

Bible Baptist Church of Nashua, NH

# Articles of Faith

as of February, 24, 2013

## (A) The Holy Scriptures

By “Holy Scriptures”<sup>1</sup> (or, “Scriptures” or “Bible Canon” or “Bible”) we believe and stand firm on the position that the words of the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament (O.T.) and New Testament (N.T.)<sup>2</sup> are *inspired*<sup>3</sup> of God; and, *every* word of the Holy Scriptures to be *verbally*,<sup>4</sup> *plenarily*,<sup>5</sup> inspired of God, and entirely *inerrant*. We stand firm upon the position that God not only *inspired* His words *perfectly* in the original autographs (manuscripts), but that He has perfectly *preserved*<sup>6</sup> His words providentially.

By “Inspired” we mean the unique and miraculous process of God breathing out the words of Scripture, which process ceased with the originals (or “autographa”), which were written by men<sup>7</sup> moved by the Holy Ghost.<sup>8</sup>

By “Preserved” we mean that all of the inscripturated words of the Bible have been kept, that is preserved, perfectly, by the singular care and providence of God, through the Lord’s institutions of O.T. Israel<sup>9</sup> and His N.T. churches.<sup>10</sup>

We believe that these preserved words are available in the texts of the original language manuscripts (or “apographa”), which have been received by the Lord’s churches, namely the *Masoretic Text* of the Hebrew and Aramaic O.T., and the *Textus Receptus* (the “Received Text”) of the N.T. We believe that accurate translations using the principles of formal equivalency (word-for-word translation)

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 1:2; II Tim. 3:15.

<sup>2</sup> We believe that the Bible Canon consists of no more and no less than the thirty-nine books of the O.T. and the twenty-seven books of the N.T.

<sup>3</sup> II Tim. 3:15-17; I Cor. 2:13; II Pet. 1:21; Mt. 4:4; Jn. 10:35; 14:26; 16:13.

<sup>4</sup> Psa. 12:6; I Cor. 2:13; Jn. 12:49,50; Mt. 4:4.

<sup>5</sup> II Tim. 3:16.

<sup>6</sup> Psa. 12:6,7; 78:1-8; 105:8; 119:89,111,152,160; Prov. 22:20-21; Mt. 4:4; 5:17-18; 24:35; Jn. 10:35; Col. 1:17; I Pet. 1:23-25.

<sup>7</sup> Isa. 51:16; Jer. 36:4; Acts 1:16.

<sup>8</sup> II Peter 1:21.

<sup>9</sup> Deut. 17:18,19; Prov. 25:1; Acts 7:38; Rom. 3:1,2; 9:3-5.

<sup>10</sup> Matt. 28:20; Jn. 17:8; I Tim. 3:15; Col. 4:16; I Thess. 5:27.

can be made from these preserved, received texts into receptor languages of all people.<sup>11</sup> For English-speaking people, the King James Version (KJV), is the only faithful, *modern* English translation of the preserved original language texts and is the Word of God in English for English-speaking people.

Therefore, we *only* use and promote the King James Version of the Bible. All other modern translations claiming to be English versions of the Bible are in fact not to be considered the Word of God, because they contain numerous words and phrases that are not translated from God's preserved words. Thus, each such book is a false bible and should be rejected in its entirety<sup>12</sup> and should not be relied upon to any extent for faith and practice. We believe that the Bible testifies to its own Bibliology (doctrine of the Bible), as well as to the constant and deliberate satanic attack upon it.<sup>13</sup>

We believe the Scriptures plainly teach that it is the responsibility of man to *receive*<sup>14</sup> and *obey*<sup>15</sup> the words of Scripture. Also, the N.T. is clear in its teaching that it is the *responsibility* of local N.T. churches to *guard*<sup>16</sup> the Bible Canon and the words of the Bible Canon.

Finally, we believe that the Scriptures are to be the *sole* authority for faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ and are *completely sufficient*,<sup>17</sup> and that the Bible Canon, the sixty-six books of the Bible, is complete. Nothing shall be added to it or taken from it.<sup>18</sup>

## **(B) The True God**

We believe there is one and only one living and true God,<sup>19</sup> an infinite,<sup>20</sup> sovereign<sup>21</sup> Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence

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<sup>11</sup> Matt. 28:19; Rom. 16:26.

<sup>12</sup> I Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9.

<sup>13</sup> Gen. 3:1; Rev. 22:18,19; I Cor. 2:17; II Pet. 3:16.

<sup>14</sup> Jn. 17:1-26; Acts 2:41; 8:14; 11:1; I Thess. 2:13.

<sup>15</sup> Gal. 3:1; 5:7; II Thess. 3:14.

<sup>16</sup> Mt. 28:19,20; I Tim. 3:15; Rev. 22:7.

<sup>17</sup> II Tim. 3:17.

<sup>18</sup> Rev. 22:18,19; Ecc. 3:14; Prov. 30:5,6; Deut. 4:2; 18:18-20; 28:14; Num. 22:35.

<sup>19</sup> Ex. 20; Deut. 6:4; 32:39; Psa. 86:10; Isa. 43:10, 11; 44:6, 8; 45:5-6, 18; Mal. 2:10; I Cor. 8:4, 6; I Tim. 2:5a.

<sup>20</sup> Job 11:7; I Kings 8:27.

<sup>21</sup> I Chron. 29:10-13; Psa. 115:3; 135:6; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11.

and love; that in the unity<sup>22</sup> of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>23</sup> equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

We believe God is a Spirit;<sup>24</sup> He is eternal;<sup>25</sup> He is unchangeable<sup>26</sup> in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, and goodness. God is Omnipotent,<sup>27</sup> Omniscient,<sup>28</sup> and Omnipresent.<sup>29</sup> God is the Creator.<sup>30</sup> God is distinct from His creation,<sup>31</sup> and yet He desires closeness and nearness<sup>32</sup> to His creation. God is perfect in His hatred for sin, therefore He is a God of wrath<sup>33</sup> and righteousness.<sup>34</sup> God is good, merciful, gracious, kind,<sup>35</sup> and a God of love.<sup>36</sup>

### **(C) The Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is “the Christ, the Son of the Living God,”<sup>37</sup> and that He was the fulfillment of numerous O.T. prophecies concerning the Messiah.<sup>38</sup> We believe in the absolute divinity of Jesus Christ,<sup>39</sup> the second Person of the Trinity; in His eternal<sup>40</sup> existence with the Father, yet distinct from the Father and the Holy Spirit. We believe that He humbled Himself, to be born of a virgin,<sup>41</sup> conceived of the Holy Spirit, to become a man.<sup>42</sup> We believe that He is truly man, and truly God. We believe that, although He was tempted in all things, He was sinless in His life,<sup>43</sup> and always obedient to the Father. We believe in His

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<sup>22</sup> Rom. 1:7; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3,4.

<sup>23</sup> Gen. 1:1, 26-27; 11:7; Ex. 20:1; Deut. 6:4; 32:39; Psa. 86:10; Mt. 28:19; I Cor. 8:4,6.

<sup>24</sup> Jn. 4:24.

<sup>25</sup> Isa. 57:15a; Psa. 90:2.

<sup>26</sup> Psa. 33:11; 102:25-27; Isa. 11:5; Mal. 3:6a; Heb. 13:8; James 1:7.

<sup>27</sup> Gen. 17:1; 18:14; Psa. 62:11; 89:8; Mk. 10:27; Rev. 4:8.

<sup>28</sup> Psa. 139:1-6; I Sam. 23:11,12; Job 28:23,24; 42:2; Psa. 44:21; Mt. 10:29; I Jn 3:20.

<sup>29</sup> Gen. 28:15; 26:24; Deut. 10:14; Psa. 46:1; 73:23; 139:7-12.

<sup>30</sup> Gen. 1-2.

<sup>31</sup> Isa. 57:15;55:9; Hab. 2:20; Ecc. 5:2; Psa. 115:3; Eph. 1:20,21; Lk 1:32.

<sup>32</sup> Psa. 73:28; Prov. 18:24; Heb. 10:22; Mt. 11:27.

<sup>33</sup> Ex. 32:9,10; Deut. 9:7,8; Jn. 3:36; Rom. 1:18.

<sup>34</sup> Gen. 18:25; Psa. 89:14; 97:1,2.

<sup>35</sup> Psa. 34:8; 68:19; 107:1-9, 15, 21, 31; 23:6; 100:5; 119:68; 145:7-9; II Cor. 1:3-7.

<sup>36</sup> Jer. 31:3; I Jn. 4:7-10; Gal. 2:20; I Jn. 4:8,16.

<sup>37</sup> Mt. 16:16.

<sup>38</sup> Jn. 1:41;4:25.

<sup>39</sup> Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:32; Jn. 8:24; 10:9; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1; Phil. 2:6-11; Rev. 1:8,11.

<sup>40</sup> Isa. 9:6; Mic. 5:2; Jn. 1:1; 8:58; 17:5,24; Col. 1:17; Rev. 1:18,19.

<sup>41</sup> Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:35.

<sup>42</sup> Isa. 9:6; Lk. 2:40,52; Jn. 1:1, 14; Gal. 4:4; Rom. 1:3,4; Heb. 2:14.

<sup>43</sup> Heb. 4:15.

substitutionary death through His shed blood on the cross,<sup>44</sup> and that He arose bodily from the dead on the third day,<sup>45</sup> then ascended into Heaven shortly thereafter, where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father;<sup>46</sup> where He is our High Priest<sup>47</sup> and Divine Advocate<sup>48</sup> with the Father; and where He ever liveth to make intercession for His saints.<sup>49</sup>

#### **(D) The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person,<sup>50</sup> not an influence or some mystical power. The Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature, yet He is also distinct.<sup>51</sup> We believe that He moved “holy men of God” in the writing of the Scriptures;<sup>52</sup> that He was active in the creation of the world;<sup>53</sup> and that He restrains the evil one<sup>54</sup> until God’s purpose is fulfilled. We believe that He convicts the world of sin;<sup>55</sup> He quickens and regenerates the believer in the new birth;<sup>56</sup> He seals the believer and then is the earnest of their salvation;<sup>57</sup> He permanently indwells<sup>58</sup> the body of each believer at the instant of salvation; He then illuminates,<sup>59</sup> guides,<sup>60</sup> and comforts<sup>61</sup> each believer in and through the Word of God; and He enables the believer to be filled with power for holy living and service.<sup>62</sup> The Holy Spirit bears fruit in the believer<sup>63</sup> and gives believers spiritual gifts to exercise in the context of the local church.<sup>64</sup> However,

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<sup>44</sup> Isa. 53:5,6, 11,12; Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:3,4; Gal. 1:3,4; 3:13; I Pet. 2:24.

<sup>45</sup> Mt. 28:6; Lk. 24:36-48; Acts 2:24-32; 4:33; Jn. 20:3-7; I Cor. 15:5-11.

<sup>46</sup> Lk. 24:51; Jn. 17:5; Phil. 2:9; Psa. 110:1; Eph. 1:20,21; I Thess. 4:17.

<sup>47</sup> Heb. 4:14,15; 5:9,10; 6:20; 8:1,2.

<sup>48</sup> I Jn. 2:1.

<sup>49</sup> Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; I Jn. 2:1,2; I Tim. 2:5.

<sup>50</sup> Isa. 63:10; Acts 5:3,4; Rom. 8:27; 15:13; I Cor. 2:10-11,13; 12:11; Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 4:8; 5:19; Heb. 10:29.

<sup>51</sup> Matt. 28:19; Jn. 14:16,26; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 4:4-6; I Jn. 5:7.

<sup>52</sup> II Pet. 1:20,21.

<sup>53</sup> Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; 27:3; 33:4; Psa. 33:6; Isa. 40:12-14.

<sup>54</sup> II Thess. 2:7,8.

<sup>55</sup> Jn. 16:7-11.

<sup>56</sup> Jn. 3:3,5; I Cor. 6:11.

<sup>57</sup> Eph. 1:13,14; II Cor. 1:22.

<sup>58</sup> I Cor. 3:16; 6:19,20; II Cor. 6:16; Jn. 14:17; Eph. 2:22; I Jn. 2:27; 3:24; 4:13.

<sup>59</sup> Jn. 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:10-13; I Jn. 2:19-27.

<sup>60</sup> Psa. 119:133; 25:5; Prov. 2:6; 6:22; Jer. 10:23; Rom. 8:14; I Cor. 16:9; Rev. 3:7-8.

<sup>61</sup> Jn. 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7.

<sup>62</sup> Zech. 4:6; I Cor 6:19,20; Eph. 5:18; Philip. 2:13.

<sup>63</sup> Gal. 5:19-23.

<sup>64</sup> Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:1-11, 28-30; Eph. 4:11; I Pet. 4:10-11.

we believe that sign gifts ended with the completion of the Bible Canon.<sup>65</sup>

### **(E) The Devil or Satan**

We believe that God created<sup>66</sup> an innumerable company of spirit beings (the majority of whom remained faithful to God) who are now serving as ministering spirits,<sup>67</sup> worshiping God and executing His will on earth.<sup>68</sup> However, Lucifer, the “anointed cherub” (the Devil or Satan) was created the highest of angels,<sup>69</sup> but through the sin of pride, fell and became the author of sin,<sup>70</sup> the god of this world,<sup>71</sup> the enemy of God and man;<sup>72</sup> and is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire.<sup>73</sup> Also, Satan has his demons that followed him in the rebellion against God.<sup>74</sup> These demons are Satan’s agents in carrying out his unholy purposes<sup>75</sup> and shall likewise share his fate in the lake of fire.

### **(F) Creation**

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God in six literal twenty-four hour days without any evolutionary process; that man (spirit, soul and body) was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.<sup>76</sup>

### **(G) Man**

We believe that man was created in the image of God,<sup>77</sup> and that being made in His image is what distinguishes man from the rest of God’s creation. Mankind was given dominion over the earth and was told by God to be fruitful, and multiply, and to fill the earth.<sup>78</sup> Man was created in holiness, but by voluntary

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<sup>65</sup> I Cor. 14:1,2,22; 13:8,10.

<sup>66</sup> Neh. 9:6; Psa. 148:1-5; Col. 1:16.

<sup>67</sup> Heb. 1:14; 13:2.

<sup>68</sup> Psa. 103:20,21; 148:2; Heb 1:6; Rev. 5:8-13.

<sup>69</sup> Ezek. 28:12-14.

<sup>70</sup> Ezek. 28:15-17; Isa. 14:13; I Tim. 3:6.

<sup>71</sup> Matt. 4:8,9; Jn. 12:31; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2.

<sup>72</sup> Gen. 3; I Chron. 21:1; II Cor. 11:3, 13-14.

<sup>73</sup> Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10.

<sup>74</sup> Matt. 9:34; 12:24; 25:41; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:4, 7-9.

<sup>75</sup> I Ki. 22:21-23; Psa. 106:37; II Thess. 2:1,2; I Tim. 4:1-3; Eph. 6:12; Jam. 3:15; I Cor. 10:20-21.

<sup>76</sup> Gen. 1 & 2; Lk. 3:38; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16,17; I Tim. 2:13.

<sup>77</sup> Gen. 1:26,27; 2:7, 18-25.

<sup>78</sup> Gen. 9:1,2.

transgression fell from that holy and happy state.<sup>79</sup> Scripture teaches that *all* mankind sinned with Adam and are guilty. Therefore, physical death was passed upon all mankind, because of this original sin.<sup>80</sup> All men are conceived with a sin nature through their parents; thus man is unable to do justly that which is good,<sup>81</sup> and when one first sins knowingly, that person comes under the just condemnation of eternal damnation without defense or excuse.<sup>82</sup>

## **(H) Redemption & Salvation**

We believe in a literal heaven and a literal hell. Heaven is a place of eternal, conscious blessedness,<sup>83</sup> where one will live for evermore with God and all those who have by faith received the free gift of eternal life. Hell is a place of eternal conscious separation from God and punishment in the lake of fire.<sup>84</sup>

We believe that God had determined before the foundation of the world that the redemption of man would be accomplished by the physical blood of His Son.<sup>85</sup> The exact image of the work of redemption is found in the Mosaic Law. The plan of God required the shedding, the presentation, and application of the blood.<sup>86</sup> The earthly models prefigured the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the presentation of His literal blood in a heavenly sanctuary.<sup>87</sup> Our redemption is therefore perfect and eternal. There is no other offering or sacrifice for sin.<sup>88</sup> We believe that through Jesus Christ's substitutionary sacrifice on the cross,<sup>89</sup> He shed His blood to redeem fallen mankind;<sup>90</sup> that when the believing sinner repents of his sin and places his total faith<sup>91</sup> in Christ's shed blood<sup>92</sup> and substitutionary sacrifice, the believing sinner is justified<sup>93</sup> and reconciled<sup>94</sup> to God. We believe salvation is a free gift to all who will put their complete faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Gen. 3.

<sup>80</sup> Rom. 5:12-21.

<sup>81</sup> Gen 8:21; Psa. 14:2,3; 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:1-3.

<sup>82</sup> Jam. 2:10; 4:17; Rom. 1:32-2:1; 3:10, 23; I Jn. 5:17.

<sup>83</sup> Psa 16:11; 20:6; Phil. 1:21,23; Rev. 21:18-21.

<sup>84</sup> Matt. 13:42,50; 25:41-46; Mk. 9:44-48; Lk. 16; Rev. 14:10; 20:15.

<sup>85</sup> I Pet. 1:18,19.

<sup>86</sup> Lev. 4:16.

<sup>87</sup> Heb. 9:11-14.

<sup>88</sup> Heb. 10:4-18.

<sup>89</sup> I Pet. 2:24; 3:18.

<sup>90</sup> Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14.

<sup>91</sup> Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8.

<sup>92</sup> Lev 17:11; Heb 9:9,11-14,19,22; 10:29; 13:20; Rev 1:5.; 5:9; 12:11.

<sup>93</sup> Rom 3:20-28.

<sup>94</sup> Rom 5:10; II Cor 5:18.

<sup>95</sup> Gal. 2:16,21; Eph 2:8,9.

Salvation secures everlasting life for this one who has received this gift.<sup>96</sup> Heaven is his eternal home.

We believe that all those that have been saved, are saved only once, and that they cannot lose their salvation. They are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever<sup>97</sup> and have an inheritance reserved for them in heaven.<sup>98</sup> We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word. However, we believe that the Scriptures clearly forbid the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.<sup>99</sup>

### **(I) Repentance**

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith.<sup>100</sup>

### **(J) The Church**

The English word church(es) is translated from the Greek word *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* is a compound word consisting of *ek* meaning "out of" and *kaleo* meaning "to call." The use of the word *ekklesia*, in the first century, always meant a group of individuals *called from something* for the purpose of *assembling*.<sup>101</sup> Consequently, we believe that the Bible clearly teaches that a church is comprised of assembled individuals that have placed their faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross,<sup>102</sup> and have been scripturally immersed.<sup>103</sup> For an assembly to constitute a Biblical, N.T. church several truths are necessary: First, it must have the *Proper Gospel*.<sup>104</sup> Second, the *Proper Leadership* is necessary.<sup>105</sup> Biblically, there are only *two offices* mentioned in the context of the N.T. church: the *Pastor and Deacon*. Third, the *Proper Doctrine* is also necessary.<sup>106</sup>

Therefore, we believe that the church is an assembled, local, visible body of

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<sup>96</sup> Jn. 1:12; 3:14-16; 5:24; 6:37; 10:27-30; 17:24; I Pet. 1:3-5; Rom 8:29,30.

<sup>97</sup> John 6:37-44, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 8:38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5; I Jn. 5:13.

<sup>98</sup> Eph. 1:11; I Pet. 1:4.

<sup>99</sup> Romans 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.

<sup>100</sup> Luke 13:1-3; 15:7; Acts 8:22; Rom. 2:4; II Cor. 7:10; Acts 20:21.

<sup>101</sup> Acts 19:32,39,41.

<sup>102</sup> Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:41; I Cor. 15:1-5.

<sup>103</sup> Acts 2:41; I Cor. 12:13.

<sup>104</sup> Matt. 28:20; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Tim.. 3:15; Gal. 1:8,9.

<sup>105</sup> Titus 1:5-9; I Tim. 3:1-13.

<sup>106</sup> Matt. 28:20; Acts 20:27; I Tim. 3:15; II Tim . 2:2; Titus 2:1.

scripturally immersed believers called out from the world for the purpose of obeying the Great Commission, and that the assembled members are to be separated unto Christ. We believe that the supreme mission of the church is to preach the Gospel to every creature (“going” = N.T. church planting) and, in the context of the church, to disciple (by “baptizing” and “teaching” the “all things” of Scripture) those who believe on Jesus Christ.<sup>107</sup>

We do NOT believe that the word “church” in the Scriptures ever refers to the existence of a mystical or invisible or universal body of Christ because such an entity could never assemble in one place prior to the rapture. But instead, we believe that each assembly is the body of Christ in that locale,<sup>108</sup> with Christ as its head.<sup>109</sup> A church is a body properly organized according to the N.T. pattern set forth in I and II Timothy and Titus. Furthermore, we believe in the perpetuity of the Lord's churches, i.e. that there have been churches from the days of Christ until the present who essentially believe what Bible Baptist Church believes; and that such churches will continue until the Lord returns.<sup>110</sup>

We believe that it is God that sets “the members, every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”<sup>111</sup> Thus, we believe that once a believer has joined a church, he or she can only be removed from the rolls of the church by death, church discipline (ie: Matt. 18:15-20, church constitution), or transfer of letter/membership<sup>112</sup> to a church of like faith and order.

### **(K) Baptism and the Lord’s Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion<sup>113</sup> of a believer in water, under the authority of the church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour,<sup>114</sup> through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life.<sup>115</sup> We believe that baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.<sup>116</sup> While recognizing that water baptism has no saving merit, it is our conviction that after one is saved, baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world that believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and

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<sup>107</sup> I Cor. 12:12-27; Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Lk. 24:47.

<sup>108</sup> I Cor. 12:27.

<sup>109</sup> Eph. 1:22,23.

<sup>110</sup> Matt 16:18; Eph. 3:21.

<sup>111</sup> I Cor. 12:18.

<sup>112</sup> Acts 11:26.

<sup>113</sup> Matt. 3:6; Jn. 3:23; Acts 8:38-39.

<sup>114</sup> Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12;

<sup>115</sup> Rom. 6:4-6.

<sup>116</sup> Acts 2:41,47; I Cor. 12:12-27.

resurrection and with the Lord's church.

We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes,<sup>117</sup> and that the elements (unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine) *symbolically* portray the body and blood of Christ. As such, we deny the doctrine of transubstantiation and consubstantiation. We believe this meal should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.<sup>118</sup> We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers.

## (L) Things To Come

We believe in the *blessed hope* of the personal, corporal, glorious, *imminent*,<sup>119</sup> *pre-tribulation*<sup>120</sup> return of the Lord Jesus Christ in the skies, where He will meet in the air all the dead in Christ (N.T. Saints) and the regenerated ones that are alive here on the earth. Shortly after this *catching away* (rapture<sup>121</sup>), all N.T. believers will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at the *Judgment Seat of Christ* and give an oral account as to the character of the things done in his/her body.<sup>122</sup> Then the *Marriage* of Christ and His bride, at the *Marriage Supper* will take place in heaven.<sup>123</sup> These future events will take place during the seven year *tribulation* on the earth<sup>124</sup> which concludes with the *pre-millennial, Second Coming* of the Lord Jesus Christ!<sup>125</sup> After the Lord Jesus Christ defeats the armies of the world in the Battle of Armageddon,<sup>126</sup> the devil is bound for a thousand years,<sup>127</sup> while Christ's kingdom is established here on earth and the Lord Jesus Christ reigns with His saints for a *millennium*.<sup>128</sup> At the end of the millennial reign of Christ on this earth, the devil is loosed, the final battle takes place, and the earth is purged.<sup>129</sup> Then follows the *Great White Throne Judgment* when the unsaved of all the ages will be judged and cast into the lake of fire for

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<sup>117</sup> I Cor. 11:23-26.

<sup>118</sup> I Cor. 11:28,29.

<sup>119</sup> I Thess. 1:9, 10; I Cor. 1:7; 16:22; 15:51, 52; Titus 2:11-13; Phil. 3:20, 21; 4:5.

<sup>120</sup> (All the above) + I Thess.5:9; Rev. 3:10; Rom. 5:9,10.

<sup>121</sup> Jn. 11:25,26; I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thess. 4:13-17.

<sup>122</sup> I Cor 3:10-15; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12.

<sup>123</sup> Rev. 19:6-9; 22:17; Jn. 3:29; Rom. 7:4; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-33.

<sup>124</sup> Dan. 9:20-27; Matt. 24; Rev 4-19; (Many O.T. Prophecies).

<sup>125</sup> Matt. 24:29-31; 25:31-46.

<sup>126</sup> Rev. 16:12-16.

<sup>127</sup> Rev. 20:1-3.

<sup>128</sup> Rev. 20:4.

<sup>129</sup> Rev. 20:3, 7-11.

evermore.<sup>130</sup> The Bible concludes with all the saints of God living for eternity in the new heaven and the new earth reigning with Him for evermore.<sup>131</sup>

### **(M) Separation**

We believe that God commands Christians to be a separated people.<sup>132</sup> Bible Baptist Church will separate itself from all forms of religious apostasy and neo-evangelical inclusivism. We reject the ecumenical movement which seeks to join all churches into one body regardless of doctrine or practice. We also reject the charismatic renewal movement with its unscriptural emphasis on emotionalism, tongues, and healing. This church will enjoy fellowship with churches of like faith and order, but will have no membership in any Fellowship, Associations, or any council of churches that is ecumenical in nature or thrust.

We believe Christians are to be personally separated from all worldly practices that hinder spiritual growth and stability. We believe that God's people should not love the world or the things that are in the world.<sup>133</sup> In addition, we believe that a Christian should live a holy life and maintain a testimony consistent with the New Testament. Separation affects such areas as dress and appearance, associations, amusements, language, and all other such areas as could be considered worldly.<sup>134</sup>

### **(N) Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment<sup>135</sup> for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, and conscientiously honored and obeyed,<sup>136</sup> except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ in Scripture,<sup>137</sup> Who is the only Lord of the conscience and is the coming King of kings.

### **(O) Israel**

We believe that God's covenant promise with Abraham<sup>138</sup> established an eternal lineage of Abraham's physical seed, and established the land of Israel as an eternal inheritance for his seed, and that all who are of faith are the true children of

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<sup>130</sup> Rev. 20:11-15; Matt. 13:41,42.

<sup>131</sup> Rev. 21-22.

<sup>132</sup> II Cor. 6:17, 18; 7:1.

<sup>133</sup> 1 Jn. 2:15, 16; Gal. 5:16,21.

<sup>134</sup> Jn. 17:15-19; James 4:1-10.

<sup>135</sup> Rom 13:1-7.

<sup>136</sup> Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13,14; I Tim. 2:1,2; Mt. 22:21.

<sup>137</sup> Acts 4:19; 5:29.

<sup>138</sup> Gen. 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:5, 18; 22:17; 26:4.

Abraham and heirs according to the promise.<sup>139</sup> We believe that the re-establishment of the political nation Israel is in fulfillment of prophecy concerning the end time.<sup>140</sup> We further believe that God will bless nations which bless Israel and will curse nations which burden Israel.<sup>141</sup>

### **(P) Human Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman.<sup>142</sup> Furthermore, civil unions and homosexual marriages are nowhere taught nor endorsed in the Scriptures. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, pedophilia, transexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex to a husband and wife.<sup>143</sup> We believe that any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance is unscriptural.<sup>144</sup> We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.<sup>145</sup>

### **(Q) Family Relationships**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God<sup>146</sup> but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church.<sup>147</sup> The husband is to be the leader of the home, and only those who are born males can hold office (Pastors and Deacons)<sup>148</sup> in the church. Accordingly, only those who are born males are eligible for ordination by this assembly.

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.<sup>149</sup> The husband is to not be bitter against his wife,<sup>150</sup> but is to love

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<sup>139</sup> Gal. 3:7, 29; 4:28; Rom. 4:11, 20-24; 2:28, 29; 9:6,7; Jn. 8:37, 39; Lk. 19:2,9; Isa. 45:25; 63:16.

<sup>140</sup> Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37.

<sup>141</sup> Gen. 12:3,17; 27:29; Psa. 105:14; Isa. 41:11,12; 51:22,23; Jer. 30:16-17; Zech. 2:8-9; 12:3,9; Rev. 20:9.

<sup>142</sup> Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; Mk. 10:6-9; Eph. 5:31; Heb. 13:4.

<sup>143</sup> Lev. 18:1-30; 20:13a; Jud. 19:22-24; Prov. 7; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9,10,16-18; Col. 3:5,6; I Thess. 4:1-8; Matt. 5:28.

<sup>144</sup> Gen. 1:27,31.

<sup>145</sup> Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22, 23.

<sup>146</sup> Gal. 3:28; I Cor. 11:11,12.

<sup>147</sup> Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15;

<sup>148</sup> I Tim. 3:2-5, 12.

<sup>149</sup> Gen. 1:26-28.

<sup>150</sup> Col. 3:19.

her as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ.<sup>151</sup> Children are an heritage from the Lord. Therefore, parents are responsible before the Lord to teach and train their children in a manner that is consistent with God's Word, which can include Scriptural corporal correction.<sup>152</sup> In addition, we believe fathers are not to provoke their children to anger.<sup>153</sup>

**(R) Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception<sup>154</sup> and that the unborn child is a living human being. We believe that the taking of an innocent life because one thinks that the child may live is murder. Abortion constitutes the unjustified taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or for the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

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<sup>151</sup> Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-21; I Pet. 3:1-7.

<sup>152</sup> Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 6:1-4.

<sup>153</sup> Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.

<sup>154</sup> Job 3:16; Psa. 51:4; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44.