



CALVARY CHAPEL  
CHINO HILLS

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

4201 Eucalyptus Avenue • Chino, California 91710  
909/393-7100 • 909/393-4065 fax • [www.calvarycch.org](http://www.calvarycch.org)

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

We offer Children's Ministry classes that include age-appropriate curriculum for children 3 years of age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade at all Sunday morning services and on Wednesday evenings.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS' MINISTRY**

We provide Special Needs' classes Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for ages 2 through 18 years of age. In addition, we offer an Adults with Disabilities class for adults with special needs on Sundays at 10:00AM and Wednesdays at 7PM.

### **JR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES**

Our Jr High and High School Ministries meet at 10:00AM and 12:30PM on Sundays and Wednesday nights at 7PM.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE MAIN SANCTUARY**

Our Children's Ministry and Nursery care programs are designed to minister to the children at their age level. We encourage all parents to take advantage of these ministries that we created and specially prepared for your child. We wouldn't want to rob your child of the opportunity of hearing and seeing God's Word in action in their very own age-appropriate setting. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you place your children into their appropriate classes so they will benefit from the Children's Ministry program and not be a distraction or hindrance to God's Word being taught in the main sanctuary. Our desire is to provide a quiet and distraction-free environment to enable everyone present to worship the Lord, hear God's message clearly, and to respond if an invitation is given.

If your child(ren) must accompany you into service, we ask that you observe the following guidelines:

*If your child(ren) are 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, we ask that you please sit in the Family Section of the sanctuary. An usher will be happy to direct you.*

*If your child(ren) are 5<sup>th</sup> through Jr High, we ask that you please have your children sit with you during the worship service and teaching.*

# CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**“Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me” (Mark 9:36-37).**

At Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, we realize the future will one day be in our children’s hands. We want to do all we can to encourage and equip the children in our church to walk with God, both now and throughout their adulthood.

As a church that loves children, we place a high priority on providing a loving, relaxing and clean environment for your children. The goal of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills Children’s Ministry is to attract children and help their families in laying a foundation of biblical truth and encourage them to surrender their lives to God. We pray that your child’s experience with us is “the best hour” of their week.

Our well-rounded curriculum and activities are geared to minister to children’s needs, to help them grow into a functional member of the body of Christ. In addition to Children’s Ministry, we offer camps, vacation bible school and a variety of other activities and learning opportunities for children of all ages.

### NURSING MOTHER’S ROOM

We provided a soundproof, private room for nursing mothers who would like to hear and observe services in the Main Sanctuary. Located at the southwest corner of the sanctuary, you may enter the **Nursing Mother’s** Room from the outer hallway. Our Bride’s Room is reserved for nursing mothers and their infants only. Husbands and siblings are not permitted in the **Nursing Mother’s** Room and are encouraged to find the age-appropriate class in our Children’s Ministries.

### NURSERY CARE

We provide nursery care for children, birth to two years old, with a ratio of one worker caring for every four children.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue your walk with Jesus. It is my hope that you will abound in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. It is my personal belief that the coming of the Lord is so very close and it is that blessed hope of seeing Him soon that compels us to seek His will for our lives in these last days.

The Lord calls us to be involved in the study of His Word (2 Timothy 2:15), to be in prayer for one another (Philippians 1:9) and to be in fellowship one with another (Hebrews 10:25).

If we can be of any help in leading you along in your commitment to Christ, we would be delighted to assist.

Please visit our church website at [www.calvarycch.org](http://www.calvarycch.org) to find out more about the various ministries here at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills. For more information about our Real Radio program, please visit [www.realradioactive.org](http://www.realradioactive.org).

In Him,  
*Pastor Jack*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement of Faith	Page 2
Jesus Christ	Page 4
Is Jesus God?	Page 6
The Church	Page 10
The Bible	Page 12
Water Baptism	Page 14
The Trinity	Page 16
Giving & Tithing	Page 18
Worship	Page 20
Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Page 22
Communion	Page 24
Baby Dedications	Page 26
Children in the Church	Page 28

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**WE BELIEVE** that the Bible is inspired by God in its entirety, and is without error in the original autographs, a complete and final written revelation from God. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:21)

**WE BELIEVE** that there is only one God, who is eternal and immutable, and manifests Himself in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30)

**WE BELIEVE** that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah (John 1:36-42), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35), totally without sin (Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26), God in human flesh (John 1:1 & 14, John 20:28) the One Who died on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), was buried (John 19:40-42), rose again from the dead on the third day (John 2:19), and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, where He now intercedes for us who believe in Him. (Mark 16:19, Acts 7:56, 1 Timothy 2:5)

**WE BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ is going to return in the clouds for His church before the tribulation that is coming upon the whole earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and that He will return with His saints and all His holy angels to the earth at the end of the tribulation, and set up His kingdom on earth, ruling and reigning forever and ever. (Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:13)

**WE BELIEVE** that all humanity is lost and born with a sinful nature, and can only be saved by a personal faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and not by any human merit or performance. (John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5)

**WE BELIEVE** in a real/literal devil, called Satan, who, along with all his fallen angels, demons, and evil spirits, are destined to spend eternity in hell, and now seek to deceive the world, defeat the believers, and destroy the work of God, but can be resisted by believers, who are protected by God, the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. (Genesis 3:1, Job 1:6-12, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 22:31-32, 1 John 4:4, Revelation 20:10)

We here at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills take baby dedications very seriously. We have reserved them for married or single heterosexual parents only, as prescribed in the Holy Bible and as recognized by Calvary Chapel Chino Hills. If you choose to have your child dedicated, you are hereby agreeing that your marriage and or lifestyle are in full agreement with the Bible. Single parents who dedicate their children may not have their boyfriends or girlfriends with them on the stage.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CHRISTIAN PARENT

Christian parents are to do all they can do to “set apart” their child to God until that child can make his or her own choice regarding a relationship with Jesus Christ. By dedicating a child to the Lord, parents make a vow to raise their child in God’s ways and not their own. They commit themselves to this promise and must do all they can do to keep it.

The responsibilities God has entrusted to Christian parents include continuously praying for their children (Job 1:5), instructing them in the way of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6), setting a godly example (Proverbs 20:7), and disciplining them as the Lord would discipline us (Proverbs 29:15, 17; 13:24). These responsibilities can only be fulfilled in Christ’s strength (Philippians 4:13).

As a parent, your devotion to God, or lack of it, will make a resounding impression on the next generation. May your legacy be a godly one.

# BABY DEDICATIONS

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14).**

### CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE

The Bible says that children are a heritage and a reward from the Lord (Psalm 127:3). God has given Christian parents the tremendous responsibility of raising their children in the ways of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). He entrusts parents with the responsibility of establishing a foundation built upon Jesus Christ early in the lives of their children.

### WHY CHILDREN SHOULD BE DEDICATED

In view of this responsibility, baby dedications are actually “family dedications.” The entire family needs to be lifted up in prayer so that family members will be empowered to keep their responsibilities.

The Bible gives us an example of dedicating a child to the Lord through the account of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:11, 26-28. Unable to have children, Hannah wept before the Lord because of her condition. As she was weeping, she made a vow to God and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, THEN I WILL GIVE HIM TO THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE...” (1 Samuel 1:11, emphasis added).

God honored Hannah’s request and gave her a son named Samuel. Hannah kept her vow and dedicated (which means “to set apart”) Samuel to the Lord.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR DEDICATION

To dedicate a child to the Lord is to make a vow to completely submit your child to the will of God and raise that child in the ways of the Lord.

**WE BELIEVE** that heaven is a real place where the saved will dwell forever, and that hell is a literal place of torment where unbelievers will suffer forever. (John 14:1-3, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:5)

**WE BELIEVE** that genuine believers are born again by the Holy Spirit of God, and are indwelt, baptized into the body of Christ, the true church, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and thus, unable to be separated from the love of Jesus Christ. (John 3:1-6, Acts 1:4-5, Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 1:13-14)

**WE BELIEVE** that all believers need to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live godly lives and to be bold in our witness for the Lord. (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18)

**WE BELIEVE** in the spiritual unity of all genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ which is manifested by the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence through His love. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:8 -12)

**WE BELIEVE** that the nation of Israel has a special place in God's plan, and that all of the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled both now and in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in His millennium. (Genesis 12:3, Psalm 122:1)

**WE BELIEVE** the human race was created as male and female by a direct act of God to fully reveal His image. (Genesis 1:26-28)

**WE BELIEVE** marriage is a sacred covenantal union between a man and a woman that limits sexual relations to monogamous, heterosexual marriage. (Genesis 2:24)

**WE BELIEVE** that the solemnizing of a marriage is a sacred and profound event that shall be entered into only where the proposed covenantal union is in compliance with the Word of God. (Genesis 4:1)

**WE BELIEVE** that the solemnizing of a marriage between men and women of the same sex is contrary to the Word of God and is a sin before God. (Romans 1:21-27)

# **JESUS CHRIST**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus asked the question, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Matthew 22:42). A person’s answer to that question can determine his or her eternal destiny.

### **JESUS’ PREEXISTENCE**

The Apostle John declares Jesus’ preexistence in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus says He is “the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End” (Revelation 1:8). Jesus reigns eternally (Hebrews 1:8), and He exists before all things (Colossians 1:17).

### **JESUS’ DEITY**

Jesus did not become God, He always has been God, and is the second member of the Trinity (also see: “The Trinity”). Referring to His deity, Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). The preexistence of Jesus Christ and the deity of Jesus Christ are inseparable. You cannot accept one and deny the other.

### **JESUS’ INCARNATION**

The word incarnation means “in flesh.” It denotes the act in which the Son of God took to Himself the nature of humanity through the virgin birth (Matthew 1:23). John writes, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

### **JESUS’ HUMANITY**

For Jesus to represent fallen humanity, He had to become a man. His virgin birth, which was essential for Him to be sinless, was prophesied long before it occurred (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18, 23; Luke 1:34-35; and Galatians 4:4). Jesus experienced everything common in life that we do: pain, suffering, thirst, hunger, sorrow, anger, and so on; yet, He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

### **PAST SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNION**

Communion is a time to look back, remembering the Lord’s death on the cross. His death was more than just an atoning death -- it was a substitutional death. He died in our place so that we might live. He took our sins upon Himself so that we could receive His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### **PRESENT SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNION**

Communion is a time to look within, considering our lives in light of our profession of faith. As we enter into a time of communion with the Lord, we are to thank Him for our salvation and the privilege of being His children.

### **FUTURE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNION**

Communion is a time to look ahead toward the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Paul said we’re to “Proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). The Lord’s Supper foreshadows the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19).

Today, we stand between the two most important events in human history: the First and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. When we observe The Lord’s Supper as Christians, we become connected to both.

# COMMUNION

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Communion, often called “The Lord’s Supper,” is a memorial in which Christians identify with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:20). It’s a time for believers to remember the Lord’s broken body and His shed blood for all people (Luke 22:19-20).**

### INSTITUTION OF COMMUNION

Jesus Christ instituted communion on the eve of His death when He ate the Passover meal with His disciples (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

### MEANING AND SYMBOLISM OF COMMUNION

Bread and wine were once served for the Lord’s Supper. (Today many churches, including ours, use crackers and grape juice.) The bread symbolizes Christ’s body, which was beaten and broken for us as He died for the sins of humanity. The cup of wine symbolizes His blood, which was shed for us as He paid for our sins (John 10:17-18; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:8-9).

### ESSENTIALS FOR OBSERVING COMMUNION

Anyone who participates in the Lord’s Supper must first be a believer. Jesus commanded His disciples to observe communion (Matthew 26:26); therefore, a person must have placed his or her faith in Jesus Christ for salvation before taking part in communion.

In addition to being believers, we must prepare our hearts to participate in the Lord’s Supper. Paul instructed believers not to “eat this bread or drink this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner...” (1 Corinthians 11:27).

Last, we must examine our lives for any unconfessed sin. Paul reminds us, “Let a man examine himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28) to avoid bringing judgment upon ourselves. As we become right with God through confessing our sins (1 John 1:9), we may then participate in the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner.

### JESUS’ DEATH

The penalty for our sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus died in our place and paid our penalty (Matthew 20:28; John 10:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18). The death of Jesus on the cross laid the foundation on which a righteous God could pardon guilty and sinful people without compromising His righteousness in any way.

### JESUS’ RESURRECTION

Jesus’ resurrection assures us of our future resurrection. Because of His victory over death, we have victory as well. Without the resurrection, there would be no gospel message. His resurrection has been proven beyond a shadow of doubt (Matthew 28:5-8; Luke 24:39; John 20:27-28). The empty tomb, the shape of His linen wrappings, and His appearances to many after His crucifixion were just a few of the credible evidences of His resurrection.

### JESUS’ ASCENSION AND EXALTATION

After His resurrection, Jesus visibly departed from His disciples into heaven (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). His ascension and exaltation were necessary to complete when He rose from the dead (Mark 16:19; Philippians 2:9; Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:3).

### JESUS’ PERSONAL RETURN

Jesus Christ will return to this earth and receive His church, the body of Christ, to Himself (John 14:1-4; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7).

## IS JESUS GOD?

**Isaiah 48:12**— "Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: **I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.**"

**Isaiah 44:6**— "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: **`I am the First and I am the Last;** besides Me there is no God."

**Isaiah 41:4**— "Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? **`I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He.**"

**Isaiah. 43:10**— "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that **I am He.** Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me."

**Revelation 1:8**— "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,**" says the Lord, "**who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**"

**Revelation 4:8**— The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!**"

**Revelation 1:11**— . . . saying, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.**"

**Revelation 21:6**— "And He said to me, 'It's done! **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.**'"

**Revelation 22:13**— "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.**"

**Revelation 1:17**— "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "'Do not be afraid; **I am the First and the Last.**'"

**Revelation 1:18**— "**I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.**" Amen.

### HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13). God fulfills His promises in a variety of ways, and no two human beings are alike in how they receive spiritual things.

The New Testament tells us that some believers received the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of their conversion, such as Cornelius and his family (Acts 10). Others, such as the believers in Ephesus, received it at a later time (Acts 19:1-5). We should never limit God by our own expectations. He is sovereign and will work in whatever way He chooses.

# BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

To do God's work, we need God's power. Jesus told His disciples, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8).

### IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR EVERYONE?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and who are children of God through Him (Acts 2:38-39).

### WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when the Spirit of God comes upon a believer. The Holy Spirit fills the believer's mind with genuine understanding of truth, takes possession of the believer's abilities, and imparts gifts that qualify the believer for service in the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit also speaks to the hearts of unbelievers, showing them their need for salvation (John 16:7-11). When a person accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit dwells inside him or her (John 14:15-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13); but believers also need the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5-8).

### WHY WE NEED THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers believers for service, witness, spiritual warfare, and boldness in their testimonies (Acts 1:8, 4:19-20, 29-31; 6:8-10; 1 Corinthians 2:4).

Jesus commanded the disciples not to begin the work to which He had called them until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:48-49; Acts 1:4,8). When the apostles met believers in Christ, they at once asked whether the believers had received the Holy Spirit. If not, they made sure the believers received Him (Acts 8:14-16; 19:1-5). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity in every Christian's life for the service to which God has called us.

**Revelation 2:8**—"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the **First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life . . .**'"

**1 John 5:20**—"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God** and eternal life."

**1 Timothy 3:16**—"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.**"

**Titus 2:13**—"...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of **our great God and Savior Jesus Christ . . .**"

**John 8:58**—"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**'"

**John 8:24**—"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

**John 10:32&33**—"Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because **You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**'"

**Titus 2:10**—"...that they may adorn the doctrine of **God our Savior** in all things."

**Jude 24-25**—"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, **to God our Savior, who alone is wise . . .**"

**1 Timothy 4:10**—"For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in **the living God, who is the Savior** of all men, especially for those who believe."

**Isaiah 42:8**—"I am the **LORD**, that is **My name**; and My glory I will not give to another..."

**Hosea 13:4**—"Yet I am the **LORD** your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; for there is **no savior besides Me.**"

**Isaiah 45:21** – “Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just **God and a Savior**; there is none besides Me.”

**Isaiah 43:11** – “I, even I, am the LORD, **and besides Me there is no savior.**”

**Psalms. 68:4** – “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him Who rides on the clouds, by His name **YAH**, and rejoice before Him.”

**Proverbs. 30:4** – “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and **what is His Son’s name, if you know?**”

**Psalms 2:11-12** – “Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

**Isaiah 7:14** – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His **name Immanuel.**”

**Luke 1:30-32** – Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a **Son**, and shall call His name **Jesus**. He will be great, and will be called **the Son of the Highest.**”

**Philippians 2:10-11** – “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Philippians 3:20** – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for **The Savior**, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**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.

Worship is a sacrifice. The Apostle Paul instructed believers, “offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship” (Romans 12:1 NIV).

We can make every day a worship experience, when we yield ourselves to the Lord. God has created each of us with a mind, heart, and spirit and wants us to use them for His glory. True worship is not lip service, but life service. It is to be as much a part of our lives as breathing and eating. Worship should be demonstrated in every area of our lives, every day of our lives.

### **EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP**

We express our worship as we read the Bible (Psalm 119), pray, give tithes and offerings and offer praise through music. But the greatest demonstration of worship is through the lives that we live.

### **RESULT OF WORSHIP**

True worship always magnifies God and our outlook toward Him. As God is magnified, everything else becomes insignificant. We begin to see beyond our circumstances and limitations, our fears diminish, and our spirits become refreshed.

# WORSHIP

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**God created humanity with a capacity to know, love and worship Him. Worship is that place where the heart of God and the heart of His child meet.**

### WHAT IS WORSHIP

Oswald Chambers said, "Worship is giving to God the best He has given you." Worship carries the idea of showing reverence to God. It's an active, adoring response whereby we declare His worth. To worship means to bow down and pay homage to God: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).

### WHO DO WE WORSHIP?

Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10). Man is not worthy of worship, and neither are the idols that people make. God alone is deserving of our worship.

### WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

We worship the Lord as a response to His attributes and His wonderful works. The Lord has loved us, saved us and continually cares for us. The worship of God is broad in its scope. It manifests itself through appropriate motivation or activity, that seeks to present a heart of gratitude and humility before our Almighty King. For these reasons, we will seek to express our love for God, so that He is magnified and His purposes are fulfilled.

### HOW DO WE WORSHIP?

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Worshiping in spirit means giving God the homage of an enlightened mind and an affectionate heart. Worshipping in truth, is to worship God according to the truth He has revealed in His word, the Bible.

**John 4:42**— And so the Samaritans said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and **we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.**"

**1 John 4:14**— And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent **His Son as Savior** of the world.

**2 Peter 1:11**— For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**It's No Wonder Then...**

**Romans 10:13**— For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Philippians 2:10-11**— "That at the **name of Jesus** every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those in earth, and those under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

**Acts 4:12**— "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

and this is just the beginning...

# JESUS IS GOD

# THE CHURCH

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**To walk with God and grow spiritually, it's an absolute necessity to be involved in a church. The Bible instructs us to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Hebrews 10:24-25).**

### WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

In The New Testament, temple and synagogue are the only words that describe a building as a place of worship. Today's church is not a building, but an assembly of people who make up the body of Christ (Colossians 1:24; Romans 16:5). The universal church consists of genuine Christian believers of all ages, both on earth and in heaven. There won't be any denominations in heaven -- only believers!

### IS IT NECESSARY TO JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH?

Although we are all members of the universal church, the body of Christ, it's very important for a Christian to identify with a body of believers in a local church. We need each other in order to develop fully as Christians (1 Corinthians 12:4-27). We are also disciples who are commanded to make disciples (Matthew 28:19); but to do so, we must spend time around other believers.

### WHAT MAKES A CHURCH EFFECTIVE?

What makes the church effective today is no different from what made the early church effective. It's the Spirit of God working through the Work of God in the hearts of His people. Jesus told His disciples, "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 end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Only a Spirit-filled church can be an effective church. We simply need to ask God to empower us. (Also see: "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.")

### MOTIVES FOR GIVING

God promises to bless us if we have the right attitude toward giving (Luke 6:38; Proverbs 3:9-10). However, some people give with the wrong motives. They may give in an attempt to manipulate God, to relieve guilt, to increase self-worth, to achieve recognition, to obtain power, or to gain tax advantages.

However, the Bible instructs us to "let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). The motives that God desires for our giving are to: express our love to Him, please Him, lay up treasures in heaven, and help reach the world for Jesus Christ.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF STEWARDSHIP

A steward oversees the affairs and property of another person. Stewardship implies that everything we have belongs to God. Being a good steward means to manage our resources well and use them to glorify God.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING

Old Testament law required God's people to give 10 percent of their income, which could include flocks, herds, or crops. This 10 percent was known as a tithe. In addition to the tithe, God's people were required to give offerings to the Lord for the care of the temple and the salaries of the priests. In the days of Israel, tithing was not voluntary giving. It was demanded as a form of taxation.

Is tithing for today? Dr. J. B. Gabrell made this observation: "It is unthinkable from the standpoint of the cross that anyone would give less under grace than the Jews gave under law." God makes an incredible promise to those who give to His work. He will "open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10-11).

# GIVING, TITHING AND STEWARDSHIP

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**The Bible has a lot to say about Christians and their money. In fact, the Bible contains more than 2,000 Bible verses on the subject. Time and again, the Bible associates our money with our commitment and relationship to the Lord.**

### WHAT IS GIVING?

The word give has been defined as “to make a present of.” One of the many ways we can help others is to give financially. Through giving, the early church helped one another and invested in what God was doing. Sadly, the concept of giving has become distorted today, yet our giving is vitally connected to who we are.

### GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Giving is a spiritual sacrifice and an expression of love and gratitude, because everything we have comes from God (1 Chronicles 29:14). Some people say, “I can’t afford to give!” In reality, we can’t afford not to give. David said that he would not give to the Lord that which cost him nothing (2 Samuel 24:24). No matter what we give to God, what is left will always sustain us better than if we hadn’t given at all.

### GIVING IS A TEST OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The way we give indicates a great deal about our spirituality. Our giving reveals our value system. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). God does not ask us to give because He needs our resources. Rather, He challenges us to make Him the focus of our lives instead of our money and possessions.

### BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR GIVING

Although the Apostle Paul never overemphasized the subject of giving, he never neglected the importance of it, either. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-12, we find specific guidelines for giving: it is also to be a universal practice for believers (v. 1); it is to be done weekly (v.2); it is a personal act (v.2); and it is something we should be prepared to do (v. 2). As we give, God will meet our needs and prosper us (2 Corinthians 9:6-10).

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The purpose of the church is threefold. First, the church is to exalt God. He called us to live “to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:12).

Second, the church is to edify the saints. Paul exhorts us to “present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28).

Third, the church is to evangelize the world. Jesus told His disciples, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). We believe in adhering to these purposes, while keeping them in proper balance.

### WHAT IS THE PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH?

The practice of the church is fourfold. It is to be a worshipping church, a learning church, a loving and united church and a praying church. We find the trademarks of a healthy church in the book of Acts: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (2:42).

### WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?

Ordinances of the church are outward rites or symbolic observances commanded by Jesus, which set forth essential Christian truths. We observe the ordinances of water baptism and communion. (Also see: “Water Baptism,” and “Communion.”)

### WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH?

Jesus told His disciples, “On this Rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The Bible says that the head of the church is Jesus Christ Himself (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23).

# **THE BIBLE**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

**The Bible is a book of history, science, poetry, and human behavior. Most importantly, it is a love story that reveals the heart of God through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.**

### **THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE**

The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by more than 40 authors in three languages, on three continents. Rather than contradicting one another, the writers maintained 100 percent historical, moral, prophetic, and theological accuracy, writing with harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation.

### **THE BIBLE WAS INSPIRED BY GOD**

The Bible was written by men (2 Peter 1:20-21) under the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). God exerted His supernatural influence on the writers of the Bible. In other words, God was the author and men were His writing instruments.

### **THE BIBLE IS TO BE READ AND STUDIED**

Studying the Bible is an absolute must for Christians. The Bible instructs, “Study to show thyself approved unto God...” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV). The systematic preaching of the Bible is impossible without the systematic study of the Bible. We are not to skim a few verses in our daily Bible reading, nor are we to study a passage only when we’re about to share it. We need to immerse ourselves daily in God’s Word, like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11).

### **THE BIBLE TEACHES US**

To build a model airplane, we need to follow a set of instructions. Only then will the final product look like its counterpart on the box. In the same way, we need to follow God’s instruction manual for life, the Bible. Only then, will our lives reflect Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

### **THE SON, JESUS CHRIST, IS GOD**

The Bible ascribes the same attributes of God to His Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:21-23; 28:18; Luke 5:20-24; John 1:1,14; 8:58; 16:30, 17:5; Hebrews 13:8). Jesus Christ is worshiped (Matthew 14:31-33; 28:8; Hebrews 1:6); He is called God (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1,14; 20:28), and He can forgive sins (Luke 5:20-24; John 10:30-33). These attributes are ascribed to God alone. (Also see: “Jesus Christ.”)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD**

The activities and characteristics of God are attributed to the Holy Spirit (Psalm 139:7-10; Luke 1:35; 11:13; John 14:26; Hebrews 9:14). The Holy Spirit is a person (John 16:13-15; Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 12:11), He is Creator (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4), and He is called God (Acts 5:1-11).

### **A RATIONAL, BIBLICAL CONCLUSION**

For the above reasons and more, we are left with no other rational, biblical conclusion than to believe that God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit exist as a Holy Trinity: the one God of the Bible.

There is no question of the existence of the Trinity, the only question is one of belief. We should want to know God, not as we think He should be, but simply as the Bible reveals Him to be.

## **THE TRINITY**

### **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

**The Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:11; 44:6; Mark 12:29; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5). At the same time, the Bible plainly indicates a plurality within God's nature, consisting of three eternal and coequal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each the same in basic nature, but distinct in existence.**

**Although the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, the doctrine of the Trinity is a factual conclusion, reached by comparing and combining relevant scriptural truths. "We are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Holy Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit]" (1 Corinthians 2:13 AMPLIFIED).**

#### **ONE OF THE BIBLE'S GREAT MYSTERIES**

The Trinity is one of the great mysteries of the Bible that cannot be fathomed by the finite mind. Yet, if God were small enough to figure out, He wouldn't be big enough to worship. The Bible tells us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are His ways our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). Though we will never fully understand the doctrine of the Trinity, there is no reasonable doubt that it is clearly taught in the Bible.

#### **THE FATHER IS GOD**

The Bible teaches that God is all-knowing (Job 37:16; Romans 11:33), all-powerful (Genesis 1:1-3; Job 42:2), all-present (Psalm 139:7-12), eternal (Exodus 3:4; Revelation 1:8), unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), holy (Isaiah 57:15; 1 Peter 1:15-16), righteous and just (Psalm 116:5), merciful and gracious (Psalm 103:8), and able to forgive sin (Exodus 34:6-7; Mark 2:7). The Bible ascribes these characteristics to God alone.

#### **THE BIBLE GIVES US HOPE**

The Bible was "written for our learning, that we, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope" (Romans 15:4). We find hope through learning about God, His ways, and His plans for our lives. When we discover the promises of God, we recognize there is more to life than merely existing. We discover there is life beyond this life. Through the Bible, we obtain hope, encouragement, comfort, strength, wisdom, and much more. Best of all, we gain understanding of how to know God personally and how to live for Him righteously.

#### **THE BIBLE GIVES DISCRETION**

To find our way through the dark, we need a flashlight. Only then can we see clearly and avoid stumbling. The psalmist described God's Word as "a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). As we allow the Bible to direct our lives, we'll keep from stumbling and falling.

If you want to be wise, read the Bible. If you want to be safe, believe the Bible. If you want to be right, obey the Bible.

# **WATER BAPTISM**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

**Baptism is not a personal choice, but a command for believers. Jesus established water baptism as an ordinance when He gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16).**

### **WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?**

Water baptism is a public, outward testimony that indicates a personal, inward faith. It gives evidence of the inner change that has already occurred in the believer's life, when he or she was "born again" through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?**

We are to be baptized because Jesus Christ commanded it (Matthew 28:19), and because we love the Lord. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Throughout the book of Acts, we read how the early church gave importance to water baptism (2:41; 8:12,38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15,33; 19:3-5).

### **WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?**

All born-again believers in Jesus Christ and only believers should be baptized. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 16:31-33; 18:8)

### **SHOULD INFANTS AND CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED?**

After Peter spoke at Pentecost, "those who gladly received his word [in its entirety] were baptized" (Acts 2:41, emphasis added). In the New Testament, every instance in which a person was baptized and his or her identity was given, that person was an adult. In light of Scripture, infant baptism must be ruled out, because infants cannot receive the Word of God and understand it. However, infants are to be dedicated to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:26-28). Children may be baptized if they receive and understand God's Word.

### **IN WHOSE NAME SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?**

As part of the Great Commission, Jesus instructed the disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

### **IS WATER BAPTISM NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?**

The Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) and according to God's mercy (Titus 3:5). The thief on the cross next to Jesus had no time to be baptized; yet Jesus promised that he would be with Him in Paradise that day (Luke 23:43). The Bible contains no record of Jesus baptizing anyone - a strange omission if baptism was essential for salvation. The Apostle Paul declared, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel..." (1 Corinthians 1:17). This clearly indicated that salvation is a response of faith to the gospel—not the act of baptism. Therefore, water baptism is not an act of salvation, but an act of obedience.