

Doctrinal Position

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

800 Smith Street
Bedford VA 24523

(Article IV of Our Church Constitution)

- I. **OF THE SCRIPTURES** – We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.
 - a. By the *“Holy Bible”* we mean the collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, was originally written, does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
 - b. By *“Inspiration”* we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
- II. **THE TRUE GOD** – We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, and infinite intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
- III. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature that He was active in the Creation, and in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.
- IV. **OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN** – We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man’s great tempter, the enemy of God and Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the Antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness – destined however to final defeat at the hands of God’s Son, and the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.
- V. **OF THE CREATION** – We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be literally and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God’s own image and after His own likeness; that man’s creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or developments through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animals and

vegetable life were made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." We believe that Genesis 1:1 is the record of the heavens and the earth being brought into existence in a basic form on the first day of Creation Week; that this work plus the work of bringing light into existence constitute, not two works of God widely separated by millions of billions of years, but the two works of God on Day One of Creation Week; that each of the six days plus the seventh day of rest in Creation Week was, not an age, but a day such as each day in the command of God to work six days and to rest one day.

- VI. **OF THE FALL OF MAN** – We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.
- VII. **OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH** – We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and He is both the Son of God, and God the Son.
- VIII. **OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN** – We believe that the salvation of sinners wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His perfect obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but in the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.
- IX. **OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION** – We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Jesus Christ; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.
- X. **OF FREENESS OF SALVATION** – We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. We do not accept the theological concepts known as Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, and Irresistible Grace.
- XI. **OF JUSTIFICATION** – We believe that the great Gospel which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works, or righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.
- XII. **OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH** – We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations; and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God, thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of Salvation by Christ, we turn to God

with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

- XIII. **OF THE CHURCH** – We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.
- XIV. **OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER** – We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.
- XV. **OF THE PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS** – We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguished them from superficial professors, that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.
- XVI. **OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED** – We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God; and truly unbelievers are in His sight wicked; and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious sufferings of the lost.
- XVII. **OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT** – We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for; conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of earth.
- XVIII. **OF THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS** – We believe and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects as their face and full value. Of the resurrection, we believe that Christ arose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God;" that He alone is our "merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God;" and "that this same Jesus as ye have seen Him go into Heaven – bodily, personally, and visibly; that the dead in Christ shall rise first," that the living saints "shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump," and that "the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet." We believe that, seven years before Christ returns to

set His feet on the earth and to rule one thousand years over all the people of the earth, He will appear in the clouds in the air; “the dead in Christ shall rise;” that “we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air;” that rise and rule of the Anti-Christ, and terrible judgments of God, shall come to pass during the seven year period of time between the appearing of Christ in the air to call out His saints, living and dead and His return to earth to rule over all people for one thousand years.

- XIX. **OF MISSIONS** – We believe that the command to give the Gospel to the World is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches.
- XX. **OF THE GRACE OF GIVING** – We believe that God’s method of financing His eternal work of spreading the Gospel to all nations; the care of the churches and the support of the ministry is by tithes and offerings of His people; that it is to be given to the leadership of the Spirit as the need arises. The time to tithe is upon the first day of the week; that everyone is accountable to the Lord for one-tenth of his income and that tithing was instituted long before the law was ever given and was practiced by the early church.