

Our Beliefs

God

God is the almighty creator of heaven and earth. He is the giver of life, and created us in his image and likeness. God reveals Himself as the one true God, a Supreme Being, who has always existed, is of infinite power, wisdom and understanding. As the Creator, God is the Father of all mankind, but the position of the children of God is reserved for those who believe in Him. God's ultimate purpose is to fill the earth with His glory.

Key verses: Isa 45:18, 1 Tim 1:17, 1 John 4:7-8, Psalm 145: 3

Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, conceived through a miracle. He was always part of God's great plan, to be a Saviour for those condemned through sin to death. He was made in the likeness of man, and just like us was tempted in all points (Heb 2:17-18). Jesus chose not to do wrong, this being the greatness of his victory. His death on the cross symbolised His overcoming of sin and death, and through His resurrection made eternal life possible for all people. Jesus is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:2), waiting for the time when He will reign over the earth.

Key verses: John 3:16-17, Luke 2:11, John 5:30, Acts 1:11, Matt 25:31

The Kingdom

God wishes to restore world peace, and restore the earth to its former glory. God's Kingdom on earth will involve restoring the spiritual needs of the people, as well as a physical restoration of the world that is presently suffering. When Jesus lived on earth, he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God. The Bible teaches that Christ will return to the earth to rule and judge people according to their works (Matt 16:27). We cannot be sure when he will come, as Jesus himself does not even know (Matt 24:36). We do, however, believe the return of Jesus Christ to be near as we see many Bible prophecies being fulfilled, such as the political unrest in the Middle East.

Key verses: Rev 22:12, Matt 6:9-13, 1 Thess 5:23, Acts 3:19-21, Matt 16:27

Baptism

Whenever baptism is mentioned in the Bible it is always by full immersion in water. Baptism is mentioned hand in hand with such necessities as belief, repentance and obedience. Jesus and the Apostles commanded baptism for all believers (Mark 16:16). Baptism is presented in Scripture as a symbol of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Going into the waters of baptism symbolises Jesus' death, and as we come out of the water we are symbolising His resurrection to new life dedicated to God. When we rise from the waters of baptism, we enter a new phase of our life, having all of our past sins washed away. Forgiveness of sins is a gracious gift from God which is granted to those who commit their lives through Baptism (Acts 2:38).

Key verses: Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4, Acts 22:16:

Death & Resurrection

We believe that the Bible teaches that when a person dies their body simply returns to the dust of the earth, and that all life ends. The Bible says that when we die our soul also dies (Ps 89:48, Job 4:18-21), and that man goes back to the ground from which he was first created (Ecc 12:7). The prophet Daniel teaches that people who are in the grave will “sleep in the dust of the earth” and then some shall rise to everlasting life (Dan 12:2). *See above section on The Kingdom of God.* Furthermore, the Bible describes Heaven as the dwelling place of God.

The word ‘Hell’ is not a translation, but rather a word inserted by translators into the Bible because of preconceived ideas about a place of eternal torment. The Hebrew word ‘sheol’ simply means grave.

Key verses: Ecc 3:19-21, Ecc 12:7.

Sin & Temptation

We believe that man is the source of sin, and is tempted by his or her own desires. Genesis 6:5 describes evil as coming from inside of people. James tells us that man is tempted by his own lusts, and then enticed (Jam 13:15).

The word ‘devil’ never appears in the Old Testament’. In the New Testament it is the Greek word ‘diabolos’ which simply means ‘false accuser’ or ‘slanderer’ (see 1 Tim 3:11, Titus 2:3). Judas Iscariot was described as a false accuser (‘diabolos’) when he betrayed Jesus Christ into the hands of sinful men. Similarly, the Bible’s use of the word ‘satan’ translated, (‘satan in Hebrew, ‘satanas’ in Greek) means opponent or adversary. Such is when Jesus says to Peter “Get thee behind me, Satan” because he was savouring the things of men and was thus an adversary to Christ.

We believe that many things can be an ‘adversary’ to God that can cause us to fall into temptation and sin. Money is described in scripture as ‘the root of all evil’, and can sway us from spiritual goals. We must try to focus our attention on Godly things and the treasures in heaven, instead of laying up treasures on earth.

Key verses: Heb 2:14, Jeremiah 7:24, Matt 15:19

Grace

God’s grace is probably best understood as being God’s mercy and help. God is gracious to us when He forgives our sins. He is gracious to us when He helps us to overcome trials and temptations; when He supplies our needs (both natural and spiritual); when He providentially guides our lives until at last, He may grant us His marvellous gift of eternal life in His coming Kingdom on earth. It is the concept of us receiving blessings, that as sinning creatures we do not deserve.

We are called by God’s grace, believe by God’s grace and are baptised by God’s grace.

Key verses: Eph 2:8-10, Heb 4:16,

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