

# CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Loving God, Loving People*

## Statement of Faith

### I - The Bible

**We believe that the Bible is the plenary and verbally inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of the living God,**

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

*-2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*"knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

*-2 Peter 1:20-21*

**as revealed in the original manuscript and superintended by providence in the best translations. Because it is so, the Bible is: *authoritative* for every good work and for direction in faith and practice for the Christian,**

*"If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord."*

*-1 Corinthians 14:37*

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

*-2 Timothy 3:16*

**and is also necessary,**

*"But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." "*

*-Matthew 4:4*

*"Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."*

*-Luke 6:47-48*

**clear,**

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;"*

*-Psalms 19:7*

**complete,**

*"You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you."*

*-Deuteronomy 4:2*

*"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."*

*-Revelation 22:18-19*

**and therefore profitable and all-sufficient.**

*"Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments."*

*- Psalms 119:66*

*"and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

*-2 Timothy 3:15-17*

*"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,"*

*-2 Peter 1:3*

**Being that we believe that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative and sufficient Word of God, the preaching ministry of Christ Community Church (C.C.C.) affirms that doctrine by way of expository preaching, which is a sermon or message in which the point of a biblical text is the point of the sermon, applied to the life of the congregation.**

*"for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."*

*-Acts 20:27*

*"through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,"*

*-1 Timothy 4:2*

## II - God

**We believe that the God of the Bible is the only true and living God, self-sufficient, self-existent, who is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. He is one God who is triune, and this Godhead consists of three equal and eternal persons who are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. God is supreme and sovereign over all creation, for all time and eternity, having created the world and all its creatures *ex-nihilo* (from nothing), in a literal six-day week**

*Genesis Chapter 1:*

*1- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*2- The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*3- And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.*

*4- And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.*

*5- God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*6- And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."*

*7- And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.*

*8- And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

*9- And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.*

*10- God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

*11- And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.*

*12- The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

*13- And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

*14- And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,*

*15- and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.*

*16- And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.*

*17- And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,*

*18- to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.*

*19- And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*

*20- And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."*

*21- So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

*22- And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."*

*23- And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.*

*24- And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.*

*25- And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

26- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28- And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29- And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

30- And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

31- And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

#### Genesis Chapter 2:

1- Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2- And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

3- So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

4- These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

5- When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,

6- and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—

7- then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

8- *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

9- *And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

10- *A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.*

11- *The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.*

12- *And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.*

13- *The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.*

14- *And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

15- *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

16- *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,*

17- *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

18- *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

19- *Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.*

20- *The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.*

21- *So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.*

22- *And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

23- *Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*

24- *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."*

*-Genesis Chapters 1-2*

**We believe that God is infinite, immutable, and perfect and has no limitations, being bound only by His own nature and will.**

*"Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart;"*

*- 1 Kings 8:22-23*

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!"*

*- 1 Kings 8:27*

*"Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD."*

*- Jeremiah 23:24*

# III – Jesus Christ

**We believe that Jesus Christ is the pre-existent, eternal, perfectly divine and perfectly human (impeccable) second person of the trinity, the Son of God, who the Bible clearly states,**

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

*- Colossians 1:15-20*

**is creator and sustainer of the universe.**

**Jesus Christ as deity, was further affirmed in His incarnation by his impeccable life**

**(or inability to sin;)**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.*

*- John 1:1-2*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*- John 1:14*

**and ministry, as revealed in the Bible by His death, burial, resurrection,**

*1 Corinthians Chapter 15*

*1- Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,*

2- and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—  
unless you believed in vain.

3- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died  
for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

4- that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the  
Scriptures,

5- and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6- Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom  
are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

7- Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

8- Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

9- For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I  
persecuted the church of God.

10- But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.  
On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace  
of God that is with me.

11- Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12- Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that  
there is no resurrection of the dead?

13- But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14- And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in  
vain.

15- We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that  
he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

16- For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

17- And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

18 -Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19- *If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

20- *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

21- *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.*

22- *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

23- *But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*

24- *Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*

25- *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

26- *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

27- *For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.*

28- *When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.*

29- *Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?*

30- *Why are we in danger every hour?*

31- *I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32- What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."*

33- *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

34- *Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

35- *But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"*

36- *You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.*

*37- And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.*

*38- But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.*

*39- For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.*

*40- There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.*

*41- There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.*

*42- So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.*

*43- It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.*

*44- It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

*45- Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

*46- But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.*

*47- The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.*

*48- As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.*

*49- Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

*50- I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

*51- Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*52- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

*53- For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

*54- When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

*55- “O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”*

*56- The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*57- But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*58- Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**and ascension. Jesus Christ is a coming again Lord**

*Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

*- John 8:58*

**and Savior**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

*- John 3:16*

**over all mankind and manifested the attributes of God in His incarnation by His self-existence,**

*For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.*

*- John. 5:26*

**holiness,**

*For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.*

*- Hebrews 7:26*

**love,**

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

*- John. 15:10*

**and wisdom.**

## IV – Man

**We believe man was created to bring glory and honor to God**

*"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

*-1 Corinthians 10:31*

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created."*

*-Revelation 4:11*

**and to display and demonstrate His grace.**

*4- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,*

*5- even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by  
grace you have been saved—*

*6- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ  
Jesus,*

*7- so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in  
kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*-Ephesians 2:4-7*

**Man was originally created to have dominion over all the earth and its creation. However, the transgression of God's law precipitated man's fall into sin, resulting in the sinful nature of all mankind,**

*12- Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,  
and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

*13- for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted  
where there is no law.*

*14- Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like  
the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

15- *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

16- *And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

17- *For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

18- *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.*

19- *For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

20- *Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

21- *so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*-Romans 5:12-21*

**leaving him totally incapable of glorifying God without the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which is bought by the atoning, blood sacrifice of the savior of mankind; Christ Jesus.**

10- *as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;*

11- *no one understands; no one seeks for God.*

12- *All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

13- *"Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive."  
"The venom of asps is under their lips."*

14- *"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

15- *"Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

*16- in their paths are ruin and misery,*

*17- and the way of peace they have not known.”*

*18- “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

*19- Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.*

*20- For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

*21- But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—*

*22- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*

*23- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*-Romans 3:10-23*

# V – Sin

**We believe sin is the transgression of, or lack of conformity to; God's divine, moral law and misses the mark of God's glory and holiness. The origin of sin in our universe came as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve, the first of God's creatures made in His own image. As such, they possessed free-will and the capacity to make moral decisions, to love or to reject God's love and His perfect fellowship. The Bible says that they knowingly doubted and disobeyed God's Word. By virtue of this original sin, all mankind,**

*"The heart is deceitful above all things,"*

*- Jeremiah 17:9a*

*as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;"*

*- Romans 3:10*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*-Romans 3:23*

*"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—"*

*for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.*

*Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come*

*-Romans 5:12-14*

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

*- 1 John 1:8*

**is corrupted by sin, which leads inexorably unto physical and spiritual death.**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*-Romans 6:23*

# VI - Salvation

## **God the Father and God the Son's Role:**

**We believe that salvation is a sovereign, gracious and merciful act by which God the Father through the propitiating (satisfying) and atoning blood sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ, justifies (accounts as righteous), redeems and rescues sinners from His perfect, just wrath and condemnation, therefore reconciling them (those that believe) to Himself for eternity.**

## **God the Holy Spirit's Role:**

**The Holy Spirit provides conviction of sin to the repentant sinner,**

*"And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:"*

*- John 16:8*

**and at the moment of conversion or salvation, brings a new-birth and indwells the heart of that repentant sinner**

*"Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

*- John 3:3*

*"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

*- John 3:8*

*"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."*

*- John 6:63*

*"who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."*

*- 2 Corinthians 3:6*

*"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,"*

*- Ephesians 1:13*

## **Mankind's Response and Responsibility:**

**To confess and repent of sin, and to believe and trust in Jesus Christ by faith- His life, death, resurrection**

*1 Corinthians Chapter 15*

- 1 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,*
- 2 - and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.*
- 3 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,*
- 4 - that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*
- 5 - and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*
- 6 - Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*
- 7 - Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*
- 8 - Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*
- 9 - For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*
- 10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*
- 11 - Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*
- 12 - Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

- 13 - *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.*
- 14 - *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*
- 15 - *We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.*
- 16 - *For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.*
- 17 - *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*
- 18 - *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*
- 19 - *If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*
- 20 - *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*
- 21 - *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.*
- 22 - *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*
- 23 - *But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*
- 24 - *Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*
- 25 - *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*
- 26 - *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*
- 27 - *For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.*
- 28 - *When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.*
- 29 - *Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?*
- 30 - *Why are we in danger every hour?*

*31 - I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!*

*32 - What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."*

*33 - Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

*34 - Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

*35 - But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"*

*36 - You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.*

*37 - And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.*

*38 - But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.*

*39 - For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.*

*40 - There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.*

*41 - There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.*

*42 - So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.*

*43 - It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.*

*44 - It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

*45 - Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

*46 - But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.*

47 - *The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.*

48 - *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.*

49 - *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

50 - *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

51 - *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

52 - *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

53 - *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

54 - *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

55 - *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

56 - *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

57 - *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

58 - *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

### **and substitutionary work of righteousness**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."*

- John 3:16-18

23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*24 - and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

*25 - whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.*

*26 - It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*27 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.*

*28 - For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

*- Romans 3:23-28*

*8 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*9 - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

*10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

*11 - More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

*- Romans 5:8-11*

*4 - even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love*

*5 - he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

*6 - to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

*7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

*8 - which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*

*- Ephesians 1:4-8*

**for the sinner.**

**God's election in salvation, in no way violates the responsibility of sinful man to act upon God's sovereign work in redemption (see below), by exercising faith and belief in the atoning work of Jesus**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

*- John 3:16*

*"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."*

*- John 3:18*

*"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

*- John 6:40*

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life."*

*- John 6:47*

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him."*

*- 1 John 5:1*

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."*

*- 1 John 5: 13*

**on the cross.**

# VII – Salvation’s Grace and Security

## **The Purpose:**

**We believe that Salvation is initiated by God for His glory, and by the holy counsel of His own will, by His election of those that would be saved before the foundation of the world**

*"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."*

*-John 6:37*

*"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."*

*-John 6:44*

*"And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." "*

*-John 6:65*

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."*

*-John 15:16*

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

*-Romans 8:28-29*

*"though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls"*

*-Romans 9:11*

*"And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed."*

*-Acts 13:48;*

*"even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

*In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,"*

*-Ephesians 1:4-11*

*"according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:*

*May grace and peace be multiplied to you."*

*-1 Pet. 1:2*

## **The Process:**

**Those whom He has elected or chosen and predestined to be saved, He has done so with foreknowledge (an intimate, pre-existent love), not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but by his sovereign good pleasure**

*"What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*

*You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What*

*if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory"*

*-Romans 9:14-23*

*"who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,"*

*-2 Timothy 1:9*

### **to conform them to the image of His Son**

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."*

*-Romans 8:28-30*

### **and to be glorified in their eternal state.**

#### **The Promise:**

**However, salvation is a gift of grace from God, and not of any human effort or works, lest any man should boast**

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,"*

*-Ephesians 2:8*

**As such, it is God who unconditionally grants and preserves the believer's salvation for eternity, offering assurance and eternal security**

*"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?"*

*-Romans 8:33-35*

*"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*-Romans 8:37-39*

*"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."*

*-1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

# VIII - The Church

**The church is literally, 'the called out ones or those called together,' meaning the universal as well as the local assembly or congregation of believers in Jesus Christ. The New Testament church was first acknowledged by Jesus**

*"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

*-Matthew 16:18*

**and birthed at the day of Pentecost, via the regenerating and anointing power of the Holy Spirit. The church exists to glorify God and display His grace in the world. We believe**

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

*-Acts 2:42-47*

**serves as the model for the church's service and stewardship through the key functions of; evangelism, discipleship, prayer, fellowship, ministry and worship.**

**The church's leadership as a plurality of elders**

*"And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed."*

*-Acts 14:23*

**mandated to equip the saints (believers) for the work of ministry**

*"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"*

*-Ephesians 4:11-12*

**as the means for fulfilling the church's great commandment ("to love God and love people") and great commission**

*"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.""*

*-Matthew 28:18-20*

**which is divinely given to individual believers within the corporate body.**

# VI - Marriage and the Family

**We believe that the Bible clearly teaches the enduring truth that marriage consists of one man and one woman**

*"Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,*

*"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."*

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."*

*-Genesis 2:18-25*

**From Genesis to Revelation, the authority of Scripture witnesses to the nature of biblical marriage as uniquely bound to the complementarity of man and woman. This truth is not negotiable and will be taught as such by our church, as the Lord Jesus himself said that marriage is from the beginning**

*"He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.""*

*-Matthew 19:4-6*

**so no human institution has the authority to redefine marriage any more than a human institution has the authority to redefine the gospel, which marriage reflects**

*"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."*

*-Ephesians 5:32*

**Furthermore, this church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the [pastors/elders/ministers/clergy] and staff of [the Church] shall only officiate weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property that the Church may own, shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.**

# X - The Holy Spirit

**We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity of God. He is as much a person and God, as is the Father and as the Son in the Godhead. The Holy Spirit's deity is revealed in the Bible by the attributes of God that He possesses such as: divine life**

*"While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."*

-Acts 5:4

**love**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,"*

-Galatians 5:22

**omnipresence**

*"Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me."*

-Psalm 139:7-10

**omnipotence**

*"The Spirit of God has made me,  
and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."*

-Job 33:4

**and omniscience**

*"these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."*

*-1 Corinthians 2:10-12*

**The Spirit empowers the new-life of the believer upon conversion with an initial purifying or cleansing work ([see above- VI](#)) and then begins to produce growth in holiness of life. The Spirit's will distributes spiritual gifts to the church for all times**

*"All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."*

*-1 Corinthians 12:11*

**and also empowers the ministry or service of the believer**

*"And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses."*

*-Deuteronomy 34:9*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*-Luke 4:18-19*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*-Acts 1:8*

*"But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking."*

*-Acts 6:10*

**Furthermore, the Spirit teaches, guides and directs the believer**

*"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."*

*-John 16:13*

*"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.""*

*-Acts 13:2*

*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*

*-Romans 8:14*

**and in addition, purifies the sanctified life of the believer, by making him or her more Christ-like in actual conduct, evident in the "fruit of the Spirit"**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

*-Galatians 5:22-23*

# XI – The World to Come

**We believe God will culminate history as we know it, or conclude the end of the age**

*Matthew Chapter 13*

- 1 - "That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.*
- 2 - And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.*
- 3 - And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.*
- 4 - And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.*
- 5 - Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,*
- 6 - but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.*
- 7 - Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.*
- 8 - Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*
- 9 - He who has ears, let him hear."*
- 10 - Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"*
- 11 - And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*
- 12 - For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*
- 13 - This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*
- 14 - Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:*

*““You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”*

*15 - For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.’*

*16 - But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.*

*17 - For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what  
you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

*18 - “Hear then the parable of the sower:*

*19 - When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil  
one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown  
along the path.*

*20 - As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and  
immediately receives it with joy,*

*21 - yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or  
persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.*

*22 - As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the  
cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves  
unfruitful.*

*23 - As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and  
understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another  
sixty, and in another thirty.”*

*24 - He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be  
compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,*

*25 - but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the  
wheat and went away.*

*26 - So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.*

27 - *And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'*

28 - *He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'*

29 - *But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.'*

30 - *Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"*

31 - *He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.*

32 - *It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*

33 - *He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."*

34 - *All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable.*

35 - *This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet:*

*"I will open my mouth in parables;  
I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."*

36 - *Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."*

37 - *He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.*

38 - *The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,*

39 - *and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.*

40 - *Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.*

41 - *The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,*

42 - *and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

43 - *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

44 - *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

45 - *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,*

46 - *who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

47 - *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.*

48 - *When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.*

49 - *So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous*

50 - *and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

51 - *“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”*

52 - *And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”*

53 - *And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,*

54 - *and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?*

55 - *Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?*

56 - *And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”*

57 - *And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household."*

58 - *And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."*

**when Jesus Christ returns imminently, personally and visibly in glory to the earth. At that time, the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.**

**Jesus will reign as King and Lord of the earth in a literal millennial reign, to be succeeded by the great white throne judgment which will put down the final rebellion of Satan and all those that have rejected Him as Lord and Savior**

*"And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,"*

*-Hebrews 9:27*

*"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

*-Revelation 20:11-15*

**After which time, the destruction of this present earth and heaven will take place**

10 - *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."*

12 - *"waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!"*

*-2 Peter 3:10, 12*

**and the creation will be redeemed with a new heavens and earth for eternity and the righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will dwell and fellowship forever in Heaven with the Lord**

*Revelation Chapter 21*

***The New Heaven and the New Earth***

*1 - "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

*2 - And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

*3 - And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

*4 - He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*5 - And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

*6 - And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*

*7 - The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

*8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

***The New Jerusalem***

*9 - Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."*

*10 - And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,*

11 - *having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

12 - *It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—*

13 - *on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.*

14 - *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

15 - *And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls.*

16 - *The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.*

17 - *He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.*

18 - *The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.*

19 - *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,*

20 - *the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.*

21 - *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

22 - *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.*

23 - *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

24 - *By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it,*

25 - *and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.*

26 - *They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.*

*27 - But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."*