v9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Gal. 4v6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

5. God grants his people to see their sin and repent of it

Zech. 12v10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Acts 5v31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11v18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

6. God grants faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord

Rom. 10v9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Eph. 2v8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

2 Pet. 1v1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

11. Salvation Enjoyed

Those whom God has effectually called are also freely justified by his grace¹. God reckons them as righteous in his sight by imputing to them Christ's righteousness: his one perfect obedience in life and death² and the full satisfaction he made to God's justice by bearing on the cross the full penalty for their sins past present and future³. Though ungodly in his sight they are justified by faith alone, being acceptable to God for Christ's sake alone and not because of any change produced in them or good done by them⁴.

1. Believers justified freely by God's grace

Rom. 3v23,24 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

2. Believers reckoned righteous by imputation of Christ's righteousness

Jer. 23v6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Rom. 4v6-8 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works 7. Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Rom. 5v18,19 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1 Cor. 1v30-31 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31. That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

2 Cor. 5v21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Phil. 2v8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

3. Christ bore the full penalty for sins past present and future

Is. 53v4-6,10 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5. But 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. 6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.....

10. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

1 Pet 2v24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Jn. 1v7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

4. Justification is by faith alone; we are acceptable to God for Christ's sake

Rom. 4v3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom. 4v5-8 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Rom. 5v1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Gal. 2v16 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.

Eph. 1v6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Tit. 3v5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

12. The Christian's Privilege - Adoption

For the sake of his only Son, Jesus Christ, God makes believers share in the grace of adoption¹ by which they are numbered with and enjoy the privileges of the children of God². He puts his Name on them and gives them the Spirit of adoption³ which enables them to address God in prayer as a Father.⁴ As a Father, he pities, protects, provides for and disciplines them.⁵ He will never cast them off;⁶ they are sealed by his Spirit unto the day of redemption⁷ and inherit God's promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.⁸

1. Believers share in the grace of adoption

Jn. 1v12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Gal. 4v4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Eph. 1v5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. Believers numbered with God's children and enjoy their privileges

2 Cor. 6v18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Rev. 3v12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

3. Believers given the Spirit of adoption

Rom. 8v15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Gal. 4v6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

4. Enabled to address God in prayer as Father

Matt. 6v9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Rom. 8v15 [as in previous section]

5. God as their Father cares for his children

Ps. 103v13-14 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. 14. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Matt. 6v32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Heb. 12v6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

6. God will never abandon his children

Lam. 3v31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

Jn. 10v28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand, 29. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

7. Sealed unto the day of redemption

Eph. 4v30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

8. Believers are heirs of everlasting salvation

Rom. 8v17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Heb. 6v12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13. The Christian Life

Every Christian is indwelt by the Spirit of God at conversion.¹ Because of his presence the believer is given a desire for holiness and the strength to overcome indwelling sin.² This battle between the Spirit and the flesh continues throughout the Christian's life.³ Good works and practical holiness are the marks of a genuine Christian conversion.⁴

1. Spirit of God indwells at conversion

Rom. 8v9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

1 Cor. 6v19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Eph. 1v13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

2. The believer given a desire for holiness and strength to overcome indwelling sin

Rom. 8v26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Gal. 5v22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Phil. 2v13 For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Col. 1v11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

3. Battle between the Spirit and the flesh throughout the Christian's life

Rom. 7v18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom. 8v13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Gal. 5v17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

4. Practical holiness the mark of a true believer

Matt. 12v33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Rom. 6v22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Jam. 2v18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

1 Pet. 1v15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Jn. 2v3-5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

14. The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments delivered to Moses at Sinai are the eternal moral Law of God.¹ They are binding on all men, informing them of God's will, showing them their sin², and acting as a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ³. These commandments are indispensable to believers, telling them of their continuing duty towards God and man⁴.

1. God's eternal moral Law

Ps. 119v144 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Matt. 5v17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

2. 2. God's law informs of his will and discovers sin

Deut. 5v32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God has commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Matt. 22v37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Rom. 7v7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

1 Jn. 3v4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

3. God's law meant to lead us to Christ

Gal. 3v24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

4. God's law indispensable to the believer as his daily duty

Ps. 1v2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Matt. 5v19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Rom. 3v31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Rom. 7v22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Rom. 7v12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Rom. 13v8-10 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Jam. 2v8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

15. The Sabbath In Particular

God has appointed one day in seven to be kept holy for him.¹ From the resurrection of Christ this was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week.² This Lord's day is to be kept as the Christian's sabbath.³

1. One day in seven as a sabbath holy to God

Gen. 2v2-3 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Ex. 20v8,11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy... 11. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Ex. 31v16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.

Is. 58v13-14 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shall honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: 14. Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

2. The change from the seventh day to the first day of the week

Jn. 20v19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Jn. 20v26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Acts 2v1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

3. The Lord's day as the Christian sabbath

Acts 20v7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Cor. 16v1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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.

Rev. 1v10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

16. Perseverance Of The Saints

All true believers will, by God's help and through the means of grace, persevere in a path of holiness till the end.¹ God has pledged to take each of his elect safely home to everlasting glory.²

1. Saints, by God's help, persevere in a path of holiness to the end

Jer. 32v40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Matt. 10v22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Jn. 10v27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

1 Cor. 1v7-8 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8. Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Tim. 2v19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

1 Jn. 3v9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

2. God will take his elect safe home to glorv

Ps. 121v7-8 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Jn. 6v37,39,40 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out..39. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Phil. 1v6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1 Pet. 1v4-5 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

17. The Universal Church

The universal Church is the entire company of God's elect from creation until the end of time.¹

1. The Universal Church consists of all God's elect

Matt. 8v11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 7v37-38 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. 38. This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Eph. 1v10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Eph. 1v22-23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph. 2v19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21. In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Eph. 3v21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen

Eph. 5v23-32 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Heb. 12v23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Rev. 5v9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev. 21v9-14 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had

twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel...¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

18. The Local Church

The local church is the body of believers in one place joined together under Christ the Head.¹ God has appointed pastors and teachers within his church² and by the use of their gifts³ the body of believers is built up on their most holy faith and grows to greater likeness to Christ.⁴ It is the duty and privilege of all believers to unite with a local church. The local church is subject to Christ and his word but independent of other forms of control.⁵

1. The local church as a body of believers in one place

Matt. 18v20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Cor. 14v23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Phil. 1v1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Col. 1v18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

2. God has appointed pastors and teachers in the local church

Acts 13v1-2 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 14v23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 20v17,28 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.....28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

3. The use of the pastor's and teacher's gifts

Acts 20v28 [as in previous section]

Rom. 12v6-7 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7. Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

2 Tim. 1v6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

1 Pet. 5v1-2 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

4. The church built up by teaching to greater likeness to Christ

Eph. 4v11-16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ 16. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Col. 2v6-7 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him 7. Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

5. 5. The local church subject only to Christ

Acts 20v28 [as in section 2 above]

2 Cor. 1v24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith we stand.

Eph. 1v22,23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

19. The Local Church's Duty

It is our duty as members of the local church to attend to the precepts of God's holy word, to meet together for prayers,¹ to sing God's praises,² to come out from the world,³ to cleave to the Lord and each other and thus to walk humbly with our God.⁴ It is also our responsibility to submit to those that have the rule over us,⁵ to support those with needs,⁶ and to preach the gospel to old and young within the locality.

1. Duty to meet for ministry of God's word and prayer

Mat. 3v16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Acts 2v42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Heb. 10v25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Duty to sing God's praises in the local church

Col. 3v16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Heb. 13v15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

1 Pet. 2v5,9 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ..9. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

3. Duty of coming out of the world

Rom. 12v2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 Cor. 6v17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

1 Jn. 2v15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

4. Duty of cleaving to each other and walking humbly with the Lord

Mic. 6v8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Jn. 13v34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Rom. 12v10-11 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
Eph. 4v2-3 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3. Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

5. Duty of submission to those who have the rule over us

1 Thess. 5v12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

Heb. 13v7,17 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation....17. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

6. Duty of supporting those with needs

Rom. 12v13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Heb. 13v16 But to do good and communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

7. Duty of preaching to old and young

Mk. 10v14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Rom. 10v14,17 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?.....17. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Phil. 2v15-16 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16. Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

20. Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament ordained by Jesus Christ and practised by the apostles¹. It is only for those who profess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ² and is to be administered by immersion in water³ in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit⁴. It is a sign to the person baptized of union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection, of the forgiveness of his sins and of his giving himself to God, through Jesus Christ, to live a new life for him⁵.

1. Baptism ordained by Christ and practised by the apostles

Matt. 28v19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20. 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.

Acts 2v41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

2. Baptism for those professing faith in Christ

Mk. 16v16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 8v36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

3. Baptism to be by immersion in water

Matt. 3v16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Jn. 3v23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

4. Baptism to be in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matt 28v19 [as above under 1]

5. Baptism a sign of union with Christ in his death and resurrection, and of the new life for him

Acts 22v16 And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Rom. 6v3-5 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Gal. 3v27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Col. 2v12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

21. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was ordained by Christ for believers only and practised by the apostles¹. It is to be observed as a perpetual remembrance and proclamation of his atoning death on the cross². The elements in the Lord's Supper remain bread and wine throughout and no sacrifice is offered to God³.

1. The Lord's Supper ordained by Christ and practised by the apostles

Matt 26v26-29 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28. For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Lk. 22v14-20 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: 16. For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18. For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Acts 2v42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 20v7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Cor. 11v23-26 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24. And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me 25. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come

2. The Lord's supper a perpetual remembrance and proclamation of the Lord's atoning death

1 Cor. 10v16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1 Cor. 11v25-26 [as above under section 1]

3. The elements in the Lord's Supper remain bread and wine throughout

Mk. 14v24-25 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. 25. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Heb. 9v25-28 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26. For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28. So Christ 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.

22. Marriage

The ordinance of marriage was instituted by God at creation¹ and must therefore be carried out according to the Law of God found in Scripture. Marriage is a binding relationship between one man and one woman ended only by the death of one of the partners, after which the surviving partner is free to re-marry if necessary². God's word forbids sexual relationships before or outside marriage³. The marriage bond is not to be set aside by divorce and remarriage, neither does Scripture permit the re-marriage of a divorced person whose partner is still living⁴. Marriage must not be contracted within the degrees of blood relationship or kinship forbidden by God's Law⁵; the unnatural union of those of the same sex is totally condemned⁶. The married state is honourable and has God's blessing if entered into rightly; no Christian should contemplate marriage to an unbeliever or to one who is not sound in the faith or godly in life⁷.

1. Marriage instituted by God at creation

Gen. 1v27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen. 2v18-24 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him... 22. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

2. Remarriage only lawful after the death of one partner

Rom. 7v2-3 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

1 Cor. 7v39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

3. Sexual relations before or outside marriage forbidden by God's Law

Ex. 20v14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

1 Cor. 6v9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Heb. 13v4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

4. Re-marriage of a divorced person whose partner is still living forbidden by Scripture

Mk. 10v2-12 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. 3. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? 4. And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. 5. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. 6. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8. And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 10. And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. 11. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

1 Cor. 7v39 [as in section 2 above]

5. 5. Marriage only in the relationships allowed in Scripture

Lev. 18v6-18 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him..[to v18]

6. Sexual relations between the same sex utterly condemned in Scripture

Lev. 18v22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Rom. 1v26-27 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1 Tim. 1v10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

7. Christians not to contemplate marriage to an unbeliever or one unsound in the faith

1 Cor. 7v39 [as in section 2 above]

2 Cor. 6v14-15 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15. And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

23. Civil Government

As the supreme Ruler of this world¹ God has instituted Civil Government; in his Providence he has set up authorities to rule communities for his glory and the public good². He has given them authority of life and death for the punishment of evil doers and the encouragement of the law abiding. Christians are to be subject to the authorities for the Lord's sake³; they should make it a matter of conscience that they observe the laws and pay whatever taxes are required of them³. They should pray for all who are in authority over them⁴.

1. God is the Supreme Ruler of this world

Ps. 75v6-7 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Prov. 8v15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Prov. 21v1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Dan. 5v21 And he [Nebuchadnezzar] was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

2. God has set up authorities to rule communities for his glory

Rom. 13v1-7 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

3. Christians to make it a matter of conscience to observe laws and pay taxes

Matt. 22v21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Acts 5v29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Rom. 13v1-7 [as in section 2 above]

Tit 3v1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

1 Pet. 3v13-17 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14. But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16. Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

4. Christians should pray for all in authority

1 Tim. 2v1-4 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4. Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

24. Christ's Second Coming *

At a time known only to God¹ the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth, not in secret but in power and great glory² to gather his saints to himself³. Those dead shall be raised incorruptible and those living shall be changed to be like Christ's glorified body⁴. Thus the whole church will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, to reign with him in glory for ever. This is the first resurrection and is the hope of the believer⁵.

* We recognise that many sound believers hold different views on this section.

1. Christ's second coming at a time known only to God

Matt. 24v36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Mk. 13v32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

2 Thess. 1v7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Christ's return to be in power and great glory

Matt. 24v30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3. Christ will come to gather his saints to himself

Matt. 24v31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

2 Thess. 2v1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

4. The dead at Christ's return to be raised incorruptible, and the living to be changed to be like Christ

1 Cor. 15v51-52 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thess. 4v14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. 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.

5. The Lord's coming is the first resurrection

1 Thess. 4v16 [as above in section 4]

Rev. 20v4-5 And I saw thrones, and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

25. The Millennium (The Thousand Years) *

On his return to earth Christ will judge the nations¹ and save his ancient people Israel out of a time of great trouble.² The earth will be blessed with a thousand years of unparalleled peace during which saved Israel will be God's means of spreading the gospel among all nations to the salvation of multitudes³.

* We recognise that many sound believers hold different views on this section.

1. Christ at his return to judge the nations

Is. 2v2-4 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Zech. 14v3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

2 Thess. 1v7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rev. 19v11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

2. Christ at his return to save Israel out of a time of great trouble

Jer. 30v7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Zech. 12v9-Zech. 13v1 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. 11. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as in the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. 12. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; 13. The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; 14. All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. 1. In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Rom. 11v26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

3. Israel in the Millennium the means of the salvation of multitudes through the gospel

Ps. 72v11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

Is. 60v3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Hab. 2v14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Rom. 11v12-15 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13. For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14. If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

26. The Last Judgement *

After the thousand years, at the end of time, God will summon all mankind, dead and living, to appear before his judgement throne where Christ will sit as Judge.¹ The wicked who do not obey the gospel will be condemned to the lake of fire for ever with the devil and his angels.² The righteous will enjoy the bliss of the new heaven and the new earth with Christ and the elect angels for ever.³

* We recognise that many sound believers hold different views on this section.

1. All mankind to appear before Christ as Judge

Jn. 5v28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Acts 17v31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Rev. 20v7,11 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.... 11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them.

2. The wicked assigned to the lake of fire at the last judgment

Matt. 25v31,46 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:...46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.

Rev. 21v8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

3. The righteous to enjoy the bliss of the new heaven and earth with Christ

Matt. 25v34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Rev. 21v1-4 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God, 4. And 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.