

STATEMENT OF FAITH

First Baptist Atlanta

The Scriptures

We believe that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16), understanding this to mean that the whole Bible is inspired in that holy men of God “were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21) to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of Scripture as it appeared in the original manuscripts, and therefore believe that the whole Bible in the originals is therefore without error. We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work, in His first and second coming, and hence that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. We also believe all Scripture was designed for our practical instruction (Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39, Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16).

The Triune Godhead

We believe in the one true and living God, the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and Ruler of all things. He is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and is revealed to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God the Father

We believe that God the Father reigns over all of His universe with providential care. He is all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, and all-wise. He is fatherly in attitude toward all men but is the Father to those who have become children of God through Jesus Christ, who will deliver them into the Father’s hands (Genesis 1:1, 1 Chronicles 29:10; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14,15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 4:6).

God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. This redemption He accomplished by voluntarily giving Himself as a sinless, substitutionary sacrifice on the cross, thereby satisfying God’s righteous judgment against sin. After substantiating the accomplishment of that redemption/justification by His bodily resurrection from the grave, He ascended to the right hand of His Father where He intercedes on the behalf of those who trust Him (Luke 1:34,35; John 1:1,2,14,18; Romans 3:24-26; 8:34).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person who convicts the world of sin (righteousness and judgment); that He alone brings new life to those who are spiritually dead; that He baptizes (or places) all believers into the one true Church, which is the Body of Christ, that He indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of final redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon them, fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him. Every believer is called to so live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God (John 3:3-8; 14:16-17; 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11,13; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).

Creation

We believe that man was created directly by and in the image of God. We believe that God created the heavens and the earth; including all life, by direct act (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:17).

Man

Although man was created in the image of God, he fell into sin, and was lost; this is true of all men, and except a man be born again by the Holy Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God (Genesis 1:26, 27; John 3:3; Romans 3:10, 23).

The Devil - Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 4:1-3; Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

Atonement for Sin

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe on Him are redeemed by His shed blood. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ and in His Ascension into heaven; He is our High Priest and Advocate (John 1:1-3,14; 3:1-7, 16; Hebrews 10:4-14; 1 John 2:2).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God's grace. It cannot be gained or made more secure by meritorious works, but is freely bestowed upon all who put their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. All who so trust the Savior are forgiven of their sins and born into the family of God by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8,9).

The Christian Walk

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and to so live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. However, since the flesh is never eradicated in this life, the individual must choose to keep the flesh in subjection to Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit or it will surely manifest its presence to the dishonor of our Lord (Romans 6:11-13; 8:2,4,12,13; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:1-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:4-7; 3:5-9).

The Great Commission

Until the return of Christ, it is the Christian's duty and privilege to seek the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission and to minister in His name to a needy world. We are to be instruments of Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit ministers redemption and reconciliation in the world (Matthew 25:31-46; 28:18-20).

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