

GOD

God is the eternal, all present, all powerful, supreme Creator and sustainer of the entire universe. God is one, composed of spirit and comprised of a family presently consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is loving, kind, merciful and wants to share His magnificent existence by reproducing Himself through man.

Psalms 19:1; 50:1, 6-7; Isaiah 44:6; Nehemiah 9:6, 16-17; John 1:12-13; 3:16; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; I John 3:1-2; 4:8; Exodus 33:17 - 34:7

BIBLE

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, comprises God's written Word, which forms the basis of Christianity. The whole Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God containing His plan of salvation, and the record of His participation in history. The Bible is God's revelation of knowledge that man cannot discover for himself. It is the foundation of knowledge, and the guidebook of life.

Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 17:17; Romans 8:16; I Corinthians 2:7-11; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Son of man. He was the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, and is described in the New Testament as being fully human and fully divine. As the second member of the God family, He has existed throughout eternity as the "Word." He divested Himself of His power and majesty, and became a human being to die for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected, and ascended to heaven to become our High Priest. Jesus Christ shall return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, and rule as King of kings with His saints forever.

Deuteronomy 18:15; Matthew 17:15-17; John 1:1-14; 3:16; Acts 2:32-33; Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 4:14-15; Revelation 1:13-16

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the essence, power, mind, and Comforter from God. God begets Christians as His sons and daughters through this Spirit. It strengthens a Christian spiritually, converts his mind, and serves as an earnest of eternal life. It begets a human spirit with the Spirit of God, the Father, thus creating a "new creature in Christ," which shall be born as a son of God.

Acts 1:8; 2:38; Romans 8:9, 14; I Corinthians 2:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; II Corinthians 5:17

MANKIND

Humans are physical beings with no immortal soul, but they can receive eternal life as a free gift from God. Man was created by God to be flesh and blood, yet in God's image, and with a spiritual component to compose the human mind.

Genesis 1:26-27; Job 32:8; I Corinthians 2:11; I John 5:11-13

ANGELIC REALM

God has created powerful spirit beings as His agents, and messengers. Since man's creation, these spirit beings function as ministering spirits to help mankind. Like man, angels have free moral agency. Although created to help God, some of them led by Satan the devil rebelled against God, transforming themselves into demons.

Psalms 91:11-12; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 1:7

SALVATION

Salvation is the process by which God, through Christ, saves man from the penalty of sin and gives him eternal life. This process includes one's calling, repentance, baptism, justification, receiving of the Holy Spirit, life of faith and obedience, and ultimately one's birth into God's Kingdom as a spirit being. Salvation is a freely given gift from God through grace.

Matthew 16:27; John 3:16-17; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 6:1-2

FAITH

Faith is the sure knowledge that God exists, and that He will accomplish those things He has promised. Faith is necessary for salvation. The basic elements of faith are courage, action, and risk.

Romans 1:17; 10:17; Ephesians 3:17; Hebrews 11:1-2; James 2:22-24

REPENTANCE

Repentance is the act of acknowledging one's sins, and resolving to fully obey God. It begins when God opens one's mind to see himself in comparison with God and His law. True repentance is the first step toward reconciliation with God, and thereby toward ultimate salvation.

Acts 2:38; 3:19-21; 8:22; I John 3:4

BAPTISM

The ceremony of water baptism is performed by immersion, for the forgiveness of sins, upon true repentance and acceptance of Christ's sacrifice. By Baptism, one receives the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. Baptism symbolizes the renunciation of the past sinful way of life, the burial of the old man in a watery grave, and the emergence of a new, Spirit-led man living with Christ's mind and following in His footsteps.

Matthew 3:13-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-8; Colossians 2:12

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an act performed on special occasions, such as for the receiving of God's Holy Spirit after baptism, at ordination, anointing of the sick, or for other special purposes.

Matthew 19:13-15; Acts 6:5-6; 8:17-18; 13:3; I Timothy 4:14; Hebrews 6:2

KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God is the family of God ruling as the government of God. It is a future world-ruling government to be set up on earth by Christ at His return as King. The resurrected spirit-composed saints will be in positions of rulership under Him. The Kingdom of God-referred to as a "mystery" in the New Testament-was first preached and explained by Christ, then by His church. The Kingdom shall be established on earth for a thousand years following Christ's return, and shall be completely fulfilled when New Jerusalem and God the Father come down out of heaven to dwell on the New Earth.

Mark 4:11; Revelation 5:10; 20:4; 21:1-3,7,10

GOSPEL

The gospel is the message preached by Christ and by His church about God's coming Kingdom, the restoration of His government on earth, and how mankind can enter that Kingdom and government. It includes the message of what Jesus has done, is doing, and shall do-and ultimately is the message of the entire Old and New Testaments. The primary purpose and commission of the Church is to "Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 3:2; 24:14; 28:19-20; Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

RESURRECTIONS

The hope of all mankind and the promise to the Christian is the resurrection from the dead. The Bible refers to (1) the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead and the pioneer of our salvation; (2) the resurrection of the saints-called the "first resurrection"-at the return of Christ when the true believers shall become spirit-composed members of God's family; (3) the resurrection back to physical life of all who have ever died without having understood God's way, for their first opportunity for salvation. The incorrigibly wicked-those who have refused to repent and have rejected God's way-will be consumed in the lake of fire (called the "second death").

John 5:28-29; Acts 2:32; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6, 13-14

JUDGMENT

The time of one's judgment is the time of his opportunity for salvation, extending from one's calling by God until his death (or the resurrection at Christ's return). Those who inherit God's Kingdom-the overwhelming majority-shall have eternal life, and those who deliberately and knowingly reject God's way shall be consumed in the lake of fire.

Matthew 13:49-50; 25:34; I Peter 4:17; Revelation 20:15; 21:8

LAW OF GOD & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The law of God as revealed in the Bible is a good, right, and perfect system of eternal directives and principles that reflects God's character and serves as a means of expressing His love toward man. God's law teaches man how to properly worship God, how to love his fellowman, how to live life abundantly, and, at the same time, how to prepare for an eternal spiritual life in the family of God. The law of God is revealed in both the Old and the New Testaments, and is expressed by both physical actions and spiritual motivations.

John 14:15,21; Romans 7:12; I John 5:2-3

The Ten Commandments, as revealed by God to Moses, and ratified and magnified by Christ, are the perfect expression of God's love. They are the foundation of all biblical teaching, showing man how to express love toward God and fellowman, and are consequently the focal point of Christian life.

Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 13:10; I Corinthians 7:19; Revelation 12:17; 22:14; Matthew 22:36-40

BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Both Testaments record that God made certain promises in the form of specific contracts or agreements with man. These are called "covenants," and define the terms of God's relationship with individuals or groups in various circumstances and eras. Of these covenants, the best known are the covenants made with physical Israel and the New Covenant established on "better promises," which will be fully confirmed with spiritual Israelites after the return of Jesus Christ. The New Covenant, which also applies to the New Testament church from the time of the original apostles, makes God's law even more relevant by expanding it to include one's mental attitude and spiritual intent. Under the New Covenant, God writes the Ten Commandments in the heart of the Christian, indelibly impressing the spiritual intent of God's law on the innermost being, thus lifting God's holy law to a spiritual plane.

Matthew 5:21-22; II Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 8:6-13

SABBATH (SATURDAY)

The seventh-day Sabbath is the Fourth of the Ten Commandments the breaking of which is defined to be sin. The Sabbath is to be taught and kept holy in accordance with the biblical instruction. Instituted at creation, reaffirmed to Israel as a part of the covenant at Sinai, taught by Jesus Christ, and observed by the New Testament Church, the observance of the Sabbath is basic to a Christian's relationship with God.

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16; 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 4:16; Hebrews 4:1-10

ANNUAL HOLY DAYS

The annual holy days were ordained and commanded by God, observed by the ancient Israelites, observed by Jesus the Christ, and continued to be observed by the early New Testament Christians. These seven annual "appointed feasts" picture God's plan of salvation for man.

Leviticus 23; Zechariah 14:16; John 7:8-10; Acts 2:1; 12:3; 20:6,16; 27:9; I Corinthians 5:8; 16:8

TITHING

Tithing is an act of worship; it is a private matter between the individual and God.

Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:21; 23:23; II Corinthians 9:7

SIN

Sin is the transgression of God's law-the falling short or missing the mark of the character of Jesus Christ. The penalty for sin is death in the lake of fire. However, all sin can be completely forgiven by God, who desires that all men be saved. (The unpardonable sin is sin for which the sinner asks no pardon.) God forgives sin upon the repentance of the individual who accepts the shed blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment in full for the penalty of his sins.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14; I John 3:4

THE CHRISTIAN

A true Christian is:

- A.) one in whom the Holy Spirit dwells;
- B.) one who has repented of sin, been baptized, and received the Spirit of God which begets him as a "new creature in Christ;"
- C.) one who seeks to live by every word of God;
- D.) one who seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ;
- E.) one who seeks to allow Jesus Christ to live His perfect life within the Christian;
- F.) one who exemplifies Christian character, such as "goodness, meekness, gentleness, faith, against which there is no law;"
- G.) one who is Christ-like, humble, converted;
- H.) one who prays for and expects the Kingdom of God to appear on earth.

Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

The marriage relationship is the basis of the family, which in turn is the core of a stable society. As a physical analogy of God's plan for mankind, marriage, child rearing, and the family are given a prominent place in the teachings of the Bible and the church. Although distinctive roles within the family are defined, men and women have equal spiritual potential before God.

Exodus 20:12; Malachi 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:22-29; 6:1-3; I Peter 3:7

HEALING

Divine healing is a miracle that God in His mercy, wisdom and love extends to those who call upon Him in time of need, according to faith. The healings of Jesus Christ demonstrate and represent His power to express compassion, to forgive sin, and ultimately, to resurrect the dead and establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

Matthew 9:1-7; James 5:14-15

THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Church is the spiritual body of Christ, a group of people called out by God and impregnated with His Holy Spirit. As a spiritual body, the church is made up of baptized, Spirit-led individuals who are scattered around the world. As "the assembly" of called-out individuals, the true Church of God can never become "incorporated" in the legal sense into one "religious organization," but consists of true Christians, in whom God's Holy Spirit dwells, who may be members of different organizations, but are joined directly to Christ through the Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:12-14,27; Colossians 3:1

THE DEAD

The dead are not in heaven, hell as most people understand the term, purgatory or limbo as is believed by most religions. They are in fact in "hell," but "hell" is just an old English term used in the King James Bible. It actually means the grave. The dead are not awake in some other place watching us. They are not haunting us. The biblical comparison is sleeping. Death is like sleeping in that the dead went to sleep and in their next waking moment they will be resurrected.

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7; John 11:11-14; Ecclesiastes 9:5