

## ARTICLE 3. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT AND AUTHORITY

### 3.1. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:

3.1.1. THE SCRIPTURES: We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and absolutely inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority in the believer's faith and practice, complete in its revelation and final in its content and without any error in its statement. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 2:1-7, 4:20-22; Revelation 22:18-19; Matthew 5:18; John 8:47; Psalm 89:34, 119:89; Hebrews 6:18).

3.1.2. THE GODHEAD: There is one God, eternally existent, creator of heaven and earth. He is manifested in three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are one God; eternal in being; identical in nature; equal in power and glory; possessing the same attributes and perfections; and worthy of the homage, confidence, and obedience (Isaiah 7:14; John 14:9; Gen. 1:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 3:16-17). One of God's attributes is His absolute sovereignty. In His sovereignty, God gave man a free will to accept or reject the salvation that He has provided. It is God's will that all would be saved and that none should perish. God permits man's destiny to depend upon man's choice. "God is no respecter of persons;" but works the same on all men (Titus 2:11; John 1:9; 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 3:9; John 6:44-45, 64-65; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Acts 10:34; Ephesians 1:5-14).

3.1.3. CREATION: An eternal, supernatural, omnipotent personal God originated the universe and all life upon the earth. The origin of all things can be understood by special creation as defined in the Bible (Genesis 1:1, 2:1-3; Psalm 33:6, 9; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:1-3; Revelation 4:11).

3.1.4. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST: The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God, who took on flesh by his virgin birth and dwelt on earth without ceasing to be God. By this incarnation, He became the unique person of the universe: The God-man, Savior, True humanity and undiminished Deity. He is sinlessly perfect and gave Himself to redeem mankind as substitutionary sacrifice by shedding His blood and dying on the cross. This was to pay for all sins (past, present, and future), and not for the believer's only but for the sins of the whole world. This redemption was secured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. After His resurrection, He ascended bodily into heaven where He is now at the right hand of God performing His ministry as representative, intercessor, and advocate for His people (John 1:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:9; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 10:10-14; Hebrews 9:2-28; Acts 13:38-41; 1 Peter 2:24).

3.1.5. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune God, was and is present in all the plan and work of God. In this age, certain well-defined ministries are committed to the Holy Spirit. These ministries are: restraining evil; convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; regeneration of all who believe in Christ; indwelling and sealing at the moment a person receives Christ as Savior, thereby immediately baptizing and placing all believers into the body of Christ. It is the duty of every believer to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit and to be controlled by the Holy Spirit for effective Christian service (John 14:16; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; 1 John 2:20-27; John 16:8-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).

3.1.6. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN: Man was created in the image and likeness of God, in a state of innocence. Then man sinned, thereby losing his spiritual standing before God, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and under the penalty of sin which is death. Therefore, each member of the human race is fallen, sinful, and lost. Therefore, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of man. The moment a person receives Christ as Savior, immediately the Holy Spirit indwells the believer who is sealed until the day of redemption (Genesis 1:26, 2:17; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10, 23; John 3:7, 7:39; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:1-5).

3.1.7. SALVATION: Man is saved by God's grace through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing of man's efforts enter into his salvation. Salvation is a free gift. Man's works regardless of how good or well intended, either before salvation or after salvation, have nothing to do with salvation. Salvation (eternal life in heaven) is received only by faith in the finished work of Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16; Romans 11:6; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5; John 3:16).

3.1.8. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER: Every true child of God possesses eternal life, being justified by faith, sanctified by God, sealed with the Holy Spirit, safe and secure for all eternity and cannot lose his salvation. To teach otherwise is to violate the doctrine of grace. However, a Christian, through sin, can lose his fellowship, joy, power, testimony, and reward, and incur the Father's chastisement. Relationship is eternal, being established by the new birth. Fellowship, however, is dependent upon obedience (1 Corinthians 3:11; Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32; 1 Peter 1:5; John 6:34, 10:27-30).

3.1.9. THE CHURCH: We believe the Church is the universal body of believers that began with the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and is solely composed of all true born again persons. We believe all born again persons should and need to join a local gospel preaching church. The importance of the local church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age (Matthew 16:18, 18:17, 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:17, 28, 32; 1 Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5, Eph. 12-16, Ephesians 5:25-27).

3.1.10. THE RESURRECTION: There will be a resurrection of the saved and lost; of the saved unto eternal life, and of the lost unto eternal conscience punishment in a literal burning hell. These two resurrections are separated by at least 1,000 years. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:1-5; Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:23; Revelation 21:8; Matthew 18:9).

3.1.11. THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST: We believe in the personal, pre-tribulational, and premillennial return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the eminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive to Himself the dead in Christ since the day of Pentecost and believers who are alive at his coming, otherwise known as the Rapture or Translation of the Church (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10, 4:1-4; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8). We believe that the rapture of the Church will be followed by the fulfillment of Daniel's Seventieth Week, the latter half of which is the time of Jacob's trouble, the Great Tribulation (Dan. 9:27; Jeremiah 30:7; Rev. 6:1-9; Matthew 24:15-21). We believe that the Great Tribulation will be climaxed by the premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to set up His kingdom and resurrect the Old Testament saints (Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:15-25, 46; Revelation 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Isaiah 2:1-4, 65:17-25; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:5-6).

3.1.12. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN AND HIS ANGELS: Satan is a fallen angel and the author of sin. Satan, and his fallen angels (demons), the declared enemy of God and man, were judged by the death of Christ, are defeated in the name of Jesus and shall be eternally doomed in the lake of fire. Satan and his demons recognize God's authority and power and cannot indwell a believer. There is much clear teaching in the Word of God concerning the believer's spiritual warfare against Satan and strong warnings against the occult (Ezekiel 28:15-17; Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:1-10; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4; Ephesians 6:11-17; John 14:30; Matt. 18:18; Luke 10:17-20).

3.1.13. THE TWO NATURES: A true child of God has two births. One of the flesh and the other of the spirit to give man a flesh nature and a spirit nature. The flesh nature is neither good nor righteous. The spiritual man does not commit any sin. This results in a warfare between the spirit and the flesh, which continues until physical death or the return of the Lord. The flesh nature does not change in any way with the new birth, but can be controlled and kept subdued by the new man (John 3:3-7; Romans 8:1-12, 7:15-24; Galatians 5:17; 1 John 3:9, 5:18, 1:8; 1 Peter 1:23).

3.1.14. GRACE VS LAW: A true child of God is not under the law, but under grace; saved by and disciplined by grace (Romans 6:14, 11:6; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1-9).

3.1.15. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: The moment a person places his trust in Christ as his savior, he is baptized (placed) into the Body of Christ and is given a gift for service. It is the responsibility of the believer to discover and to exercise his gifts with love in order to edify the Body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Ephesians 4:7-16).

3.1.16. TONGUES: The gift of tongues (languages) was a manifestation of the Spirit's power solely for the demonstration of God's wisdom, purpose, and power in the establishment of the early church. It always was in a language that was in use. This temporal gift of language was intended not to prove one's spirituality or one's relationship to the Holy Spirit; but to preach the Gospel to the unbelievers. Spurious utterances (unknown tongues) shall be considered a violation of scripture (Acts 2:1-16; 1 Corinthians 14:22, 32, 42; 13:8-10).

3.1.17. HEALING: God can heal, but physical healing is not in the atonement. God heals miraculously today when it is His perfect will to do so. At times, it is God's will for sickness not to be removed. Healing cannot be claimed through the guarantee of the atonement (2 Corinthians 12:8-10; James 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 4:20; 2 Kings 13:14, 20-21).

3.1.18. REPENTANCE: Repentance is absolutely necessary for salvation. Repent (metanoeo) means "change of mind". In salvation, repentance means a change of your opinion of God (Acts 17:18-21), an understanding of your lost condition (Rom. 2:2-6), changing one's mind of any human idea of salvation (religion, good works, etc.) (Hebrews 6:1; Luke 13:1,3,5; Revelation. 9:20). Repentance for salvation does not demand a change of conduct or action (Acts 20:21).

3.1.19. DANGER OF DISCIPLESHIP SALVATION: We believe the Bible makes a clear distinction of coming to Jesus for salvation and coming after Jesus for service. Coming to Christ makes one a "believer" while coming after Christ makes one a "disciple". Salvation is free but discipleship involves a life of devoted service to the Lord Jesus Christ. This subtle message of faith plus works is also called "commitment theology" or "lordship salvation". The message of saving faith and the message of commitment of life cannot both be the gospel; therefore, the latter is a false gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 11:28 with Mark 8:34; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Corinthians 1:17; Romans 11:6).

3.1.20. GOD ORDAINED AUTHORITY: We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the Church; and 3) the human government. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the human government are separate and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14; Matthew 22:21).

3.1.21. HUMAN SEXUALITY: We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in before or outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

1. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5,13, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

2. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

3.1.22. ABORTION: We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Therefore, abortion is murder (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

3.1.23. LAWSUITS BETWEEN BELIEVERS: We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32).

3.1.24. STEWARDSHIP: We believe that all Christians, as stewards of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to them, are obligated to financially support their local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering are relinquished once the gift has been made (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-12; Acts 4:34-37, 5:1-5; Galatians 6:6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

3.1.25. THE PLAN OF SALVATION: There are no steps to salvation because eternal life is in the person Jesus Christ. The general plan of salvation found in God's Word that is believed by Faith Bible Church is as follows:

1. All men are sinners. Our sins separate us from God and bring us under the penalty of death. There is nothing mankind can do to take care of this sin problem because he is spiritually dead (Ro. 3:10,23, 6:23; Eph. 2:1,5,9; Isa. 14:6; James. 2:10).

2. All are hopelessly lost. Because of being born in sin, mankind is lost and headed toward hell-fire. Sin brings death and the second death is the eternal lake of fire (Roman 6:23; Revelation 20:13-14).

3. Jesus Christ died on the cross. Christ, who is God, paid man's sin debt and literally resurrected from the dead. God loves all mankind the same regardless of our race, birth, or actions. His love is unconditional (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Ro. 5:8; Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 2:4-5; Acts 10:34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:3).

4. Man must only believe (trust and depend) on the Lord Jesus Christ. By placing his faith in Christ, man receives God's righteousness and eternal life now. On the authority of God's Word, man can know he has everlasting life in Heaven. Salvation cannot be lost because eternal life is eternal (John 6:47, 1:12, 14:1-6, 3:7; 1 John 5:13; 1 Peter 1:5; Acts 10:42-43).