

1. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation as its purpose, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its content. It reveals the principles by which God Judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Several Scripture passages regarding the Scriptures:

Isaiah 34:16 “ Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing, none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17 “ ...and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Hebrews 1:1-2 “ In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by his son, which he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”

Hebrews 4:12 “ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2 Peter 1:20-21 “ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

See also:-

Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isa. 40:8; Jer. 15:16; 36; Matt. 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff; 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 16:25-26; 1 Peter 1:25.

2. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and

obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purpose of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Scripture passages regarding God the Father:

Genesis 1:1 “ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Exodus 3:14 “ God said to Moses, ‘ I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel,’ I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

Psalms 19:1-3 “ The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.”

Matthew 6:9 “ Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

John 4:24 “ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

See also:-

Gen. 2:7; Ex. 6:2-3; 15:11ff; Lev. 22:2; Deut. 6:4;32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Isa.43:3,15;64:8; Jer.10:10; 17:13; Matt. 7:11;23:9;28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal,4:6; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, Taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and indentifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the

world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Scripture passages regarding God the son:

Isaiah 7:14 “ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold a young woman (Virgin) shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Matthew 1:18-21 “ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “ Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

John 10:30 “ I and the Father are one.”

John 14:9 “... He who has seen me has seen Father...”

Romans 5:3 “ But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

Galatians 4:4-5 “ But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name’ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Hebrews 4:14 “ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning.”

See also:-

Psalms 2:7ff; 110:1ff; Isa.53; Matt. 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 28:1-6, 19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28, Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5, 20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Eph. 1:20; 3-11-12; 4:7-10; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-

25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19-16.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sins, of righteousness and of judgement. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the time a person trusts Christ as Saviour and Lord, he is baptized with the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13) The Holy Spirit continues to dwell in the believer as he matures in his relationship with the Lord. He Cultivates Christian character, comforts believers and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. These gifts are to be exercised humbly and discreetly for the strengthening of the church and should never be exercised in such a way as to be divisive or destructive. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.

His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship and equips them for evangelism and service.

Scripture passages regarding God the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 3:16 “ And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.”

Luke 4:1 “ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit.”

Luke 4:18 “ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me....”

John 4:24 “ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 14:26 “ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

Acts 1:8 “ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 4:31 “ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.”

Act 10:44 “ While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the world.”

Romans 8:9 & 11 “ But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.”

Romans 8:26-27 “ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is according to the will of God.”

Romans 12:6-3 “ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us proportion to our faith; if service in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30 “ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Ephesians 4:11-13 “ And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:30 “ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Ephesians 5:18 “ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19 “ Do not quench the Spirit.”

1 Peter 4:10, 11 “ As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

See also:-

Gen. 1:2; Judg. 14:6; Psalms 51:11; 139: 7ff; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 1:18; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 1:35; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 2:1-4, 38; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17, 39; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14;3:16; Heb. 9:8, 14;2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17; Acts 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Rom. 8:14-16.

3. MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by His Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence. Therefore all men inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. As soon as they are capable of moral action they become transgressors and are under the condemnation of God. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The value of man is evident in that God originally created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man. Therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Scripture passages regarding man:

Genesis 1:26-27 “ Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 2:7 “...then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Genesis 3:22-24 “ Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take

also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever' – therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the way of the tree of life.”

Matthew 16:26 “ For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ”

Romans 3:23 “...since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:12 & 19 “ Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned...For as by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

See also:-

Gen. 2:18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5, Isa. 6:5; Jer.17:5; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18; 5:6; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14- 18, 29; 1 Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Eph. 2: 1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by his own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, and glorification.

Regeneration, or the new birth, is work of God’s grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner respond in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance and faith are inseparable of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior. Justification is God’s gracious and full acquittal, based upon His righteousness, of al sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favour with God.

Sanctification begins in regeneration. This mean the believer is purified and set apart to God’s purposes and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regeneration person’s life.

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed ad abiding state of the redeemed.

Scripture passages relating to Salvation:

John 1:11-14 “He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born not of blood nor of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.”

John 1:29 “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 3:14-18 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the holy Son of God.”

John 3:36 “He who believed in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.”

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 16:31-32 “And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ And they spoke the word of the Lord of him and to all that were in his house.”

Romans 1:16-18 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for the salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, for in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth.”

Romans 8:12-17 “So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh- for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry ‘Abba! Father!’ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

Romans 10:9-10 "...because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believed with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved."

Romans 10:13 "For everyone who called upon the name of Lord will be saved."

Colossians 1:11-14 "May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

1 Peter 1:18-19 "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."

See also:-

Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 5:24; 10:9; 28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 15:11; 17:30-31; 20:32; Rom. 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:29-39; 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13; Col.3:1ff; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:14; Heb. 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1 to 12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 John 1:6 to 2:11; Rev. 3:20; 21:1 to 22:5.

5. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election in the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regeneration, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and God in His election is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. Election excludes boasting and promotes humility."

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their grace and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgements on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Scripture passages relating to God's Purpose of Grace:

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you, and I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you

will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”

Jeremiah 1:31 “At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

Romans 8:28-30 & 37-39 “We know that in everything Gods works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified...No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, not things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:1-10 “And you he made alive when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

See also: -

Ex. 19:5-8; a Sam. 8:4-7; 19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Matt. 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22, 31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45, 65; 10:27-29; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:9-10; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph. 1:4-23; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10; 19; Heb. 11:39 to 12:2; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

6. THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teaching, exercising scripturally the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equal rights and privileges. According to the Scripture the two major officers of the church are pastors (i.e. elders and bishops) and deacons.”

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Scripture passages relating to The Church:

Matthew 16:15-19 “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar- Jona. For flesh and blood had not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Acts 2:41-47 “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 6:3-6 “Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid hands upon them.”

Acts 15:1-12 “But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and

debate with them, others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, reporting the conversion of the Gentiles, and they gave great joy to all the brethren. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up, and said, 'It is necessary to circumcise them, and to charge them to keep the law of Moses.' The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matters. And after there had been much debate, Peter rose and said to them, 'Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that by mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God who knows the heart bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us; and he made no distinction between us and them, but cleansed their hearts by faith. Now therefore why do they make trial of God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.' And all the assembly kept silence; and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles."

1 Corinthians 1:2 "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to e saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours."

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were baptized into one body – Jews and Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable part do not require. But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has

appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kind of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.”

Ephesians 1:22-23 “...and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 5:22-24 “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.”

See also: -

Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 5:11-14; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 16:5; 20:28; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; Eph. 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.

7. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances of the church. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is administered upon the authority of the local congregation. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Baptism is a church ordinance and is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember and proclaim the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Scripture passages relating to Baptism and the Lord's Supper:

Matthew 3:13-17 "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

Matthew 26:26-30 "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

John 3:23 "John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized."

Acts 2:41-42 "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 8:35-39 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with the scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?’ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing.”

Acts 16:30-33 “...’Men, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took him the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 “...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

See also: -

Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22, 22:19-20; Acts 20:7; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 10:16, 21; Col. 2:12.

8. THE LORD’S DAY

The first day of week is the Lord’s Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be observed by worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and in so far as possible by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only being excepted.

Scripture passages which relate to the Lord’s Day:

Matthew 28:1 “Now after the Sabbath toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher.”

Luke 24:1-3 “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.”

John 20:19-22 “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he

showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’”

Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 “Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.”

Revelation 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...”

See also: -

Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 12:1-12; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1; Col. 2:16; 3:16.

9. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God includes both general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who will fully acknowledge Him as king. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray that the Kingdom may come and God’s will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Scripture passages related to The Kingdom:

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called” “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Matthew 3:2 “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 20:29 “I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Mark 1:14-15 “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfill, and the kingdom of God is as hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.’”

Luke 17:20-21 “Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them, ‘The Kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Lo, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

John 3:3 “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

John 18:36 “Jesus answered, ‘My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews, but my kingship is not from the world.’”

Colossians 1:13 “He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...”

See also: -

Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; Mark 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 23:42; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

10. LAST THINGS

God, in His own time and His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteous will be consigned to Hell, to place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrection and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will be with the Lord forever.

Scripture passages which related to Last Things:

Matthew 24:27, 30, 36, & 44 “For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of man... then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory...’But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son but the Father only.’ ... Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Matthew 25:31-46 “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I

was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ The righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ and the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Luke 16:19-26 “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously everyday. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.”

John 14:1-3 “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

Acts 1:11 “...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ‘For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’ But when it says, ‘All things are put in subjection under him, it is plain that he is expected who put all things under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to everyone.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-47 “So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life- giving spirit. But it is not spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10 “...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.”

Hebrew 9:27-28 “And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

See also: -

Isa. 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40, 48; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thess. 5:1ff; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 to 22:13.

11. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavour to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teaching of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost Christ by personal witness and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Scripture passages related to Evangelism and Missions:

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the LORD said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you you will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves."

Isaiah 6:1-9a "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And said: 'Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!' Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven.' And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.' And he said, 'Go, and say to this people...'"

Matthew 9:37-38 "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.'"

John 20:21 "...Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so send I you."

Acts 1:3 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Roman 10:13-15 "For every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how are men to call upon him with whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!'"

1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy."

See also: -

Ex. 19:5-6; Matt. 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8, 16; 17:15; Acts 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Eph. 3:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; Rev. 22:17.

12. EDUCATION

The church itself is a school. The first followers of Jesus were called "disciples" which means "learners". Jesus told His followers to make disciples and to teach them all things He had commanded them.

It is the responsibility of the church to provide systematic Christian education for the believers which would assist them in living exemplary Christian lives in the community. In addition, for a church to achieve its objective of Christian outreach, it must continually provide training for recognized Christian leaders both Christian leaders both independently and cooperatively.

Scripture passages related to Education:

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, & 14 "And now, O Israel, give heed to the statutes and the ordinances which I teach you, and do them; that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD the God of your fathers gives you...Behold, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land which you are entering to make possession of it...Only take heed, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart

all the days of your life: make them known to your children and your children's children...And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances, that you might do them in the land which you are going over to possess."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 "Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourners within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land which you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Proverbs 4:1-5 "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive that you may gain insight; for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me, and said to me, 'Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.'"

1 Corinthians 1:18-20 "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?'"

Colossians 2:3, 8 "...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ."

2 Timothy 2:2 & 15 "...and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also...Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

See also: -

Neh. 8:1-8; Jod 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24ff; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; Heb. 5:12 to 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

13. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debt to the whole world, a sacred responsibility to spread the gospel and a binding stewardship in all areas of life. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents and material possessions; and should recognize all there as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scripture, Christians should contribute of their means through tithes and offerings. This should be done cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Scripture passages which related to Stewardship:

Leviticus 27:30-32 “All the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the trees, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD. If a man wishes to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add a fifth to it. And all the tithes of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth; that he may confirm his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as at this day.”

Malachi 3:8-10 “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How are we robbing thee?’ In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier of the law, justice and mercy and faith; there you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

Acts 17:24-25 “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything.”

Acts 20:35 “In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 “Now concerning the contribution for the saints; as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper so that contributions need not be made when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.”

2 Corinthians 9:7-10 “Each one must do as he made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor, his righteousness endures for ever.’ He who supplies seeds to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

See also: -

Gen. 14:20; Matt. 6:1-4; 19:21; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; Rom. 6:6-22; 1 Cor. 12; 2Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

14. COOPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries in the Spirit of Christ. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Scripture passages which related to Cooperation:

Acts 4:32-37 "Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, as grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of land or house sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."

Acts 13:2-3 "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

Acts 15:7-11 "And after there had been much debate, Peter rose and said to them, 'Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God who knows the heart bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, but cleansed their hearts by faith. Now therefore why do not make trial of God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'"

Ephesians 4:11-16 "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we may no longer be

children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.”

See also: -

Ex. 17:12; 18:17ff; Judg. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff; 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Phil. 1:15-18.

15. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement to society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are carried out by individuals who have been regenerated by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Scripture passages which related to The Christian and The Social Order:

Exodus 20:3-7 “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not take the name of LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his way, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I command you this day for your good?”

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Luke 20:25 “He said to them, ‘Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I loved you.”

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with immoral men; not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and the robbers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.”

Colossians 3:12-17 “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, say also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

See also: -

Lev. 6:2-5; Psalms 101:5; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 5:43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; John 17:15; Rom. 12-14; 1 Cor. 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 to 11:1; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; 1 Thess. 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

16. WAR AND PEACE

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the Spirit and teaching of Christ they should do all in their power to promote peace.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Scripture passages which related to War and Peace:

Isaiah 2:4 “He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they war any more.”

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Matthew 26:52 “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back into its place, for all who take sword will perish by the sword.’”

Romans 12:18-19 “If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”

Hebrew 12:14 “Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

James 4:1-4 “What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

See also: -

Matt. 5:38-48; 6:33; Luke 22:36, 38; Rom. 13:1-7; 14:19.

17. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary of His Word or not contained in it. The church and the State should be separate. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christian to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men.

Scripture passages which related to Religious Liberty:

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Matthew 22:21 “They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ The he said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”

Acts 4:19-20 “But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than God, you must judge; for we cannot but speak of what have seen and heard.’”

Romans 13:1-7 “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rules are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of him who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good.

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; he is the servant of God to execute his wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another."

1 Timothy 2:1-2 "First of all, then. I urge that supplication, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way."

1 Peter 2:12-17 "Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."

Gen. 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; John 8:36; Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 5:1; Phil. 3:20; James 4:12; 1 Peter 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

(Adopted by the Malaysia Baptist Convention in its 1979 Annual Meeting).