

Welcome Hall Evangelical Church
Doctrinal Distinctives

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

Psalm 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Proverbs 22:20-21 Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, that I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth to those who send to you?

John 10:35b...(and the Scripture cannot be broken),

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

1 Peter 1:23 and 25 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2. Nothing to be added or taken away

Matthew 15:6b...Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book ...and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

3. All things necessary for faith and conduct

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

Psalm 119:49-50 Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Matthew 4:4, 7 and 10 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" "...Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" "...Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" "

Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

4. Purpose of miraculous apostolic gifts

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 2:2-4 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, 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

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Psalms 135:15-17 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

2. God in three persons

Isaiah 48:16 "Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me."

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

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

Job 26:13 By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Psalms 139:7-8 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 10:30, 31 and 33 I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him...The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Romans 9:5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:8 *But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your 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

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...[rest of Genesis 1]*

Psalms 33:6 *By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.*

Acts 17:24 *God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

2. Creation in six literal days

Genesis 1:31-2:1 *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.*

Exodus 20:8 and 11 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*

Exodus 31:16-17 *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' "*

3. God sustains his creation

Nehemiah 9:6 *You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

Psalms 36:6 *Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast.*

Colossians 1:17 *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

Hebrews 1:3 *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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

4. God governs his creation

Psalms 135:6 *Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.*

Daniel 4:35 *All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

Acts 17:25-26 *Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,*

Acts 17:28 *for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*

5. No chance: all under God's control

Genesis 50:20 *But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

Proverbs 16:33 *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.*

Isaiah 26:12 *LORD, You will establish peace for us, for You have also done all our works in us.*

Acts 2:23 *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

Romans 11:36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

Ephesians 1:11 *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His 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. She 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

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 Truly, this only I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

Romans 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them,

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

2. Satan in the person of a serpent

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

3. Eve deceived by Satan

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

4. Adam transgressed God's command

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

5. Fall from original righteousness

Genesis 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:7-8 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden.

Job 31:33 If I have covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom,

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:1 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

6. Fall from communion with God

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so 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

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-*

Romans 5:15-19 *But the free gift is not like the offence. For if by the one man's offence many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offence resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offences resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offence death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offence judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

1 Corinthians 15:45 *And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

1 Corinthians 15:49 *And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

2. Men born with a depraved nature

Psalms 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*

Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"*

Romans 3:9-18 *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: "There is none Righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." "Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practised deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; "whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

Ephesians 2:3 *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

Titus 3:3 *For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.*

3. Added guilt by constant sinning

Genesis 6:5 *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Job 15:15-16 *If God puts no trust in His saints, and the heavens are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water!*

Isaiah 65:2-3 *I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick;*

4. Eternal hell the just reward for sin

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Luke 16:22-24 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then 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.'

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Jesus Christ's intervention as Mediator

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no saviour.

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5 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 law³ and to repent and believe the gospel⁴.

1. Man with no ability of will for good

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2. Man accountable to God

Psalms 62:12 Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Romans 2:5-9 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

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

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery", "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

James 2:8-10 If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

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

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands 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

Romans 9:11-13 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Ephesians 1:4-5 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

2. God's election of his people

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace be multiplied.

3. Christ the willing Mediator chosen of God

Isaiah 42:1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 42:6-7 "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

John 17:2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

1 Timothy 2:5 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

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 11:27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1 John 1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us -

2. Christ took man's nature

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

3. The womb of the virgin Mary

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Luke 1:27, 31, 35 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary...And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS...And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

4. Two natures joined and never to be divided

Romans 1:3-4 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 9:5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in 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

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Romans 8:32-35 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

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

Psalms 40:7-8 Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."

Isaiah 42:21 The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honourable.

Matthew 3:15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

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

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

2 Corinthians 5:19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -

4. Christ the propitiation for his people's sins

Romans 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 John 4:10 In this 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

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for

our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

6. Christ purchased eternal redemption

Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct 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

Psalms 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked, but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 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

Luke 24:39-40 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

9. In this same body he ascended back to heaven

Psalms 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there.

Luke 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

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

Mark 16:19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, 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

Luke 1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,

Titus 1:3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

2. God calls his elect to salvation through Jesus Christ

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

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

Ezekiel 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

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

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Acts 5:31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

6. God grants faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and 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

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall 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

Jeremiah 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Romans 4:6-8 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

Romans 5:18-19 Therefore, as through one man's offence judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

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

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:5-8 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Titus 3:5-7 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by His grace we should become 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 Father⁴. As a Father, he pities, protects, provides for and disciplines them⁵. He will never cast them off⁶; they are sealed by his Spirit unto the day of redemption⁷ and inherit God's promises as heirs of everlasting salvation⁸.

1. Believers share in the grace of adoption

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons 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 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Revelation 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

3. Believers given the Spirit of adoption

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

4. Enabled to address God in prayer as Father

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

5. God as their Father cares for his children

Psalms 103:13-14 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Matthew 6:32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives."

6. God will never abandon his children

Lamentations 3:31 For the Lord will not cast off forever.

John 10:28-29 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

7. Sealed unto the day of redemption

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

8. Believers are heirs of everlasting salvation

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Hebrews 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Every Christian is indwelt by the Spirit of God at conversion¹. Because of his presence the believer is given a desire for holiness and the strength to overcome indwelling sin². This battle between the Spirit and the flesh continues throughout the Christian's life³. Good works and practical holiness are the marks of a genuine Christian conversion⁴.

1. Spirit of God indwells at conversion

Romans 8:9 *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

Ephesians 1:13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

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

Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Philippians 2:13 *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

Colossians 1:11 *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;*

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

Romans 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.*

Romans 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Galatians 5:17 *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

4. Practical holiness the mark of a true believer

Matthew 12:33 *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."*

Romans 6:22 *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*

James 2:18 *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

1 Peter 1:15-16 *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

1 John 2:3-5 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

14. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The ten commandments delivered to Moses at Sinai are the eternal moral Law of God¹. 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

Psalm 119:144 *The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.*

Matthew 5:17-18 *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

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

Deuteronomy 5:32 *"Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*

Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind'. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Romans 7:7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*

1 John 3:4 *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*

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

Galatians 3:24 *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

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

Psalms 1:2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

Matthew 5:19 *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

Romans 3:31 *Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.*

Romans 7:12 *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*

Romans 7:22 *For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.*

Romans 13:8-10 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery", "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

James 2:8 *If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, " You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well;*

15. THE SABBATH IN PARTICULAR

God has appointed one day in seven to be kept holy for him¹. From the resurrection of Christ this was changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week². This Lord's day is to be kept as the Christian's sabbath³.

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

Genesis 2:2-3 *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

Ex. 20v8,11 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy...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.*

Exodus 20:8, 11 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*

Exodus 31:16 *Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.*

Isaiah 58:13-14 *"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honourable, and shall honour Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

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

John 20:19 *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, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

John 20:26 *And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"*

Acts 2:1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

3. The Lord's day as the Christian sabbath

Acts 20:7 *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*

Revelation 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud 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 end¹. God has pledged to take each of his elect safely home to everlasting glory².

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

Jeremiah 32:40 *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.*

Matthew 10:22 *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*

John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 *so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

1 John 3:9 *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

2. God will take his elect safe home to glory

Psalms 121:7-8 *The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.*

John 6:37,39,40 *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out...This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Philippians 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

1 Peter 1:4-5 *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for 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.

Matthew 8:11 *And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

Acts 7:37-38 *"This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.' "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,*

Ephesians 1:10 *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him.*

Ephesians 1:22-23 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

Ephesians 3:21 *to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 5:23-32 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Hebrews 12:23 *to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

Revelation 5:9 *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,*

Revelation 21:9-14 *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were 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 Head¹. 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 Christ⁴. 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 control⁵.

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

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

1 Corinthians 14:23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.

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

Acts 13:1-2 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:17,28 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church...Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

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

Acts 20:28 [as in previous section]

Romans 12:6-7 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1 Peter 5:1-2 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

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

Ephesians 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Colossians 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

5. The local church subject only to Christ

Acts 20:28 [as in section 2 above]

2 Corinthians 1:24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills 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 prayers¹, to sing God's praises², to come out from the world³, to cleave to the Lord and each other and thus to walk humbly with our God⁴. It is also our responsibility to submit to those that have the rule over us⁵, to support those with needs⁶, and to preach the gospel to old and young within the locality.

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

Malachi 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

Colossians 3:16 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.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

1 Peter 2:5 and 9 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;

3. Duty of coming out of the world

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Romans 12:10-11 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Ephesians 4:2-3 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 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 Thessalonians 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labour among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

Hebrews 13:7 and 17 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct...Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

6. Duty of supporting those with needs

Romans 12:13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

7. Duty of preaching to old and young

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Romans 10:14 and 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? So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Philippians 2:15-16 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or 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

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

2. Baptism for those professing faith in Christ

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 8:36-37 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

3. Baptism to be by immersion in water

Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

John 3:23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near 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.

Matthew 28:19 [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 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Romans 6:3-5 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who 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

Matthew 26:26-29 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Luke 22:14-20 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

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

1 Corinthians 10:16 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 Corinthians 11:25-26 [as above under 1]

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

Mark 14:24-25 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Hebrews 9:25-28 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for 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 designed to be ended only by the death of one of the partners, after which the surviving partner is free to re-marry². God's word forbids sexual relationships before or outside marriage³. Marriage must not be contracted within the degrees of blood relationship or kinship forbidden by God's Law⁴; the unnatural union of those of the same sex is totally condemned⁵. 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 life⁶.

1. Marriage instituted by God at creation

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:18-24 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2. Marriage designed as a binding, lifelong relationship

Romans 7:2-3 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

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

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

4. Marriage only in the relationships allowed in Scripture

Leviticus 18:6-18 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him..[to verse 18].

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

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Romans 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one

another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

1 Timothy 1:10 *for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,*

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

1 Corinthians 7:39 *A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

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

Psalm 75:6-7 For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.

Proverbs 8:15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Daniel 5:21 Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. 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 rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.

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

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

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

Matthew 22:21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Romans 13:1-7 [as in section 2 above]

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

1 Peter 3:13-17 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

4. Christians should pray for all in authority

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to 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.

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

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Mark 13:32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Matthew 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

3. Christ will come to gather his saints to himself

Matthew 24:31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

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

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

25. THE LAST JUDGEMENT

On Christ's coming again, God will summon all mankind, dead and living, to appear before his judgement throne where Christ will sit as Judge¹. The wicked who do not obey the gospel will be condemned to the lake of fire for ever with the devil and his angels². The righteous will enjoy the bliss of the new heaven and the new earth with Christ and the elect angels for ever³.

1. All mankind to appear before Christ as Judge

John 5:28-29 *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

Acts 17:31 *because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Revelation 20:11-12 *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

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

Matthew 25:31, 41 and 46 *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory ..."Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Revelation 21:8 *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

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

Matthew 25:34 *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Revelation 21:1-4 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

