

FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
STATEMENT OF BELIEFS
DRAFT - LEARNING IN PROGRESS
August 24, 2005

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1. GOD

God, the Father, is the ultimate Creator of all things. He is one being and is composed of Spirit. Any human attempt to describe God is limited by our vocabulary and by our minds. Where the Bible uses the plural word for God, it is a family name (such as Smith or Jones) and includes His Son - the one Spirit Being who became Jesus Christ, our Messiah.

Hebrew words translated 'God' in the KJV-OT include: *El* - (410) - the Almighty - also used of other 'gods' (first used in Genesis 14.18-19); *Elahh* - (426) - God; *elohym* - (430) - plural of 433 (most of Genesis uses this word); *elowahh* - (433) - a deity or the Deity; *Beyth-El* - (1008) - house of God; *YHWH* - (3068) - the tetragrammaton - the Eternal - Jewish national name for God (first translated in Genesis 6.5 as God; Genesis 2.3 = LORD as mostly translated throughout); (3069) - a derivative of 3068 (Genesis 15.2,8 - mostly used in Ezekiel); *Tsuwr* - (6697) - rock; **Greek words translated 'God' in the KJV-NT: *theos* - (2316) - the supreme Divinity (most common); *kurios* - (2962) - supreme in authority**

Genesis 1.1, 26; Psalm 19.1; 50.6-7; Isaiah 44.6; John 1.12-13; 3.16; 4.24; Romans 1.20; Hebrews 1.1-2;
Revelation 21

2. BIBLE

The Bible is the divinely inspired written word by which God has revealed Himself and His will to man. The Bible is not subject to individual interpretation; however, no one human individual has been granted the ability to determine the Bible's truth completely. God has chosen to withhold complete knowledge until He chooses to reveal it. Each currently available translation of the Bible has flaws and merits; a careful study of each translation can be beneficial to a more complete understanding of the original intent of the material.

Deuteronomy 8.3; 29.29; Proverbs 25.2; Ecclesiastes 3.11; Daniel 12.4; Matthew 4.4; Luke 4.4; John
14.26; 16.13; 17.17, 20; Romans 3.1-4; 11.33; Ephesians 6.17;
2 Timothy 3.14-17; 4.3-5; 2 Peter 1.20; Revelation 22.18-19

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3. JESUS

Jesus is our Redeemer and the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament; He is the one through whom God worked to perform the creation of all things; He was the "I Am" who revealed Himself to Moses; He was the Lord of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; He is the judge of the Book of Revelation; He is the firstborn among all those who will be resurrected to everlasting life; He is our example for living; He was born as a human being to the virgin, Mary; He was crucified, was dead and was buried; after 72 hours in the grave, He was resurrected; He ascended into Heaven and is presently working to create the New Jerusalem; He is our current High Priest through whom we petition God.

John 1.1-14; 1 Corinthians 10.1-4; Deuteronomy 18.15-18; Nehemiah 9.6;
Matthew 12.38-40; John 14.1-11; Acts 2.32-33; Philippians 2.5-11; Colossians 1.15-18; Hebrews 1.1-4;
4.14-15; Revelation 1.13-18; 22.13; Exodus 3.6, 14; 6.3; John 8.58

4. HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the essence, power and spiritual extension of God; the 'proof' that God gives us of His promise of the resurrection to eternal life. The Holy Spirit has the power to keep events from happening, and it can force events to happen.

Genesis 1.2; Exodus 31.3-5; Psalm 51.10-13; Ezekiel 3.12, 14; 36.26-27; Luke 11.13; John 4.24; 14.16-17,
26; Acts 1.8; 2.17-18, 38; 8.12-17; Romans 8.9, 14, 26-27;
1 Corinthians 2.7-16; 2 Corinthians 4.16-5.5; Ephesians 1.13-14

5. ANGELS

Angels are spirit beings created by God to act as His agents and messengers; they are very powerful and can manifest themselves in many ways. The most powerful were the archangels - Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer. It is also possible for God to utilize human beings as His 'messengers'. Angels can protect people from or warn them of impending dangers, or they can provide assistance in many variant ways. After the resurrection, the angels will serve the saints.

Genesis 18.1-19.11; Deuteronomy 33.2; 2 Kings 6.15-17; Psalm 91.11-12;
Matthew 4.11; 18.10; Acts 7.52-53; 1 Corinthians 6.3; Galatians 3.19;
Hebrews 1.7, 13-14; 2.2, 7-9; 1 Peter 1.12; Revelation 1.20; 2-3; 5.11; 7.1-2; 8.3-5

6. SATAN/DEMONS

Satan is the name given to Lucifer after he rebelled against God; many angels (possibly 1/3 of them) followed him and roam the earth today as demons and can manifest themselves as angels. Satan is the influence that deceives everyone in the world in various ways. He knows the Bible extremely well and uses that knowledge to pervert the truth about God and His way. Satan and his demons are fully capable of performing "miracles". Until the second coming of Christ, God is allowing Satan to have influential power over the earth. Upon Christ's return, Satan and his demons will lead the world in battle against Him. After the end times, Satan and his demons will be devoid of power and will be tormented for ever.

Job 1.6-12; Isaiah 14.12-20; Ezekiel 28.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11; Luke 9.1; 10.17-18;

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1 Corinthians 10.14-22; 2 Corinthians 11.13-15; 1 Timothy 4.1-5;
James 2.19; 3.13-18; 4.7; 2 Peter 2.4; 1 John 4.1-6; Jude 6-7;
Revelation 12.7-9; 16.14; 20.1-10

7. SALVATION

Salvation is the method by which God, through His grace, grants human beings entrance into His kingdom.

Salvation occurs after the final overthrow of Satan and his demons. Salvation is a freely given gift from God and cannot be earned by any works, although certain rewards will be determined by one's works. It is God's desire for everyone to be in His kingdom.

Jeremiah 31; Matthew 16.27; 19.16-30; John 3.16-21; 5.22; 6.44; Romans 6.23; 9.14-16; Ephesians 2.8-10;
Philippians 2.12-16; 1 Timothy 2.1-4; 2 Peter 3.9; 1 John 3.2-3; Revelation 7.14; 12.9-10; 20.12-15

8. FAITH

Faith is the "realization of the things hoped for; the confidence of things not seen". Faith is delivered to persons through their study and understanding of the Bible. It is the sure knowledge that God exists and will accomplish those things He has promised. Faith is a fruit of His Spirit; supernatural, undoubting faith is a gift from God. Faith is the only means by which a person is justified; good works represent the external manifestation of one's faith.

Habakkuk 2.4; Matthew 8.8-10; 17.20; 23.23; Romans 1.17; 3.28; 4; 5.1-5; 10.17; 14.23;
1 Corinthians 12.4-9; 13.1-13; 15.14; Galatians 2.16; 5.22; Hebrews 11 12.1-2;
James 2.17-26; 1 Peter 1.3-9

9. TEN COMMANDMENTS/GOD'S LAW(S)

The Ten Commandments 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. They are the focal point of Christian life. Sin is the transgression of God's law. Although the Law was codified through Moses, there is evidence that the same laws existed from the beginning of time. "It's not what you have to do to be a Christian; it's what you want to do if you are a Christian".

Genesis 4.1-15; Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5; 6.4-9; Psalm 119.10-12, 137-144;
Matthew 5.17-19; 19.16-22; Mark 10.17-22; Luke 18.18-23;
John 14.15, 21; 15.9-14; Romans 7.7-12; 13.8-10; 1 Corinthians 7.19;
James 2.8-10; 1 John 2.1-11; 3.4, 22-24; 5.2-3; Revelation 12.17; 22.14;
Genesis 3.3-6; 1 Timothy 2.14

10. SABBATH

The seventh-day Sabbath is a perpetual sign between God and His people. The Sabbath was set apart at Creation and reaffirmed at the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses. No scripture substantiates any change to the observance of the seventh-day. God intended the Sabbath for man's benefit, giving him a rest from the daily aspects of life - a special day to concentrate on God's word and its meaning for us.

Genesis 2.2-3; Exodus 16; 20.8-11; 31.12-17; Leviticus 23.3; Isaiah 58.13-14;
Jeremiah 17.19-27; Ezekiel 20.1-26; Mark 1.21; 2.27-28; Luke 4.16; 23.56;
Acts 13.42-45; 15.21; 17.1-2; 18.1-4; Colossians 2.16; Hebrews 4.1-10

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11. HOLY DAYS

Seven Holy Days (also known as High Sabbaths) were set apart by God to be observed in three separate seasons of each year. They are Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Day of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Each has historical meaning, future implications and Messianic revelations.

Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16; Zechariah 14.16-19; Matthew 5.17-20;
Luke 22.1-13; 24.44-49; John 6; 7.8-10; Acts 2.1; 16; 18.21; 27.9;
1 Corinthians 5.8; 15; 16.8; Hebrews 8, 9, 10

12. SIN

Sin is the transgression of God's laws - the falling short or failure to live up to the example of character exhibited by Jesus Christ. Everyone has sinned. The penalty for all sin was paid by Christ's crucifixion for all who accept Him as their Savior and repent of their sins.

Exodus 32.21; Psalm 4.4; Isaiah 53.6; Romans 2.12-14; 4.13-15; 6.23; 7.7-12; Ephesians 4.26, 32;
Colossians 1.13-14; James 1.22; 2.10-11; 4.17; 1 Peter 2.21-24;
1 John 3.4, 6-9, 18

13. REPENTANCE

Repentance is the act of acknowledging one's sins and resolving to fully obey God. Repentance means "to think differently". True repentance is the first of three steps toward reconciliation with God and ultimate salvation.

Job 42.6; Matthew 3.1-12; Luke 13.1-5; 15.7; Acts 2.38; 3.19-21; 8.22; 17.30; Romans 2.4; 11; 2
Corinthians 7.8-10; 2 Timothy 2.23-26; Hebrews 6.4-6; 2 Peter 3.9; 1 John 3.4; Revelation 3.19

14. BAPTISM

Baptism is a ceremony of total immersion in water. It is symbolic of the death and resurrection of the Messiah and of the death and future resurrection of the saints. This rite is also symbolic of the burial of one's old life and change to a new person, and to the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea as they escaped from Egypt. Baptism is the second of three steps toward reconciliation with God and ultimate salvation. (The third step is the receiving of the Holy Spirit)

Matthew 3.1-17; 28.19-20; Mark 16.16; Luke 12.50; John 4.1-2; Acts 2.38-42; 16.25-33; 18.8; 19.1-5;
22.1-16; Romans 6.1-8; 1 Corinthians 10.1-4; 12.13-14; Ephesians 4.4-6; Colossians 2.11-15; Hebrews 6.1-

6

15. THE CHURCH OF GOD/CHRISTIANS

The church is the spiritual body of Christ and consists of all persons who have been called by God, have been baptized and have received God's Holy Spirit.

Mark 9.38-41; Acts 2.37-47; Romans 8.9; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31; Galatians 5.16-26; Colossians 3.15;

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Hebrews 5.12-14; 2 Timothy 3.14-17; 1 Peter 5.1-11

16. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Following His resurrection, the Messiah ascended into the sky and ultimately into Heaven. He currently sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes on our behalf as our current High Priest. He will come again in the same manner as He ascended, and His coming will be visible to everyone on earth.

Daniel 7.13-14; Matthew 24.29-31; Mark 13.24-27; 16.19; Luke 21.25-28; 24.50-51; John 14.1-3; Acts 1.9-11; Hebrews 4.14; 9.24-28; 1 Peter 3.21-22;
Revelation 1.7; 21.1-22.5

17. THE RESURRECTION(S)

The hope of all mankind and the promise of God to each Christian is the resurrection from the dead. Jesus' resurrection made Him the firstborn from the dead. All persons, after death, remain dead until the resurrection. To this date, only Christ has been resurrected to eternal life. At His second coming, Christians will be resurrected, in spirit form, to everlasting life; those Christians still alive at His coming will be changed to spirit form immediately; non-Christians will be resurrected to judgment; the incorrigible will be resurrected to be consumed by the second, and final, death.

John 5.24-29; Acts 2.30-34; Romans 8.11; 1 Corinthians 15.12-58;
1 Thessalonians 4.13-17; Hebrews 11.13; Revelation 20.4-6; 13-14

18. JUDGMENT

Two times of judgment are indicated in the Bible. A Christian's life, including words, thoughts, deeds and failures, is being constantly judged by God according to the standards set forth in the Bible. This first judgment determines our eligibility to enter the Kingdom of God. The second judgment, after the resurrections, will be to determine each persons rewards and position of responsibility in the Kingdom.

Matthew 13.36-42; 47-50; 25.14-30; 25.34; Luke 19.12-27; 1 Peter 4.17;
Revelation 20.12-15; 21.8

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19. TITHING

Each individual has responsibility to “honor the Lord with his substance and with the firstfruits of all his increase.” Tithing is the giving of the first ten percent of one’s gains. In the Old Testament tithes were given to the Levites, who, in turn, gave ten percent to the priests. Currently, there is no priesthood except that of our Messiah, but the concept of tithing continues. The giving of the “firstfruits” is a reminder that Christ is the “firstfruit” of the resurrection. The distribution of one’s tithe is a personal decision.

Genesis 14.18-20; Leviticus 27.30-32; Numbers 3.8; 18.3;
Deuteronomy 14.22-29; 26.11-13; Nehemiah 10.35-39; Proverbs 3.9; Malachi 3.8-10; Matthew 23.23; Acts
20.35; 1 Corinthians 15.20; 2 Corinthians 9.7; Hebrews 7.1-10

20. HEALING

Divine healing is a miracle that may be extended by God in His mercy. The illness and the subsequent divine healing of a person may have no direct relationship to their faith or their spiritual status. The healings of the Messiah are examples of the power of God. The rite of anointing is symbolic of one’s faith and, of itself, has no healing powers. Physicians, as experts in the inner workings of the body, can be instruments of God’s healing process.

Genesis 20.17; 50.1-2; Exodus 15.26; Deuteronomy 32.39; 2 Chronicles 16.12;
Psalm 6.2; 103.2-3; 107.17-20; Isaiah 58.6-9; Matthew 4.23-24; 9.1-7; 10.5-8;
Mark 5.25-26; Luke 8.43-48; Acts 9.32-34; 14.8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.4-9;
Colossians 4.14; James 5.14-16

21. KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God is a future world-ruling government to be set up on this earth by Christ, as King, following His second coming. The initial phase of the Kingdom will last for 1000 years and will be completely fulfilled when the New Jerusalem and God, the Father, come down from Heaven to dwell on the New Earth.

Matthew 5.3-12; 6.9-13; 7.21-23; 13; 22.1-14; 25; Mark 4; Luke 1.33; 13;
Hebrews 10.12-13; Revelation 5.10; 20.4; 21.1-3; 7; 10

22. MANKIND

Humans are physical beings, created in the image of God, with no inherent immortality. The ‘soul’ refers to the entire physical being and can be used of animals as well as people. The ‘spirit’ of man is what differentiates him from animals. Humans have the potential to become spirit beings - immortal children of God.

Genesis 1.26-27; Job 32.8; 34.14-15; Ecclesiastes 12.7; Romans 8.14-17;
1 Corinthians 2.11; 1 John 5.11-13

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23. "BORN AGAIN"

In order for physical human beings to become spiritual beings, the molecular composition of their bodies must be changed to spirit form. This process is very similar to the physical birth process. The infusion of the Holy Spirit into a person is the insemination necessary to begin the process. The 'birth' in its full sense refers to the actual change from a physical body and being to a spiritual body and being. This will occur at the time of the resurrection to eternal life.

Job 14.13-17; John 3.1-8; 1 Corinthians 15.35-58; 2 Corinthians 3.18

24. PROPHECY

True prophecy is a gift of God; it is His way of using human beings to warn their colleagues of impending dangers and event yet to occur. Prophecies can fail - that is to say, that the dangers predicted can be avoided if human beings heed the warnings from God. We must study prophecies so that we can recognize predicted events when they occur. However, we must be aware that our understanding of prophecies is incomplete until they actually come to pass and God's interpretation is made clear.

Deuteronomy 8.15-22; Jeremiah 14.13-16; Amos 3.7; Jonah;
Matthew 24.4-8; 24.22-25; 36; 44; 1 Corinthians 13.8-13; James 4.13-17; 2 Peter 1.19-21

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25. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

No one person can control the acts of another person; nor is anyone responsible for the acts of another. Each person is responsible solely for their own acts. God's judgment is and will be based upon each individual's actions - or lack of action. He will not allow a defense based upon what others said or did to us. God has a record of each individual's thoughts and deeds, including the opportunities for action that were intentionally avoided. With knowledge, comes responsibility - as we grow in our knowledge and understanding, more is expected from us.

Psalm 139.1-6; Ezekiel 3.16-27; 18; 33.1-20; 34.1-31; Luke 10.17-20;
2 Timothy 2.15; 2 Peter 1.5-11
