

Heritage Baptist Church, Marystown, NL
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. The Inspiration of the Bible

A. We believe the Bible is God's written revelation to man (John 16:12-13). The Holy Spirit guided each human author to write exactly what God wanted without excess or error (Acts 1:16; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21).

B. We believe in the plenary (entire), verbal (every word) inspiration of the 66 books of the Bible (II Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 2:13).

C. We believe the Scriptures are the final authority in all matters of faith and practice for every believer and the local New Testament church (II Timothy 2:15, 3:15-17, 4:2; Titus 1:9; II Peter 1:19).

D. We believe that God has preserved His Word for the English Language in the King James Version of the Bible, and it is the version we use when preaching.

II. The Person of God

A. We believe in one God (Deut. 6:4; I Cor. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5), eternally existing in three distinct Persons (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-19; John 1:1-3; II Cor. 13:14), identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having the same divine attributes, but exercising them in their distinct offices (Gen 1:1-3; John 1:1, 14:7-26, 17:5, 24; Phil. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 4:11).

B. We believe that God is a spirit (John 4:24), eternal (Gen.21:33; Psa. 90:2, 102:27), self-existent (Ex. 3:14), omnipresent (Psa. 139:1-10), omniscient (I John 3:20), omnipotent (Gen. 17:1; Matt. 19:26; Rev. 19:6), and immutable (Mal. 3:6; Jam. 1:17).

C. We believe that God is holy (Lev. 11:45; I Pet. 1:15-16). This attribute is fundamental to the function of all other attributes. Because God is holy

- 1). There is a separation between God and man (Isa. 59:2; Hab. 1:13).
- 2). Man must approach God through Christ (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 10:19; I John 2:1-2).

D. We believe that God created the universe in six literal twenty-four-hour days as recorded in Genesis

E. We believe that God continues to uphold and sustain His creation (Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3).

III. The Person of Christ

A. We believe that Jesus is the second person of the Godhead. The fact that He is God is demonstrated in several ways:

- 1). Christ possesses the attributes of deity:

- a) Eternal (Mic. 5:2; John 1:15, 8:58, 17:5, 24; Col. 1:15)
- b) Omnipresent (Matt. 18:20, 28:20; John 3:13; Eph. 1:23)
- c) Omniscient (John 16:30, 21:17; Col. 2:3)
- d) Omnipotent (Isa. 9:6; John 5:19; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:8)
- e) Immutable (Heb. 1:12, 13:8)

2). Christ fills the offices of deity (John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3,10; II Pet 3:5-7).

3). Christ is identified with Old Testament Jehovah (Psa. 102:24-27; Isa. 6:1-4; Heb. 1:10-12).

B. We believe Jesus is God manifest in the flesh (John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-8; I Tim. 3:16), conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20, 23). The virgin birth allowed Christ to be born without a sin nature and to live a sinless life (II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; I Pet. 2:22).

C. We believe that Jesus Christ died voluntarily as a substitutionary sacrifice for all mankind (Isa. 53:5; Rom. 5:8), shed His blood for the remission of sins (Heb. 9:22), to redeem (Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7), justify (Rom. 5:9), and impute His righteousness to the believer (II Cor. 5:21; I John 2:2). Christ's death was followed by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:9; Luke 24:34-43; I Cor. 15:3-8, 17-19), which assures us of God's acceptance of the full payment for the penalty of sin (Rom. 3:24-25). After the resurrection, Christ ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

D. We believe that Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 10:12), serving as our mediator (I Tim. 2:5) and advocate (I John 2:1-2). We believe that His return for the saints is imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial (I Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 19:11-20:15).

IV. The Person of the Holy Spirit

A. We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity (I Cor. 3:16; Acts 5:3). We believe He is a person, and He is equal in essence to the Father and the Son (John 14:16, 26, 16:12-13). He is eternal (Heb. 9:14), omniscient (John 16:13; I Cor. 2:10-11), omnipotent (Luke 1:35), and omnipresent (Psa. 139:7-10).

B. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the unbeliever of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).

C. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer at the time of conversion includes regeneration (Titus 3:5), baptism into Christ's body (I Cor. 12:13), permanent indwelling (Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:16, 6:19), and the sealing of the believer (Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30). He fills (Gal 5:16, 22-25; Eph. 5:18), teaches (John 14:26; I Cor. 2:12), sanctifies (Rom. 15:16), guides (John 16:12-13), and bestows spiritual gifts for service (I Cor 12:7). We believe the Holy Spirit also provides assurance of salvation (Rom. 8:16), and makes intercession on the behalf of the believer (Rom. 8:26).

V. The Doctrine of Angels

A. We believe that God created angels who are ministering spirits (Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:14). God created them immortal (Luke 20:36), without sin (Gen. 1:31), but with the ability to choose sin (II Pet. 2:4). Angels do not marry (Matt. 22:30).

B. We believe Lucifer was created by God and was God's highest ranking angel (Eze. 28:11-15). Due to pride, Satan sinned and was cast out of Heaven (Isa. 14:12-15; Eze. 28:16). Other angels sinned and were cast into Hell (II Pet. 2:4). Some of these angels are reserved in chains (Jude 6) while other angels serve as agents of Satan (Mark 5:2-5). Satan will be cast into the lake of fire following his final defeat (Rev. 20:9-10).

C. We believe that the angels who did not sin are holy (Mark 8:38), doing God's will (Psa. 103:20-21), and ministering to all believers (Heb. 1:14).

VI. The Fall of Man

A. We believe that Adam was created by a direct act of God, in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27).

B. We believe that Adam, by his own willful disobedience, fell from this state of innocence (Gen. 2:16-17, 3:6; Rom. 5:14, 19). Because of this sin, Adam received a sin nature which has passed to all men (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:12, 18).

C. We believe that all men are under condemnation without excuse (John 3:18; Rom. 1:19-21, 6:23; Rev. 20:14-15).

VII. The Salvation of Sinners

A. We believe that God has provided salvation for all through Christ's finished work on the cross (John 3:16; Rom. 6:23, 10:13; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22; II Pet. 3:9; I John 2:2). We believe salvation is received solely by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Pet. 1:18-19).

B. We believe at the time of salvation the believer receives eternal life (John 10:28; Rom. 6:23), is freed from the penalty of sin (Rom. 5:1, 9), receives a new nature (II Cor. 5:17; II Pet. 1:4), and becomes a child of God (John 1:12; Rom. 5:10; Gal. 4:5-7).

C. We believe in the eternal security of the believer (John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:38-39; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:6; I John 5:13).

D. We believe in the continuing work of sanctification that is to be present in the life of the believer:

1). Positional sanctification - saved from the penalty of sin through Christ (I Cor. 1:30; Heb 10:10, 14, 13:12)

2). Progressive sanctification - given power over sin through the work of the Holy Spirit as He conforms us to the image of Christ (Rom. 6:6-14, 8:13, 29; I Pet. 1:22).

3). Complete or final sanctification - saved from the presence of sin through Christ either at death (Heb. 12:23) or at the Rapture (I John 3:2), at which time believers will receive a glorified body (Phil. 3:21).

VIII. The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell

A. We believe in a literal heaven in which Christ is preparing a place for all believers (John 14:1-3), and is at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 8:1, 10:12). We believe that heaven is a place of eternal joy in the presence of God (II Cor. 5:8; Rev. 21:1-22:5).

B. We believe in a literal hell of everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). We believe that upon the death of an unbeliever his soul enters hell and exists in conscious torment until the second resurrection (Luke 16:22-24). At that time they will be judged at the great white throne and cast into the lake of fire to suffer everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; II Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:11-15, 21:8).

IX. The Doctrine of the Church

A. We believe that all New Testament believers from Pentecost until the Rapture constitute the body of Christ (Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:13). This body will be raptured (Eph. 1:10; I Thess. 4:14-17), rewarded (II Cor 5:10), and will celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9).

B. We believe that the only program God has for this age is the local church composed of born again people, who have been immersed upon their profession of faith (Acts 2:41; 8:36-38), uniting for worship, instruction, observance of the two ordinances (Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:11-16), and the world-wide spreading of the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 13:1-3).

C. We believe each church is to be autonomous (Matt. 18:15-17), recognizing Christ as the head (Eph. 1:22, 5:23-24), with only two offices:

1). Pastor (bishop, elder, shepherd) who leads the church (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:1-4) while meeting the qualifications of I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9,

2). Deacons who serve the church (Acts 6:1-6) and fulfill the standards of I Tim. 3:8-11.

D. We believe the church is to observe two ordinances:

1). Believer's baptism,

a). Symbolic identification with Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12),

b). Step of obedience whereby a believer becomes part of a local assembly (Acts 2:41).

2). Lord's Supper,

a) A memorial of the broken body (unleavened bread) and shed blood (unfermented juice) of Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-26),

b) A time of self-examination (I Cor. 11:28-30),

c) Anticipation for the Lord's return (I Cor. 11:26).

E. We believe each church is to be separate from the world (II Cor. 6:14-18), and from those in doctrinal error (Gal. 1:6-9; II John 10). Church discipline is to be administered upon those who do not practise sound doctrine or proper moral conduct (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 6). Discipline is for church purity (Eph. 5:26-27) and personal repentance (I Cor. 5:5; II Tim. 2:25).

X. The Doctrine of Future Events

A. We believe the rapture of the church is the next prophetic event to be fulfilled (I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13). The rapture is imminent, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial (I Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 3:10-11). Christ will return personally (John 14:3) to take the dead in Christ and living saints to meet him in the air (I Thess. 4:16-17), at this time believers will become like Christ (I John 3:2). The saints will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ (I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor 5:10), and then enjoy the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7).

B. We believe that after the rapture of the church the tribulation (Daniel's seventieth week) will start (Dan. 9:24-27). This period will be a time of judgment upon the whole earth in general and Israel in particular. The latter half of this period is known as the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7), which Jesus called the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 6:1). This judgment will turn Israel to the Lord (Rom. 11:25-27).

C. We believe the Second Coming of Christ will end the Tribulation period (Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:29-31). Christ will destroy the armies of the earth (Rev. 19:11-21), an angel will bind Satan for one thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3), Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be resurrected (Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:1-3, 13; Rev. 20:4), Christ will set up His Millennial Kingdom (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 19:11-20:6), and the Old Testament saints, tribulation saints, and the Bride of Christ will reign with Christ (Rev. 20:6). This period is characterized by peace and righteousness (Psa. 72:7; Isa. 55:12-13).

D. Following the Millennium, we believe Satan will be loosed for a season to deceive the nations, will battle God once more, ending with his final defeat as God casts him into the lake of fire forever (Rev. 20:7-10). After this event the unsaved dead will be resurrected to stand before God at the great white throne to be judged. Following their judgment, God will cast them into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15). We believe there will be a new heaven and a new earth for the saved to enjoy eternally with Christ (Rev. 21-22).

