

God's Word Reveals....[©]

An Apologetic Belief Statement¹ of the ministry Paraclete Press Research Service, Inc.

The Bible

God's singular written revelation to man is the Scriptures identified as the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments; this divinely inspired revelation is inerrant in the plenary, original autographs. Given by verbal transmission through men chosen by God, this Scripture eternally exists, being spiritually revealed, preserved and guarded, and not by human agent. Divine revelation is complete; no agent is authorized to add to or delete any truth; extra-biblical works claimed as divine are Gnostic, peripheral to received revelation. Divine necessity views accurate interpretation based on literal, grammatical and historical hermeneutics. The Bible is self-authoritative and self explaining. All basis for faith and practice is revealed in the codified canon and is all sufficient for power and testimony in the life of a believer.

The Godhead

God's Word reveals there is One True, Living and Eternal God in three personalities: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, co-equal, all mutually submitted in their self-sufficient and unified identity. The Godhead is all loving, all perfect, all holy, sovereign in will and authority, with attributes of omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence. God the Creator exists external to His creation; no created being attains divine identity, status, power or authority. Man cannot fully know the Godhead.

Jesus Christ

God's Word reveals there is only One Name under heaven and earth by which man is saved. Jesus Christ, the second member of the Godhead is God incarnate, secretly conceived in human flesh by the volitional work of the Holy Spirit; was born of a virgin Jewess; though living a sinless life was made sin and was sacrificed as the perfect, holy Pascal Lamb; was crucified according to prophecy; buried as a pauper, He was dead three days and three nights in the grave; by Holy Spirit power He is raised to life, ascending to heaven after 40 days, and now intercedes on the right hand of God, the Father. Christ Jesus awaits His Father's direction to fetch His Body to consummate His marriage to His chaste Bride. Christ Jesus is Priest, Prophet and King and is the One and Only Lord and Savior forever.

¹ The entire Bible is the Scriptural basis for this Statement. Hundreds of possible verses collectively prove the doctrine outlined by this Statement. The reader is encouraged to research specific texts that teach these truths.

The Holy Spirit

God's Word reveals the Holy Spirit is the third member of the Triune Godhead; is a person, not a force or energy; is sent by God, the Son to comfort and minister to Christ's flock in His absence. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The Spirit is grieved, quenched and resisted by sinful man; Blaspheming the Spirit is the unpardonable sin, which is refusal to receive His work of regeneration. At the moment of salvation the Spirit seals a redeemed soul, indwelling each believer for a life of fruitful victory and good works that glorify God and benefit men. The Spirit imparts gifts and stewardships individually to members of Christ's Body, producing fruit in the life of the submitted believer. Some spiritual gifts were temporary signs to unbelieving Jews, and ceased with the closing of the canon. God, the Holy Spirit subsumes His glory in the greater glory of God, the Son. No man can harness the Spirit; The Spirit does not seek or receive adoration by man.

Angels

God's Word reveals angels are created beings, made in eternity past to glorify the Godhead; Created to be loyal to their Maker, faithful angels are God's messengers on earth; they remain in the service of the Godhead; are known to do good works for the benefit of man but cannot be known by man. An unknown number rebelled with Satan against God in eternity past; fallen angels (demons) are in constant rebellion against God, causing much anguish for God's supreme Creation, man. Spiritual warfare between fallen and faithful angels continues until Christ subdues all rebellion. The initiator of rebellion, Lucifer, angel of false light, is limited in power and will come to his end in the Lake of Fire with all other demons, to experience everlasting, just punishment for crimes against God and man.

The Creation

God's Word reveals He is the Maker of all things, creating all material and non-material existence out of nothing, *ex nihilo*, in six literal days about 6,000 years ago; Creation is a single, unbroken work, as described in Genesis, with no gap in time. All creation groans under the burden of sin, awaiting the Millennial redemption of all things. The Designer is not an impersonal force envisioned by Intelligence Theory. Life is unique to the earth; no evidence supports the error that God used evolution to create life.

Evil and Sin

God's Word reveals evil entered the creation when Satan rebelled against his Maker, to this day causing every imagined and willfully committed sin. Sin was judged at the global flood, only to burgeon again at Babel. Man is

conceived in sin and enters life a child of the devil; The arch enemy of man, Satan, is the ruler of the world, but only for a season. By indwelling of the Holy Spirit, man is able to resist Satan's temptation, only imperfectly until redemption. Satan's only purpose and vocation is to steal, kill and destroy.

Salvation

God's Word reveals man is born depraved and must be declared righteous in order to pass into eternity a friend of God. In every age this befriending is by grace, manifest in redeemed souls in every dispensation. In this age individual souls are spiritually added to Christ's body as they are convicted by the Holy Spirit of their abject lost state, receiving in place of their just punishment the exonerating, substitute death of Christ as their complete and only justification before God the Father. God's righteousness is imputed to a redeemed soul when that one hears, believes and receives the good news of the gospel of Christ, vicariously experiencing the fact of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, effectively dying with Him. By the work of the Holy Spirit, the irrevocable gift of salvation grants a saved soul immediate eternal security and begins in that life the Spirit's ongoing work of sanctification. No salvation is given in purgatory or soul transmigration.

Israel

The physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the chosen nation, divinely called out of pagan culture by God the Father to be a separated people for God's Glory and benefiting the whole world; God has not forsaken His Chosen People; the Church has not superseded her in God's eternal plan. Israel is bound to divine relationship in unconditional covenant. Returning to their God-ordained and eternally-deeded land in Judea and Samaria, Jews are unconverted, continuing in unbelief, save a small remnant of followers of Yeshua HaMashiach. The people through which the world received divine revelation, the Messiah, and redemption, national Israel is yet to be redeemed at the end of Jacob's trouble; one third remaining world Jewry will call upon Him whom they pierced, receiving prophesied collective national salvation. Covenant promises to Israel of seed, land and blessing are fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ Jesus.

The Church

God's Word reveals One New Man, converted Jew and Gentile, equal members of Christ's spiritual, heavenly Body, obeying the command to be saved. These are born again according to John 3:3,5 and 7. In the present dispensation, the age of the church, the unique expression of God's grace is Christ's body; the mystery of the redeemed church is unrevealed in the Old Testament. Born at Pentecost, the church is complete at the pre-

tribulation translation of the saints. Identity and purpose of the spiritual Body of Christ (the confessing church) is not identical to the visible and professing church, i.e., those who profess Christ but who may not be born again. Body identity and purpose is not interpreted by post-biblical history, affirmed by early "church fathers", defined by Constantinian catholicity or redefined / undefined as emergent. Instead she is Christcentric in being and nature. Body life is experienced and sanctified in Holy Spirit led prayer, sacramental observance, worship, study of the Bible, fellowship, discipleship and evangelism. These are not conducted by volitional human effort. This contrasts with function or form claimed to produce sanctification using any business growth model, psychology, charismata, or mysticism. It is the privilege and duty of Christ's body to make public profession of faith in water baptism and to corporately commemorate Christ's death at the Lord's table. Christ's body is called to spread the good seed, witness for faith in Christ, taking the gospel to the Jew first. Christ's Body is holy and united in Him and cannot be divided by the denominations formed by man. Christ's Body endures until she is rescued before Tribulation terror comes to earth, resurrected to eternal life and marriage as Christ's chaste Bride. All predestination is only to heaven; no man is predestined to hell.

Prophecy

God's Word reveals prophecy is both fulfilled and unfulfilled. Every prophetic claim of Christ Jesus' first coming is fulfilled, providing sufficient reason to believe every prophecy of His Second Coming. The central character of prophecy is the nation of Israel, her unique relationship with, and eventual salvation in Christ Jesus. The next event on the prophetic calendar is the translation of Christ's Body as His Bride, followed by Tribulation and Jacob's Trouble that will reveal the Man of Sin, his tyranny over the whole world, and his temporary feigned regard for Israel. 2 Tim 2:9-12 reveals those previously hearing but rejecting the gospel will remain on earth after the Bride is removed, receiving strong delusion from God, leading to their destruction by faith in the false Christ. The rapture does not coincide with Christ's second coming; the coming Kingdom is not now; Christ is not now on David's throne. All nations are summarily judged during the Tribulation, at the end of which Christ returns to avert total world destruction. Tribulation saints are previously un-evangelized souls saved under the preaching of 144,000 Jewish missionaries. Simultaneous with Tribulation on earth, Christ judges His Bride in Heaven for their works done in the body, with crown rewards granted for pure works, His Bride offering crowns to Him for His glory. The resurrected and perfect Body and Bride return to earth with her Bridegroom at the end of the seven years as He commences a literal thousand year reign on the earth, marked by His

universal and sovereign Lordship on the Throne of David. Creation's curse is lifted as Satan is bound, only to be let out of chains for a last expression of rebellion before being cast into hell along with all demons and lost souls.

Eternity

God's Word reveals that when time is no more His plan for the earth and man are complete, all souls being divided between those saved for eternity and those lost for eternity; when judgment, both positive and negative, is justly and righteously meted out to each soul. In eternity God purges and refashions His prior Creation, making a new heaven and a new earth. Sin, death and the grave are no more, redeemed man finally free of bondage.

Dispensations and Covenants

God's Word reveals He determines distinct dispensations or ages to mark the temporal state. "...the dispensations are stewardships by which God administers His purpose on earth through man by varying responsibilities;... they are chronologically successive;...they are not ways of salvation nor different methods of the administration of the Covenant of Grace but are a test of man's submission to God based on progressive revelation;... they are a necessary view of Scripture based on [1] literal interpretation, [2] a consistent distinction of Israel and the Church, ...[3] the ultimate purpose of God is His own glorification; [Ages] are not different ways of salvation but in every dispensation the basis of salvation [is] always the blood of Christ, the means of salvation [is] always by grace through faith, the object of faith [is] always God, but the content of faith chang[es] in different dispensations dependent upon progressive revelation."² All enduring covenants are made with Israel, though benefiting all.

False Teaching

God's Word reveals false teaching is used by the adversary to attack man, starting with Eve and enduring through this age in certain heresies and lies. Contradictory and false teachings present as evidence for ecumenical unity, calling for tolerance to determine common ground among diverse groups claiming faith. Yet the Spiritually sealed, eternal, unique Body of Christ consists only in globally dispersed believers, and all in Christ who are absent from the Body. This identity excludes inclusive models claiming universal salvation based on voluntary participation in religious or spiritual activity. Berean believers are called to expose and refute false teachings that continue to morph and change as Satan anticipates the end of the age.

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