

Shoaff Park Baptist Church

Doctrinal Statement

OF THE SCRIPTURES

- I. We believe that the Holy Bible as written in the original languages is:
 - A. Verbally Inspired (God Breathed) and the product of God through Spirit-directed men. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 2:19-21; Acts 1:16; 28:25
 - B. Truth without error. Psalm 119:105, 130, 160; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17
 - C. and shall remain to the end of the age, being the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme authority by which all human conduct, beliefs, and opinions should be tried. And that men in their relationships with God must move from truth to experience and not from experience to truth. II Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 7:21-23; Psalm 119:89; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 3:4; I Peter 1:23; Revelation 22:19; John 1:45-46, 5:39; Isaiah 8:7-11
- II. Explanatory
 - A. By *The Holy Bible* we mean that collection of sixty-six (66) books from Genesis to Revelation which, as written in the original languages, does not only contain and convey the words of God, but is the very Word of God.
 - B. By *Inspiration* we mean that the books of the Bible were God-breathed, written by believing men who were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be.
 - C. Since the Bible is God's word, it is meant to be interpreted literally, which means normally in reference to grammar, history, and context.
 - D. We believe the Bible to be the center of true Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all other philosophies and activities must be measured.
 - E. Therefore, we commit ourselves to the regular reading and studying of God's Word, both publicly and privately, with conformity to godliness being the goal, that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 2:15, 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21

OF THE TRUE GOD

- I. We believe:
 - A. That there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence. He is the maker and supreme ruler of all creation. He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all worship, confidence, and love. Exodus 15:11, 20:2-3; Revelation 4:11

- B. That in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices. Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:18; II Corinthians 13:14
- C. In the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, concerning Him, we believe:
1. In His absolute deity, that he was divine as no other man can be, being truly God, existing for all eternity and co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 1:1-3; Colossians 2:8-10; Hebrews 1:2-3; Micah 5:2
 2. That in His voluntary humiliation (becoming man), He did not lay aside His deity. Matthew 1:21-22, 28:18; Mark 14:61-62; John 10:30, 32-33, 14:9, 20:28; II Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:15-17; I John 1:1-2, 5:20
 3. That at His incarnation, He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as no other man was or can ever be born. This fulfilled all prophecy given by God as recorded in the Holy Bible. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14
 4. Our Lord Jesus Christ's WORK is seen in more detail in the section below:
"Of Christ's Atonement for Sin"

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- I. We believe:
- A. That He is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and Son, and of the same nature. John 14:16-17, 26; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14
 - B. That He was active in Creation. Genesis 1:1-3
 - C. That in His revelation to the unbelieving world, He restrains (holds back) the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled. II Thessalonians 2:7
 - D. That He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. John 16:8-11
 - E. That He bears witness to and empowers the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony. John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32
 - F. That His purpose in this age is to glorify the Son. I Corinthians 12:3; John 16:14
 - G. That He is the agent of the New Birth. John 3:5-6
 - H. That He indwells, seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps believers until the day of redemption. Matthew 3:9-12; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; John 14:26, 16:13; Acts 11:16; Romans 8:9, 14, 26-27; II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2
 - I. That He never depreciates the completeness that is in Jesus Christ by exalting anyone above other sealed believers, or above or as an addition to Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:3; Colossians 2:10
 - J. That He indwells the believer of salvation, and enables the believers to serve according to His will. I Corinthians 13:5b; Ephesians 4:16

Therefore, we humbly submit to our God, giving all the glory of life to Him. Matthew 3:16-17; I Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 4:11

OF THE DEVIL or SATAN

- I. We believe that satan is a distinct personality who:
 - A. Was once holy and enjoyed heaven's honors but, through pride and ambition to be as Almighty God, fell. Isaiah 14:12-13; Ezekiel 28:15-17
 - B. Drew after him a host of angels. Revelation 12:9; Jude 6; II Peter 2:2; John 14:30
 - C. Is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. I Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:1-2
 - D. Is man's great tempter. I Peter 5:8
 - E. Is the enemy of God and His Christ. Zechariah 1:3; I John 3:8; Matthew 13:25, 37-39; Luke 22:3-4
 - F. Is the accuser of the saints. Revelation 12:10
 - G. Is the author of all false religions, the chief power promoting present apostasy. II Corinthians 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22
 - H. Is the lord of the anti-Christ. I John 2:22, 4:3; II John 7
 - I. Is the author of all the powers of darkness. Revelation 13:13-14; II Thessalonians 2:8-11
 - J. Although powerful and to be wary of, is not omniscient, omnipotent, nor omnipresent, and cannot overcome the believer who is submitting in obedience to Jesus Christ and His Word in faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit. James 4:7; I John 4:4
 - K. Is destined to find defeat at the hands of God's Son, through His death on the cross. Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12:7-9, 19:11, 16, 20:1-3
 - L. And is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire, a place prepared for him and his angels. Revelation 20:1-5; Matthew 25:41

Therefore, recognizing that the conflict of the ages is primarily spiritual, we focus our efforts on the victory found in God's Kingdom. Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 1:14

OF THE CREATION

- I. We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and:
 - A. That it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively. It is not against the precepts or principles of observable science to hold this view.

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24, 17:23-26; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Revelation 10:6; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10

- B. That man was created directly by God and in God's own image and after His own likeness. Genesis 1:27; I Corinthians 11:7
- C. That man's creation was not a matter of evolution or revolutionary change of species, or development through long periods of time from lower to higher forms. Genesis 2:7, 21-23; John 1:3
- D. That all animals and vegetable life was created directly, and to reproduce after its own kind. Genesis 1:11, 24; Colossians 1:16-17

Therefore, we view life as beginning at conception and is a sacred gift from God. Psalm 139; Romans 3:23; 6:23

OF MAN AND HIS FALL

- I. We believe:
 - A. That man was created in innocence. Genesis 1:27
 - B. That by voluntary transgression, fell from his sinless and happy state. Genesis 3; Romans 5:12, 19
 - C. That, consequently, all people are now sinners by inheritance from Adam and by individual choice and, until regenerated through faith in Christ, are dead in sin. Ephesians 2:1-2; Romans 3:10-11
 - D. That all men are by nature utterly void of the righteousness required by the law of God, and definitely inclined to evil. Romans 3:11; Galatians 3:22-24; Ephesians 2:1-3; Psalm 40:12
 - E. That man is under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Romans 1:19-20; 2:1, 12-15; 3:9-20, 23
 - F. That man's only hope of eternal life is through redemption in Jesus Christ. John 3:3, 5; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 3:26

Therefore, commitment of our total beings to God is only reasonable. Romans 3:23; 6:23; 12:1-2.

OF CHRIST'S ATONEMENT FOR SIN

- I. We believe:
 - A. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25), and through the one mediator, the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Him the form of a man, was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin in nature or deed, honored the

divine Law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious (in our place) atonement (payment) for our sins. John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14, 5:15; Romans 3:25; I John 4:10; Isaiah 3:6; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21

- B. That His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Jesus dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, being our sins in His own body on the cross. John 10:18; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 1:4; I Peter 2:24, 3:18; Isaiah 53:11; Hebrews 12:2
- C. That, having risen bodily from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting His Wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with Divine Perfection (Hebrews 4:15); He is in every way the suitable, compassionate, all sufficient Savior and mediator of the believer. Isaiah 53:12; Hebrews 7:25, 9:12-15, 10:10, 12, 14, 18; I John 2:2
- D. That the blessings of this atonement are given to all who believe from the heart and confess to God this Lord and Savior as his own lord and savior. It is the immediate duty of man to obey the command to accept this offer of mercy. Acts 17:30; Romans 10:8-10

OF SALVATION BY GRACE

I. We believe:

- A. That in order to be saved, all men must be born again of the Holy Spirit by believing they are a sinner, Jesus Christ died in their place and bodily rose again from the dead, accepting these truths personally. John 1:12, 3:3; Galatians 3:26; Romans 10:9-13
- B. That the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus. II Corinthians 5:17
- C. That it is instantaneous, and not a lengthy process. John 3:5-7; Acts 16:30-33
- D. That in the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1, 4-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5
- E. That the new creation is brought about in a manner above comprehension, not by culture, not by character, not by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with Divine Truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience by faith in the gospel. John 1:12-13, 3:8
- F. That its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith the finished work and Person of Jesus Christ and newness of life. Romans 10:8-10; I John 5:1-5

OF JUSTIFICATION

I. We believe:

- A. That the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to those that believe in Him is justification, and:
- B. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on the basis of Christ's righteousness and atonement. Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1
- C. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done or ever will do, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood is His righteousness imputed to us. Titus 3:5-7; Romans 4:24-25, 5:1, 17; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-9

OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

- I. We believe:
 - A. In God's electing grace. I Thessalonians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; I Peter 1:2
 - B. That salvation is freely offered to all by the Gospel. Romans 10:9-13; Revelation 22:17
 - C. That it is the immediate duty of all to accept this salvation by whole-hearted, penitent and obedient faith. John 3:15-18; I Timothy 1:15; Acts 2:37-41; Romans 10:8-9
 - D. That nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth bu his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. A rejection which brings upon man the condemnation of God's wrath. The only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—the rejection of God's forgiveness. John 3:18, 36; Romans 1:18, 20; 2:1, 4-5; Matthew 12

OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

- I. We believe that repentance and faith:
 - A. Are inseparable graces. Mark 1:15
 - B. Are solemn obligations. Acts 20:21
 - C. Are produced in our souls by the life-giving Holy Spirit of God who convicts the believer of guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, so that the believer turns to God his wholehearted faith in the work and person of the Lord Jesus Christ as his all-sufficient Savior. Acts 2:27-28; Romans 10:9-13

Therefore, we believe this good news should be spread to all peoples of the world, both close and abroad. John 3:16; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9

OF SANCTIFICATION

- I. We believe that biblical sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, the believer is set apart form sin, unto Christ, and has three aspects:

- A. The believer has been set apart positionally before God the moment he believes. I Corinthians 1:30, 6:11; Hebrews 10:10, 14; II Thessalonians 2:1
 - B. The believer is being set apart progressively in his walk day by day as he grows in grace toward the likeness of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, watchfulness, prayer, and yielding to the Holy Spirit through biblical change. Change is manifested through particular fruits of the Holy Spirit, by growth of loving God, hating sin, and desiring to obey God's Word. Romans 8:13, 12:1-2; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 7:1; John 17:17; Galatians 5; Ephesians 4:11-16, 22, 24; I Timothy 4:7b; Hebrews 5:12-14; I John 3:3
 - C. The believer is to be set apart prospective from the very presence of sin at the moment of death or when his sanctification is completed at the coming of Christ for the Church. I John 3:2; I Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23
- II. We believe that those who personally receive Christ are called to a holy calling to walk not after the sinful way of an unbeliever, but after the righteousness of the Spirit of God within them. Growth can be enhanced as the believer practices certain spiritual disciplines (but not limited to the following):
- A. Daily study of God's word
 - B. Regular prayer
 - C. Immediate confession of sin
 - D. Faithfulness to and involvement in the local church
 - E. Avoidance of divisive or destructive speech, but rather, conversation which edifies
 - F. Proper respect for other Christians, striving for unity of the Spirit
 - G. Separation from sin and its lust
 - H. Refraining from all substance abuse, which would harm the body, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit of God
 - I. A responsible family life, including abstention from fornication, adultery and sexually deviant behavior such as homosexuality
 - J. Submission to human government, except where government is contrary to biblical principle
 - K. The work of evangelism

Therefore, we live as a people committed to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:14-16; I Peter 1:13-16; II Peter 3:18

OF THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER OR PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

- I. We believe this is the design of God's divine plan:

- A. That every person, immediately upon acceptance of Christ as personal Savior and Lord, receives eternal life and is made at once a child of God. I John 5:11-13; John 1:12
- B. That believers are kept by the power of God through faith, in state of grace, and are eternally secure apart from any human works
- C. That such only are believers who endure to the end as defined by these passages: Philippians 1:6; John 8:31; Revelation 21:7-8; Ephesians 2:10
- D. That the believers' persevering attachment to Christ and His own and their growth in the likeness of Christ are God's marks which distinguish them from superficial professors. Romans 8:28-29; John 10:27-29, 13:34-35, 12:21-23; I John 2:19, 5:1-3; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-13; James 2:14-20

Therefore, we are free to serve God without apprehension. II Timothy 1:7; Romans 1:16

OF THE CHURCH

I. We believe:

- A. That the Church universal is a New Testament institution, established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head; revealed through the apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; His *body* for the service and His *bride* for glory. It began with the New testament saints at Pentecost and will be consummated at the future coming of Christ. Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8, 2:1-13, 41-47, 15:41; Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:21, 5:23-32; I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- B. That the Church universal is manifested through the local church which is:
 - 1. A congregation of baptized believers, associated together by a statement of faith and fellowship of the gospel. Acts 2:41-42
 - 2. Observing the ordinances of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:2
 - 3. Governed by His laws. Ephesians 1:22-23
 - 4. Exercising the responsibilities and privileges invested in them by His work. Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11
- C. That its scriptural offices are those of pastors (also called "elders" or "bishops"), and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined by Scripture. Acts 6:5-6, 15:23, 20:17-28; I Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- D. The true mission of the Church is expressed in the New Testament and abbreviated in Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 4:11-16:
 - 1. To make individual disciples
 - 2. To baptize them into a properly organized and functioning local church
 - 3. To teach them to obey His Word as He has commanded (this includes assisting parents in teaching truth);

- E. That the local church has the absolute right to self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that he one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit's direction by the Word. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; I Peter 5:1-4
- F. That it is scriptural for sure churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. Acts 15:22; Jude 2-3; I Corinthians 8:23-24; I Corinthians 16:1-3
- G. That on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence, the will of the local church following the Word of God is final. Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 27:32; I Corinthians 5:11-13

OF THE ORDINANCES

- I. We believe that Christian baptism is:
 - A. The immersion in water of a believer. Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:6, 16; John 3:23; Romans 6:4-5
 - B. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19
 - C. To show forth in a solemn testimony and picture of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Romans 6:2, 5; Colossians 2:12
- II. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes, by the use of broken bread, symbolizing His broken body, and the fruit of the vine, symbolizing His shed blood, both as symbols of the price He paid for us.
 - A. This commemoration should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. I Corinthians 11:23-28
 - B. In light of God's revelation, we believe the church is an essential part of the Christian's life. Ephesians 2:19-22; I Timothy 3:1-16; Hebrews 10:25

OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

- I. We believe:
 - A. There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. Galatians 3:22, 26; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; I Peter 4:18; Proverbs 11:31
 - B. Such only as through faith are justified in the name of the lord Jesus, and sanctified or set apart by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in their standing before God. I Corinthians 15:22; Romans 1:17, 3:22-24, 4:22-24; John 5:24; Ephesians 1:6-7
 - C. All such as continue to impenitence and unbeliever are in His sight wicked, and are under the curse. I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:23, 7:5

- D. This distinction holds among individuals both before and after death, in the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Matthew 25:34, 41, 46; Luke 9:26, 16:25-26; John 8:21; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:10-15

OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

- I. That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society. Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 32:3; Exodus 18:21-22
- II. That government leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed. Matthew 22:1; I Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-14, 17; Daniel 1:8-15

OF THE FAMILY

- I. We believe:
- A. That marriage of a man to a woman is the plan of God and sacred in His sight. Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:18-32; I Timothy 3:4-5; Malachi 2:13-14
- B. That the roles of husband, wife, parent, and child are clearly defined in Scripture. Ephesians 5:21-23; Colossians 3:16-21; I Peter 3:1-7
- C. That sexual relationship is sacred and fulfilling only within the bonds of marriage, and is condemned outside the marriage relationship. I Corinthians 7:3-4; Hebrews 13:4
- D. That children are a blessing of God and the responsibility for them rests solely upon the parents, who will be accountable to God. They are to be brought up in loving structured control and conscientious instruction in the truths of God and His principles of life. Families in the Church should be understood as a larger household of God, who should surround each nuclear family with loving, supportive community. Psalm 78:4-7, 127:3; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6, 17:6; Ephesians 2:19-22
- E. That homosexual, lesbian, incest, adultery, fornication, and any other sexually deviant conduct is clearly sin and condemned by God. Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 5:11, 6:9-10

Therefore, we believe that family—both nuclear and spiritual—is the context in which God has chosen to reveal His redemptive plan and glorify Himself. I Timothy 3:14-16

OF THE RESURRECTION, RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

- I. We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their full and face value. These beliefs include:
- A. Christ's bodily resurrection from the tomb. Matthew 28:6-7; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4-8; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 39; Acts 2:24, 32, 3:15, 4:2; Romans 4:25

- B. His ascension to the Father's right hand. Acts 1:9; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 10:12
- C. His present High Priesthood. Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:24-25, 8:6; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1
- D. His future pre-tribulation appearing in the air to receive His saints. I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28
- E. The resurrection of the righteous dead. I Thessalonians 4:16; I Corinthians 15:42-44, 52
- F. The physical change of the living in Christ. I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:17; Philippians 3:20-21
- G. The believer's response to God's work will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ for reward or loss. II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10; Revelation 22:2; I Corinthians 3:11-15; II Timothy 4:8
- H. Christ's bodily return to the earth to reign from the throne of David. (Pre-Millennial). Matthew 4:29-32; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:4-5, 32:1; Acts 2:29-30; I Corinthians 15:25; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:1-4, 6
- I. The Great White Throne Judgment of the unsaved, and the new heaven and the new earth. Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-2

With this view of God's future for mankind, it then becomes the Christian's responsibility to prepare himself with purity and to seek the conversion of the world from the powers of darkness to the kingdom of God's light.

We understand that the above statements do not by any means exhaust the content of our beliefs which are based upon the whole Bible, and that they are not intended to set a limit beyond which faith cannot go within the Word of God. However, we do believe that these statements are a true representation of sound doctrine taught in Scripture, and they are therefore binding upon us as Christian believers.