

This We Believe



Savior



Healer



Baptizer



Coming King

**The Articles of Faith for
the Foursquare Church**

I. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, perfect, with no mistakes; that God told certain men thousands of years ago what to write in it; that it is there to help us and to show everybody Jesus—the Son of God, the Savior of mankind; that it tells people how to live and be saved.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away
Ps 119:89 Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven

2 Tim 3:16,17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

2 Pet 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



II. The Eternal Godhead

We believe that there is one God, Creator of the universe, eternal, holy, loving, all-powerful, and deserving of our praise and thanks; and that, in the unity of the Godhead, there are three, equal and divine: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

The Father – the King of the universe, full of glory and majesty, whose justice demands that sin be punished, but whose love sent His own Son to take that punishment for us.

The Son – Jesus Christ, who has always been with the Father, who was born to the virgin Mary by the power of God in Israel about 2000 years ago, who taught and healed people, who died on the Cross to take away our sins, who lived again to defeat death, who lives with those who believe in Him and defends them in Heaven.



The Holy Spirit – the Spirit of God, always with the Father and Son, but now also with believers in Christ, sent by Him to guide and help them and also in the world to draw people to God and salvation.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
(Also, Job 38:4-7)

Matt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

1 Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.
(Also, 1 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19; Romans 8:11; John 16:7-14)

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



III. The Fall of Man

We believe that God created the first man and woman—Adam and Eve—in His image, to live in the perfect world that He had created; that Satan, working through the serpent, tempted them to sin; that they made a choice to disobey God, which separated them from Him and put the rest of mankind—descended from them—under the rule of sin and Satan until set free by accepting Jesus as Lord.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Gen 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 3:1-24 "...the serpent deceived me..."

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

(Also, John 3:6; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:15-19; 8:7)

IV. The Plan of Redemption

We believe that, sent by the Father, Jesus Christ the Son freely gave His life in order to rescue human beings from the death and damnation set into effect by Adam and Eve's fall—He took the place of sinners condemned to death; that because He died, we don't have to; that the true believer in Christ is saved and will live forever at the Resurrection.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

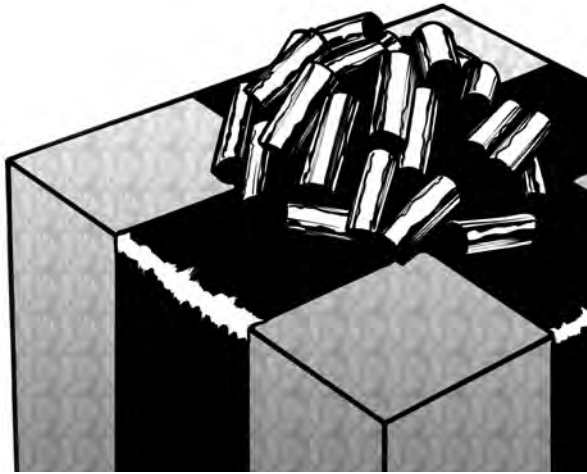
John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Titus 2:14 ...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.



V. Salvation through Grace

We believe that salvation is a gift God freely offers to everyone; that it was paid for by Christ's dying on the Cross; that there is nothing else to do but receive it; that it is a gift of God's grace and cannot be earned by works or through any other means, only received through faith in the Son.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Rom 3:10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one."

Rom 3:23 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Isa 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

John 6:47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VI. Repentance and Acceptance

We believe that repentance—being sorry for the sins we have committed and deciding to turn away from them—is necessary to receive the gift of Salvation (forgiveness and eternal life with God); and that true repentance brings true acceptance from God our Creator.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Rom 5:1,2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Luke 1:77-79 To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

VII. The New Birth

We believe that, when the decision is made to believe in and follow Christ, that a new spirit is given to the new Christian; that the person is changed so much that he is truly a new creation; that the new believer is no longer controlled by bad desires; that he is free to live the godly life his Savior wants him to live.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ps 1:1,2 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

VIII. Daily Christian Life

We believe that, now free from the control of sin and Satan, the believer can and should live a life pleasing to the Lord, growing in the Scripture, leading a life of prayer, love, Christian fellowship, service to others and godly obedience, learning—and teaching—about the Lord, sharing the Good News of Salvation with all, pursuing the holiness of God, walking the straight and narrow, putting on the whole armor of God.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Thes 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality...

1 Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Isa 35:8 A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray.

(Also, 1 Peter 2:2, Eph 6:13-18)

IX. Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that immersion in water is a sign to the world of our new birth; that, just as Christ was placed in the tomb and then came back to life, so too do we consider our old self and nature dead and so are we "buried" in water and come up again to eternal life.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Also, Acts 2:37,38; Galatians 3:27,28)

Rom 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

(Also, Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20,21; Acts 22:16)

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

(Also, Matthew 28:19,20)

(Also, Matthew 3:11,13-17)

We believe in obeying the Lord in His command to "do this in remembrance of me" by eating the bread together, which shows Christ's broken body, and drinking the wine, which reminds of the blood Christ shed for us—both sacrificed in place of ours.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Cor 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Cor 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

(Also, Luke 22:17-22)

X. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is God filling a believer with spiritual power for service; that, in answer to prayer and a sincere desire, the Holy Spirit will fall powerfully upon a believer for the purpose of prayer, healing, witnessing, and more—all to the glory of God and to save souls.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 14:16,17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Acts 1:5,8 ...for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-46 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?





XI. The Spirit-Filled Life

We believe that, while the Holy Spirit is as a mighty rushing wind, the Spirit is also like a gentle dove, easily grieved by sinful talk or action; that the Spirit is pleased by one walking in righteousness, godliness, and obedience; and that a Spirit-filled life may be seen by the fruit of the Spirit in that life—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Eph 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Eph 6:18 ...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...

Rom 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Jn 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Gal 5:16,25 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

1 Cor 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Gal 5:22,23,25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

XII. The Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that, according to the will of God and the faith and need of each person, the Holy Spirit gives these gifts: the message of wisdom, the message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues—and that these gifts are as available today as they were for the early Church.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Cor 12:1,31 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: But earnestly desire the best gifts.

1 Cor 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Cor 14:12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Rom 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

XIII. Moderation

We believe that the moderation—*balanced* living—of a believer should be obvious to all; that a believer should never get lost in extremes or fanaticism; that the Christian walk should be stable and mature, never rude or arrogant, always gentle and humble, merciful and kind; that the Christian should act as Christ would act.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

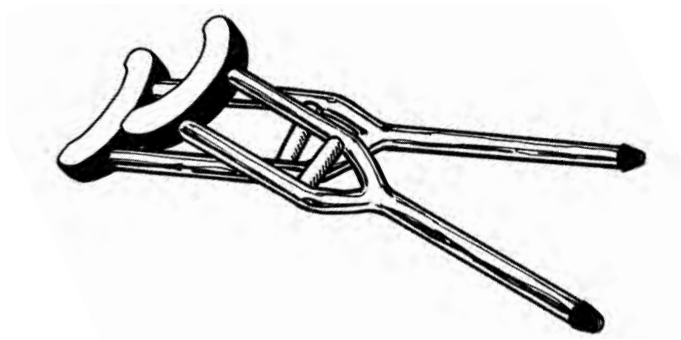
Eph 4:14,15 ...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...

1 Cor 13:5 ...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil...

Col 3:12,13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

XIV. Divine Healing

We believe that, even as He was willing and able to heal those He came across as he walked Israel 2000 years ago, Christ is still willing and able to heal today; that He is willing and able to heal those who need healing of the mind, body, or spirit; that such healing may come through prayer, the anointing with oil by the elders of a church, or a spiritual gifting.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matt 8:17 ...that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

Matt 9:5 For which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Arise and walk"?

Mark 16:17,18 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Acts 4:29,30 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.

James 5:14-16 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

XV. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in and wait for the day of the Lord's return; that His return may be today, but—if it isn't—that the work of the Lord should continue and be planned for; that when He returns, the dead in Christ shall rise first, then those who are left shall join them in the clouds.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Thes 4:16,17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Titus 2:12,13 ...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Matt 24:36,42,44 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Heb 9:28 ...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Luke 19:13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business till I come."

Luke 12:35-37 Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding; that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

XVI. Church Relationship

We believe that it is the duty, honor, and joy of every believer in Christ to regularly join with other believers, that they might strengthen each other, that they might praise and sing to the Lord together for his joy, that they may join their efforts and resources (money, time, etc.) together to better proclaim the Gospel to the lost, that they might be with their Lord for “wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name, I will be there.”



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Ps 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Heb 10:24,25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:47 ...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 16:5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Rom 12:5 ...so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (Also, Romans 12:6-8)

Mal 3:16,17 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name. “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”

XVII. Civil Government

We believe that government has been put in place by God for the interests and good of all people, for our God is not a god of confusion or lawlessness; that laws should be obeyed; that those in government office should be upheld and prayed for at all times except in those things which are contrary to, or against, the will of God; that Jesus is the true King and that all other rulers reign far beneath Him and only as He allows.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Rom 13:1,3 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

(Also, Deuteronomy 15:18; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-23; Jeremiah 30:21)

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Matt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

(Also, Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20)

Rev 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

(Also, Psalms 72:11; Romans 14:9-13)

XVIII. Judgment

We believe that the dead—both good and bad—shall be raised up and stand before the Lord for judgment; that those who trusted in Jesus shall be granted eternal life and enter the presence of their Lord, but that those who did not believe in Him shall be cast out from the presence of God and be thrown into the lake of fire forever.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Matt 13:41-43 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Rev. 20:14,15 Then Death and Hell were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

XIX. Heaven

We believe that Heaven is a real place where God lives with His angels and Living Creatures praise Him all day long; where His saints—believers in Christ—shall stand before their Lord sinless and blameless; where there is no sorrow, tears, pain, or death.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."



John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Rev 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Rev 7:15-17 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

XX. Hell

We believe that Hell also is a real place, a place of torment and separation from God, prepared for the devil and his angels; and that there is a lake of fire where all those who have rejected the sacrifice of the Savior and Redeemer shall be cast.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matt 13:41,42 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Rev 20:10,15 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 14:10,11 ...he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Matt 25:41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels..."

Mark 9:43,44 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where "Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."

Ezek 33:11 Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?"



XXI. Evangelism

We believe that, as the time of our Lord's return draws closer, the Church should work even harder to reach all the peoples of the world with the saving message of the Gospel; that resources of the Church should be put aside for the cause of evangelism.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

2 Tim 4:1,2 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Eph 5:16 ...redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

James 5:20 ...let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Ezek 3:17,18 Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

John 4:35-37 Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest"? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: "One sows and another reaps."

Matt 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

XXII. Tithing and Offerings

We believe that the practice of tithing—the giving of ten percent to the church—will be honored by the Lord; that the giving of free will offerings will also be blessed by God; and that these should be given cheerfully and that everyone should give as they have decided in their heart to give.



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Cor 16:1,2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Mal. 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test me in this...

2 Cor 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.