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DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Scripture

The Bible is God's revelation of reality and truth to mankind. All 66 books were written by men but inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). This inspiration was spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:13), verbal (2 Timothy 3:16), and complete (1 Corinthians 2:7-14). While several applications may be given to a particular passage of Scripture, there is only one intended meaning inherent to the text itself. This is best discerned by careful application of the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the illumination of the Holy Spirit (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20).

God

There is one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4). He is an all-powerful (Hebrews 1:3; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26), all-knowing (Psalm 147:5; 1 John 3:20) Creator and King who lives through all, in all, and above all (Ephesians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 11:36). He exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Athanasian Creed articulates Trinitarian doctrine well when it states, "We worship one God in trinity, and trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance."

Man

Mankind was created by God in His image (Genesis 2:7, 15-25; James 3:9) for His glory (Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11). All men are born of Adam and therefore possess a nature that has been corrupted by Adam's sin (except Christ who was born of the Father). Therefore, we are all sinners by nature and by choice (Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18, 23; 5:10-12).

Salvation

Man's salvation is completely dependent upon God's grace through the redemptive work of Christ's death on the cross (John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; 1 John 1:8). Salvation encompasses the calling out of lost sinners from darkness unto light (1 Peter 2:9), supernatural regeneration of the inner man (Titus 3:5; John 5:24), the imputation of sins to Christ (Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24), the imputation of Christ's righteousness to the sinner (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the ability to possess victory over sin (Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:12; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

The Church

Those who have placed their faith in Christ are united by His Spirit into one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) as His bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8). This is the church. It began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47) and will conclude at the coming of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The church exists to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21), reach the world with the gospel (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8), and grow in faith (Ephesians 4:13-16), fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), and instruction (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17).

Angels

Angelic beings were created by God to worship and serve Him (Luke 2:9-14; Hebrews 1:6-7, 14; Revelation 5:11-14). While created higher than man, it is wrong for men to worship angels (Hebrews 2:6-7; Revelation 19:10; 22:9). God alone is worthy of man's worship. The author of sin (Satan) is an angel who rebelled against his Creator (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19) and dragged many of his fellow angels down with him (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:1-14).

Last Things

A bodily resurrection waits for all men. Those who are saved will be raised to eternal life (John 6:39; Romans 8:10-11, 19-23; 2 Corinthians 4:14) and the unsaved will be raised to judgment and eternal punishment (Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:13-15). Before God's judgment falls upon the earth, Jesus will execute a rescue mission (aka Rapture) to remove the church and reunite them with Himself (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5). The judgement (aka Tribulation or Day of the Lord) will last seven years (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16) until the Second Coming and Millennial reign of Christ (Matthew 24:27-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 20:1-7). After a thousand years of peace, the final judgment of the wicked will take place (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:7-15) followed by the eternal establishment of a New Heavens and Earth (Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-22). Scripture's narrative concludes with this statement: "They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5).