

WOODCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO
PASTOR MARK POORMAN
FOR THE REVIEW OF
THE ORDINATION COUNCIL

BY

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BIBLIOLOGY

I believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible. I believe that God has providentially preserved His Word through the ages for mankind. The Word of God is infallible. The Scriptures are complete and sufficient, and the Canon of Scripture is closed due to the fact that the revelatory gifts have ceased.

I. I believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible.

A. Inspiration

1. 2 Peter 1:21 "...but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
2. 2 Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

B. Verbal and Plenary

1. 2 Tim. 3:16 "All scripture..." (lit. "every writing")
2. Prov. 30:5 "Every word of God is pure..."

II. I believe that God has providentially preserved His Word, and It is therefore infallible.

A. Preservation

1. Ps. 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."
2. Mat. 5:18 "...one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law..."
3. Ps. 12:7 "Thou shalt keep them, O LORD..."

B. Infallible (trustworthy)

1. John 17:17 "...thy word is truth..."
2. Titus 1:2 "...God, that cannot lie..."
3. Ps. 12:6 "The words of the LORD *are* pure words..."

III. I believe that the Canon of Scripture is closed due to the fact that the revelatory gifts have ceased.

A. Eph. 2:20 "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets..."

- B. 1 Cor. 13:8-9 "...we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."
- C. Rev. 22:18 "...If any man shall add...God shall add unto him the plagues..."

THEOLOGY PROPER

I believe that God is a Spirit. He is the one and only God. As a trinity, He is manifest to man in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is sovereign and the Creator of all things. God's attributes can be divided into two categories: natural attributes and moral attributes. His natural attributes include His omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, immutability, and eternity. His moral attributes include holiness, justice, truth, love, mercy, and grace, of which holiness is perhaps the most emphasized in the Bible.

I. I believe that God is a Spirit, the one and only God, and also a trinity.

A. A Spirit

1. John 4:24 "God *is* a Spirit..."
2. John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time..."
3. I Kings 8:27 "...the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee...."

B. The One and Only God

1. Deut. 6:4 "...the LORD our God is one LORD."
2. Is. 45:5 "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me..."

C. A Trinity

1. 1 John 5:7 "...the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."
2. Mat. 28:19 "...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"
3. 2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost...."

II. I believe that God is sovereign and the Creator of all things.

A. Sovereign

1. Ps. 22:28 "...he is the governor among the nations."
2. Ps. 115:3 "...he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

B. Creator

3. Ex. 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is...”
4. Gen. 1:1 “...God created the heaven and the earth.”

III. I believe in God’s natural and moral attributes

A. Natural attributes

1. Omniscience

- a. Is. 46:10 “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...”
- b. Ps. 139:2 “Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.”

2. Omnipresence

- a. Jer. “...do not I fill heaven and earth?”
- b. Ps. 139:7 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”

3. Omnipotence

- a. Rev. 19:6 “...the Lord God omnipotent reigneth”
- b. Jer. 32:17 “...there is nothing too hard for thee.”

4. Immutability

- a. Malachi 3:6 “...I am the LORD, I change not...”
- b. James 1:17 “...with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

5. Eternal

- a. Rev. 1:8 “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...”
- b. Ps. 90:2 “...from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

B. Natural Attributes

1. Holiness

- a. Is. 6:3 "...Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts..."
- b. 1 Pet. 1:16 "Be ye holy; for I am holy."

2. Justice

- a. Gen. 18:25 "...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
- b. Rev. 20:12 "...and the dead were judged...according to their works."

3. Truth

- a. Ex. 34:6 "...the LORD God...abundant in...truth..."
- b. Deut. 32:4 "...a God of truth..."

4. Love

- a. 1 John 4:8 "...God is love."
- b. Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us..."

5. Mercy

- a. Ps. 103:8 "The LORD is merciful..."
- b. Deut. 4:31 "...God is a merciful God..."

6. Grace

- a. 2 Chron. 30:9 "...God is gracious..."
- b. Jonah 4:2 "...thou art a gracious God..."

CHRISTOLOGY

I believe in the deity of Christ, and that He therefore possesses all of the divine attributes. Christ was pre-existent to His earthly ministry. He was born of a virgin born, lived a sinless life, died, was buried, and rose again the third day. He is ascended bodily to the right hand of the Father and is exalted with Him. Christ is coming again to set up His kingdom at the end of the Tribulation.

I. I believe in the deity of Christ, and that He possesses all of the divine attributes.

A. Deity

1. John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."
2. Heb. 1:3 "Who[Christ] being...the express image of his[God's] person..."

B. Pre-existent

1. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word."
2. John 8:58 "...Before Abraham was, I am."

II. I believe that Christ was virgin born, lived a sinless life, died, was buried, and rose again the third day.

A. Virgin Born

1. Is. 7:14 "...Behold, a virgin shall conceive..."
2. Luke 1:27 "...the virgin's name *was* Mary."

B. Sinless Life

1. Heb. 4:15 "...yet without sin."
2. 1 Pet. 2:22 "Who did no sin..."

C. Death

1. Rom. 5:6 "...Christ died..."
2. 1 Cor. 15:3 "...Christ died..."

D. Buried

1. 1 Cor. 15:4 “And that he was buried...”
2. Mark 16:46 “...and laid him in a sepulcher...”

E. Rose Again

1. 1 Cor. 15:4 “...and that he rose again...”
2. John 2:22 “...when he was risen from the dead...”

III. I believe that Christ is ascended bodily to the right hand of the Father, is exalted, and that He is coming again.

A. Ascended

1. Acts 1:9 “...he was taken up...”
2. Mark 16:19 “...he was received up into heaven...”

B. Exalted

1. Phil 2:9 “Wherefore God hath highly exalted him...”
2. Rev. 5:13 “Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power...unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

C. Coming Again

1. Mark 8:38 “...the Son of man...when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”
2. Rev. 19:11 “And I saw heaven opened...and he...was called Faithful and True...”

PNEUMATOLOGY

I believe that the Holy Spirit is God, was active in creation, and is the third Person of the Trinity. As a Person, He can be grieved. The Holy Spirit was directly involved in the inspiration of the Scriptures and works in the ministry of illumination for the believer today. In the Old Testament, He came upon certain believers to empower them for a task. He is called the Comforter; He is the “seal” or “earnest” of salvation. His ministry also involves baptism, indwelling, witness, and the filling of the Spirit. Those filled with the Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the bestower of the spiritual gifts, both temporal and permanent.

I. I believe that the Holy Spirit is God, active in creation, and the third person of the Trinity. As a Person, He can be grieved.

A. He is God

1. John 4:24 “God is a Spirit...”
2. Gen. 1:2 “...the Spirit of God moved upon the...waters.”

B. He was active in creation

1. Gen. 1:2 “...the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”
2. Job 33:4 “The Spirit of God hath made me...”

C. He is a Person and can be grieved

1. John 16:13 “...he, the spirit of truth...”
2. Eph. 4:30 “...grieve not the holy Spirit of God...”

II. I believe that the Holy Spirit was directly involved in the inspiration of the Scriptures, and works in the ministry of illumination for the believer today.

A. Inspiration

1. 2 Pet. 1:21 “...as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
2. Mark 12:36 “For David himself said by the Holy Ghost...”

B. Illumination

1. Ps. 119:18 “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of they law.”
2. 1 Cor. 2:14 “...they are spiritually discerned.”

III. I believe that the Holy Spirit, in the Old Testament, came upon certain believers to empower them for a task.

A. Judges 14:6 “And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon [Samson]...”

B. 1 Sam. 10:10 “...the Spirit of God came upon [Saul]...”

IV. I believe that He is called the Comforter; He is the “seal” or “earnest” of salvation. His ministry also involves baptism, indwelling, witness, and the filling of the Spirit. Those filled with the Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the bestower of the spiritual gifts, both temporal and permanent.

A. Comforter

1. John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost...”

2. 2 Cor. 1:3 “...the God of all comfort.”

B. Seal, Earnest

1. Eph. 1:14 “Which is the earnest of our inheritance...”

2. 2 Cor. 1:22 “...sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit...”

C. Spirit Baptism

1. Acts 1:5 “...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost...”

2. 1 Cor. 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized...”

D. Indwelling

1. 1 Cor. 3:16 “...the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.”

2. 1 Cor. 6:19 “...your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...”

E. Witness

1. Rom. 8:16 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit...”
2. 1 John 5:6 “...it is the Spirit that beareth witness...”

F. Filling and Fruit

1. Filling

- a. Eph. 5:18 “...be ye filled with the Spirit.”
- b. Acts 4:31 “...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...”

2. Fruit

Gal. 5:22-23 “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...”

G. Gifts

1. Temporal

1 Cor. 12:8-10: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, *divers* kinds of tongues

2. Permanent

Rom. 12:7-8: ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, mercy

ANTHROPOLOGY

I believe that man was created in the image of God to bring glory to Him. Man is physical as well as spiritual and is attributed a body, soul, spirit, heart, and mind. Man was created as male and female, and ought to maintain a distinction between the two. God instituted marriage to be a union between one man and one woman until death do they part. Man is sinful and depraved, and, therefore, dies physically and can die spiritually (eternal separation from God).

- I. I believe that man was created in the image of God to bring glory to Him.
 - A. Created by God
 - 1. Gen. 1:27 “So God created man...”
 - 2. Gen 2:7 “And the LORD God formed man...”
 - B. Image of God
 - 1. Gen 1:27 “So God created man in his own image...”
 - 2. Gen 9:6 “...in the image of God made he man.”
 - C. Glory to God
 - 1. 1 Pet. 2:9 “...that ye should show forth the praises of him...”
 - 2. 1 Cor. 6:20 “...therefore glorify God in your body...”
- II. I believe that man is physical as well as spiritual and is attributed a body, soul, spirit, heart, and mind.
 - A. 1 Thess. 5:23 “...your whole spirit and soul and body...”
 - B. Luke 10:27 “...all thy heart, and with all thy soul,...strength,...mind....”
- III. I believe that man was created as male and female, and ought to maintain a distinction between the two. God instituted marriage to be a union between one man and one woman until death do they part.
 - A. Male and Female
 - 1. Gen 1:27 “...male and female created he them.”
 - 2. Mat. 19:4 “...he...made them...male and female...”

B. Distinction

1. Deut. 22:5 “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment...”
2. 1 Cor. 11:14-15 “...if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her...”

IV. I believe that God instituted marriage to be a union between one man and one woman until death do they part.

A. Instituted by God

1. Gen 2:22 “And...made [God] a woman, and brought her unto the man.”
2. Heb. 13:4 “Marriage *is* honorable in all...”

B. Union between one man and one woman

1. Gen. 3:20 “...Adam called his wife’s name Eve...”
2. Deut. 17:17 “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself...”

C. Lifetime commitment

1. Rom. 7:2 “...the woman...is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as be liveth...”
2. Mal. 2:16 “...the LORD...hateth putting away...”

V. I believe that man is sinful and depraved, and, therefore, dies physically and can die spiritually (eternal separation from God).

A. Sinful and Depraved

1. Sinful
 - a. Ps. 51:5 “...in sin did my mother conceive me.”
 - b. Rom. 3:23 “...all have sinned...”
2. Depraved
 - a. Is. 64:6 “...all our righteousness are as filthy rags...”

- b. Rom. 5:6 “For when we were yet without strength...”

B. Death

1. Physical

- a. Heb. 9:27 “...it is appointed unto man once to die...”
- b. Gen. 3:19 “...unto shalt thou return.”

2. Spiritual

- a. Rev. 20:14 “...this is the second death.”
- b. Luke 13:3 “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

HAMARTIOLOGY

I believe that sin originated with Adam in the garden of Eden and is inherited by all his descendants. Sin is missing the mark of perfection by disobeying God's commands. The payment for sin is death.

- I. I believe that sin originated with Adam in the garden of Eden and is inherited by all his descendants.
 - A. From Adam
 1. Rom. 5:12 "For as by one man sin entered into the world..."
 2. Gen. 3:6 "...and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat."
 - B. Sin inherited by all
 1. Rom. 5:12 "...death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
 2. 1 Cor. 15:22 "For as in Adam all die..."

- II. I believe that sin is missing the mark of perfection by disobeying God's commands. The payment for sin is death.
 - A. Missing the mark
 1. Rom. 3:23 "...sinned, and come short..."
 2. Rom. 3:10 "...none righteous..."
 - B. Disobeying God's commands
 1. James 4:17 "...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin."
 2. 1 John 3:4 "...sin is the transgression of the law."
 - C. Payment is Death
 1. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."
 2. Ezek. 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die..."

SOTERIOLOGY

I believe that salvation occurs when God saves an individual by His grace through faith, which is repentance on the part of the individual concerning the Person and finished work of Christ on the cross alone. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. At the moment of salvation, we are justified forever, being saved from the penalty of sin, which is hell. The Holy Spirit immediately begins His work of sanctification in the believer, delivering him from the power of sin, and, upon death, the believer will be glorified, saved from the presence of sin. One can rest in the security of salvation and have assurance. God regenerates the believer and reconciles us to Himself as well as adopts him into a spiritual family. The believer is elect by God before the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God. Christ's atonement is a blood atonement, an unlimited atonement, and a substitutionary atonement. It is the blood of Christ that grants the individual forgiveness.

- I. I believe that salvation occurs when God saves an individual by His grace through faith, which is repentance on the part of the individual concerning the Person and finished work of Christ on the cross alone.
 - A. By grace
 1. Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved..."
 2. Rom. 5:20 "...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."
 - B. Through faith
 1. Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith..."
 2. Rom. 10:9 "...if thou shalt confess...the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe...that God hath raised him from the dead..."
 - C. Repentance
 1. Luke 15:7 "...joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."
 2. 2 Pet. 3:9 "...but that all should come to repentance."
- II. I believe that the Gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day.
 - A. 1 Cor. 15:3-4 "...Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and that he rose again..."

B. John 3:16 "...he gave his only begotten son..."

III. I believe that at the moment of salvation, we are justified forever, being saved from the penalty of sin, which is hell. The Holy Spirit immediately begins His predestined work of sanctification in the believer, delivering him from the power of sin, and, upon death, the believer will be glorified, saved from the presence of sin.

A. Justification

1. Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith..."
2. Titus 3:7 "...being justified by his grace..."

B. Sanctification

1. By the Holy Spirit
 - a. Rom 15:16 "...being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:11 "...sanctified...by the Spirit..."
2. Predestined
 - a. Rom. 8:29 "...he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."
 - b. Eph. 1:4-5 "...that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us..."

C. Glorification

1. 2 Cor. 5:1 "...we have a building of God...eternal in the heavens."
2. 1 Cor. 15:53 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption..."

IV. I believe that one can rest in the security of salvation and have assurance.

A. Security

1. John 10:28 "...and they shall never perish..."
2. Eph. 4:30 "...sealed unto the day of redemption."

B. Assurance

1. 1 Tim. 1:12 “...persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
 2. Phil. 1:6 “Being confident...that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ”
- V. I believe that God regenerates the believer and reconciles us to Himself as well as adopts him into a spiritual family.
- A. Regeneration
1. Col. 2:13 “And you...hath he quickened...”
 2. Eph. 2:1 “And you hath he quickened...”
- B. Reconciliation
1. 2. Cor. 5:18 “...who hath reconciled us...”
 2. Heb. 2:17 “...to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”
- C. Adoption
1. Eph. 1:5 “...unto the adoption of children...”
 2. Rom. 8:15 “...ye have received the Spirit of adoption...”
- VI. I believe that the believer is elect by God before the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God.
- A. 1 Pet. 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...”
- B. Rom. 8:33 “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?...”
- VII. I believe that Christ’s atonement is a blood atonement, an unlimited atonement, and a substitutionary atonement. It is the blood of Christ that grants the individual forgiveness.
- A. A blood atonement
1. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood...”
 2. Heb. 9:22 “...without the shedding of blood there is no remission.”
- B. An unlimited atonement

1. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation...for the sins of the whole world.”

2. 2 Cor. 5:15 “...he died for all...”

C. A substitutionary atonement

1. 1 Pet. 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...”

2. Is. 53:5 “He was wounded for our transgressions...”

ECCLESIOLOGY

I believe that the Church, beginning at Pentecost, is the called out body of believers, separate from the world, also called the body, or bride, of Christ. The local church is a local body of believers, while the universal Church simply refers to all the saved of this present age (in no way implying an organizational structure). The Church is distinct from Israel. I believe that the Baptist distinctives accurately portray the biblical model of the church. The church is to operate democratically, and must discipline blatantly disobedient members. The Church has been given the Great Commission, and the Church is to be given to doctrine and fellowship.

I. I believe that the Church, beginning at Pentecost, is the called out body of believers, separate from the world, also called the body, or bride, of Christ.

A. Began at Pentecost

1. Acts 2:1 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...”
2. Mat. 16:18 “...upon this rock will I build my church...”

B. Called out body of believers

1. 1 Pet. 2:9 “...called you out of darkness...”
2. 2 Cor. 6:17 “...come out from among them...”

C. Body of Christ

1. 1 Cor. 12:27 “Now ye are the body of Christ...”
2. Rom. 12:5 “So we...are one body in Christ...”

D. Bride of Christ

1. Rev. 21:9 “...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.”
2. Eph. 5:25 “...love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”

II. I believe that the local church is a local body of believers, while the universal Church simply refers to all the saved of this present age (in no way implying an organizational structure). The Church is distinct from Israel.

A. Local church

1. Rom. 16:1 “...the church which is at Cenchrea...”

2. Gal. 1:2 "...unto the churches of Galatia."

B. Universal Church

1. Mat. 16:18 "...will I build my church..."
2. Eph. 5:23 "...even as Christ is the head of the church..."

C. Distinct from Israel

1. Rom. 11:19 "...The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in."
2. Acts 1:6 "...Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

III. I believe that the Baptist distinctives accurately portray the biblical model of the church. The church is to operate democratically, and must discipline blatantly disobedient members.

A. Baptist distinctives

1. Bible authority
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 3:14 "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man..."
 - b. Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God of is quick..."
2. Autonomy of the local church
 - a. Eph. 5:23 "...Christ is the head of the church"
 - b. 2 Cor. 1:1 "...the church of God which is at Corinth..."
3. Saved church membership
 - a. Acts 2:41 "...they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls."
 - b. Phil. 1:1 "...to all the saints in Christ..."
4. Two ordinances

a. Baptism

- 1) Mat. 28:19 "...baptizing them..."
- 2) Mark 16:16 "...he that believeth and is baptized..."

b. Lord's supper

- 1) 1 Cor. 11:28 "...let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."
- 2) Mat. 26:26 "...take, eat, this is my body."

5. Two offices

a. Pastor/Elder/Bishop

- 1) 1 Tim. 3:1 "If any man desire the office of a bishop..."
- 2) Titus 1:5 "...and ordain elders in every city..."

b. Deacon

- 1) 1 Tim. 3:8 "Likewise must the deacons..."
- 2) Phil. 1:1 "...with the bishops and deacons."

B. Democratic

1. Acts 15:22 "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church..."
2. Mat. 18:17 "...tell it unto the church..."

C. Discipline

1. 1 Cor. 5:13 "...put away from among yourselves that wicked person."
2. Rom. 16:17 "...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

IV. I believe that the Church has been given the Great Commission, and it is to be given to doctrine and fellowship.

A. Great Commission

1. Mat. 28:19 “Go ye...”
2. Acts 1:8 “...ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

B. Doctrine and fellowship

1. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship...”
2. Titus 2:1 “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine...”

ANGELOLOGY

I believe that angels were created on the first day of creation. Angels are spirits that are able to assume a physical form. Fallen angels rebelled against God and are known as devils or demons. Demons are able to possess unbelievers because they do not have the indwelling Spirit of God. Jesus, His apostles, and those working directly under the authority of the apostles are able to cast them out. Fallen angels are doomed to spend eternity in hell. Satan, or the Devil, is God's chief adversary. He fell from glory and his plan is to destroy believers and to keep the unsaved from receiving Christ. He too will find his end in hell. There are also unfallen angels which are referred to as the angels of God, who function as messengers and as ministers to believers, cherubim, and seraphim. Michael is the archangel.

- I. I believe that the angels were created on the first day of creation.
 - A. Gen. 1:1 "...God created the heaven and the earth."
 - B. Job. 38:4, 7 "...when I laid the foundation of the earth..." "When the morning stars sang together..."
- II. I believe that angels are spirits.
 - A. Heb. 1:7 "...who maketh his angels spirits..."
 - B. Acts 23:9 "...if a spirit or an angel hath spoken unto him..."
- III. I believe that angels are able to assume a physical form.
 - A. Exodus 3:2 "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him..."
 - B. Luke 1:11 "And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord..."
- IV. I believe in fallen angels.
 - A. Their fall
 1. Is. 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer..."
 2. Jude 6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate..."
 - B. Possession of unbelievers
 1. John 13:27 "...Satan entered into him..."

2. Matt. 9:32 "...they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil."

C. Exorcism by Jesus, the apostles, and those working directly under their authority

1. Mat. 17:18 "And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him..."
2. Mark 3:14-15 "And he ordained twelve...to cast out devils..."

D. Their Future

1. Jude 6 "...he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."
2. Mat. 25:41 "...everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

V. I believe that Satan, a fallen angel, is God's chief adversary.

A. His Fall

1. Is. 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer..."
2. Luke 10:18 "...I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven [not his original fall]."

B. His Plan

1. To destroy believers
 - a. I Pet. 5:8 "...seeking whom he may devour."
 - b. Luke 22:31 "...Satan hath desired to have you..."
2. To prevent unbelievers from receiving Christ
 - a. Mark 4:15 "...Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word..."
 - b. Rev. 12:9 "...Satan, which deceiveth the whole world..."

VI. I believe in unfallen angels

A. Angels of God

1. messengers

- a. Mat. 1:20 "...the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying..."
- b. Rev. 5:2 "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice..."

2. ministers

- a. Heb. 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits...?"
- b. Mark 1:13 "Angels ministered unto him..."

B. Cherubim

1. Gen. 3:24 "...he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims..."
2. Ezek. 10:3 "Now the cherubims stood..."

C. Seraphim

1. Is. 6:2 "Above it stood the seraphims..."
2. Rev. 4:8 "And the four beasts had each of them six wings..."

D. Michael, the archangel

1. Jude 9 "...Michael the archangel..."
2. 1 Thess. 4:16 "...the voice of the archangel..."

ESCHATOLOGY

I believe in the pre-tribulational Rapture of the Church. This event will be followed by the Great Tribulation, also called the Time of Jacob's Trouble, consisting of the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vials. Antichrist, also called the "beast," will reign during this seven year period until the second coming of Christ. When Christ returns, He will set up His millennial kingdom on earth. The unsaved will be judged at The Great White Throne, while believers will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, where rewards and crowns will be given. Every human soul will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.

I. I believe in the pre-tribulational Rapture of the Church.

A. Rapture of the Church

1. 1 Thess. 4:17 "...caught up together with them..."
2. Rev. 4:1 "...come up hither..."

B. Pre-tribulational (4 reasons)

1. The Church will be removed before the 70th week of Daniel.
 - Dan. 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people [Israel]..."
2. Church age believers will not experience the wrath of God.
 - a. Rom. 5:9 "...we shall be saved from wrath..."
 - b. Rev. 3:10 "...I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation..."
3. The removal of the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Church must be removed before the Antichrist will appear.
 - 2 Thess 2:7 "...he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way."
4. The word "church" is not mentioned in Revelation 4-20.

II. I believe in the seven year period known as the Great Tribulation, also know as the Time of Jacob's Trouble, consisting of the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vials.

A. The Great Tribulation or the Time of Jacob's Trouble

1. Mat. 24:21 "For then shall be great tribulation..."

2. Jer. 30:7 "...it is even the time of Jacob's trouble..."

B. 7 seals, trumpets, and vials

1. Rev. 5:1 "And I saw...a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals."

2. Rev. 8:6 "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."

3. Rev. 17:1 "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials..."

III. I believe that the Antichrist, also called the "beast," will reign during the Tribulation until the second coming of Christ.

A. I John 2:18 "...antichrist shall come..."

B. Rev. 6:2 "And I saw, and behold a white horse..."

IV. I believe that when Christ returns, He will set up His millennial kingdom on earth.

A. The Second Coming

1. Acts 1:11 "...Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

2. Rev. 19:11 "...he...was called Faithful and True..."

B. Millennial Kingdom of Christ

1. Rev. 20:4 "...and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

2. Jer. 23:5 "...I will raise unto David a righteous branch..."

V. I believe that the unsaved will be judged at The Great White Throne, while believers will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, where rewards and crowns will be given.

A. The Great White Throne

1. Rev. 20:11 "And I saw a great white throne..."

2. Dan. 7:10 "...the judgment was set..."

B. The Judgment Seat of Christ

1. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...”
2. Rom. 14:12 “...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”

C. Rewards and crowns at the Judgment Seat of Christ

1. Rewards

- a. 1 Cor. 3:8 “...every man shall receive his own reward...”
- b. Mat. 5:12 “...great is your reward in heaven...”

2. Crowns

- a. 1 Thess. 2:19 “crown of rejoicing”
- b. 2 Tim. 4:8 “crown of righteousness”
- c. James 1:12 “crown of life”
- d. 1 Pet. 5:4 “crown of glory”

VI. I believe that every human soul will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.

A. Heaven

1. For believers

- a. John 3:16 “...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- b. John 14:2 “...I go to prepare a place for you.”

2. Eternal

- a. Rev. 22:5 “...they shall reign for ever and ever.”
- b. 1 Thess. 4:17 “...so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

3. With the Lord

- a. John 14:3 “...where I am, there ye may be also.”
- b. 1 Thess. 4:17 “...so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

4. Bliss

- a. Rev. 21:4 “And God shall wipe away all tears...”
- b. Rev. 21:4 “...the former things are passed away.”

5. Sinless

- a. Rev. 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth...”
- b. Mat. 5:20 “...Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

B. Hell

1. For the unbelievers

- a. Rev. 21:8 “But the...unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire...”
- b. John 3:18 “...he that believeth not is condemned...”

2. Eternal

- a. Rev. 20:10 “...shall be tormented...for ever...”
- b. Mark 9:45 “...the fire is not quenched.”

3. Separation from God

- a. Mat. 25:41 “...Depart from me...into everlasting fire...”
- b. Mat. 25:32 “...he shall separate them one from another...”

4. Torment

- a. Luke 16:23 “...in hell...being in torments...”
- b. Rev. 20:10 “...tormented day and night...”