

REV. JACK D. GILBERT, JR.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

BIBLE

The Bible is the inerrant word of God given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to mankind. The scriptures are inerrant in the original autographs and contains no contradictions and serves as the final authority of faith and practice for Christians.

GOD

I believe in one God who exist in three distinct yet not separate persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are equal in substance, eternity, power, and deity. He is the sovereign creator of all that exist and is both transcendent and immanent.

GOD THE FATHER: God is holy, just, loving, and merciful. He is without sin and causes no one to be tempted. He is all powerful, all knowing, and self-sufficient.

GOD THE SON, JESUS CHRIST: Being fully God, he has existed eternally in fellowship with the Father and the Spirit. All things were made through him, yet he willing stepped down into creation in human form, being both fully God and fully man, and lived a sinless life, died for the sins of humanity, rose again on the third day, and ascended to the right hand of the Father and will one day come again to claim his church and to judge the living and the dead.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit indwells every person who comes to faith in Christ. He is a person and is himself fully God. He convicts the world of sin, reminds Christians of all that Christ taught, and empowers believers to the works to which God has predestined them. He works in the life of all Christians through salvation, sanctification, and glorification.

Man

Mankind is separated from God both by personal sins (choice) and the sin inherited from Adam (nature). Thus, mankind is in need of reconciliation with God, which can only come through faith in Jesus Christ. Those who accept Jesus by faith are called to a life of obedience and progressive sanctification and will be ultimately glorified—being made perfect in Christ—all of which is an act of God.

Salvation

All people are sinful and separated from God because of sin and therefore deserve judgment and damnation. Salvation comes only through the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is by faith alone and by grace alone, and not by works of any kind.

Church and Ordinances

The Church is composed of all believers past, present, and future. The Church is built by Jesus and serves as his representative here on earth, charged with spreading the Gospel and making disciples. The church was given two ordinances: believer's baptism and communion.

Angels and Satan

Angels are created, spiritual beings who serve and worship God. They are not typically seen, though sometimes are manifested as messengers as God sees fit. They serve to guard and protect believers. Angels have a free will. Satan is a created, fallen angel. He is the enemy of God and man. He tempted man in the garden and seeks to tempt and destroy mankind now. He will ultimately be judged and cast into conscious eternal punishment along with all demons and non-believers.

Eschatology

I believe in the bodily resurrection of both the believer and non-believer. The believer will spend eternity in the presence of God and the non-believer will spend eternity in just, conscious, and eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire with the devil and his demons. I believe in the personal, visible, and bodily return of Christ who is coming to take his Church and to judge the living and the dead.