

# Valley Bible Church Doctrinal Statement

---

Revised November 17, 2015

Doctrine that is faithful to Scripture is the foundation of our unity and identity as a church. The following nine points summarize the main truths of the Bible, and outline what we believe at Valley Bible Church.

## **1. The Word of God**

The Bible is God's only written revelation to humanity. Each and every word of Scripture is God-breathed. (2 Timothy 3:16, Matthew 5:18) God directed the authors of Scripture to write exactly what he wanted them to say. (2 Peter 1:21) Therefore, we uphold that the Bible is free from error in the original writings, and we submit to the authority of God's Book in every area of life.

## **2. God**

We believe in one sovereign, eternal God, the creator of all things, eternally existing in three equally divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2) God is all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, and all-loving, eternal, holy, just and unchanging. (1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalm 139; Psalm 145) He directs all things for the praise of His glory. (Isaiah 43:6-7; Jeremiah 13:11; John 17:1; Ephesians 1:11-12; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11)

## **3. Jesus Christ**

The eternal Son of God became man and lived on the earth. He was born of the virgin Mary, and men saw His glory (John 1:14). He is fully man and fully God. His name is Jesus (meaning "Jehovah is Salvation") and Christ (meaning the "Messiah"). He is our savior, (Matthew 1:21; Titus 2:13-14) our Lord, our God, (John 20:28) and our coming King. (Revelation 19:16) Christ died on the cross as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, was buried, was resurrected bodily on the third day, ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9; Ephesians 1:20)

## **4. Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son. (Matthew 28:19) He is God. (Acts 5:3-4) He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, (John 16:8-11) and is the supernatural agent in regeneration at salvation. (Titus 3:5) He baptizes all believers into the universal Church, (1 Corinthians 12:13) indwells all believers, and marks them as His own. (1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13) He fills and empowers all believers who are yielded to Him and subject to His will, (Ephesians 5:18) enabling believers to grow in maturity and conformity to the image of Christ and to grow in love for God and their fellow man (Colossians 1:28-29; Ephesians 3:16-19). He gives gifts as He chooses to each believer to be used for the building up of the body (1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:7-16; Romans 12:3-8).

## **5. Mankind**

Mankind was created, both male and female, in the image of God, to worship and glorify Him. (Genesis 1:26-27) However, mankind sinned against God and our fellowship with God was broken.

(Genesis 3) As a result of Adam's original sin, all human beings are now corrupted by sin and desperately wicked. (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:12; Romans 5:12-14) In this natural, rebellious state, mankind is subject to death and the eternal wrath of God. (John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:8)

## **6. Salvation**

In His great love, God has provided a way of salvation for all mankind through the saving work of Jesus Christ. (John 3:16; 1 Tim 2:4-6) He died upon a cross, was buried and rose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5; Romans 5:8) Christ became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18) This salvation comes through personal faith in Christ alone, (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12) and is by grace alone, the free gift of God, not earned by our works. (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9) God also sanctifies his saved people by His Word and His Spirit, causing them to grow in conformity to the image of Christ, dying to sin and living to righteousness (Romans 6:12-22; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13; Ephesians 4:22-24; 2 Peter 3:18). Every true believer who is persevering in faith can have the assurance of salvation. (John 1:12-13; John 10:27-28; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:10-13; John 20:31)

## **7. The Church**

The Church universal includes all who have put their faith in Christ. We emphasize the need for a strong local church in which God is worshiped, His Word is taught, and believers minister to one another and reach out to those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-16) We believe that Christ committed the two ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper to the local church as outward signs of the inward reality of salvation and they are observed in obedience and remembrance until Christ returns. (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) We believe that the local church is governed by a plurality of elders. (1 Timothy 3:1-14; 1 Peter 5:1-3)

## **8. Angels and Satan**

We believe in angels of God which are spirits ministering to us, the heirs of salvation. (Hebrews 1:14) The Scriptures tell of the fall of Satan and his angels. (Isaiah 14:12-15, Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4). Satan originated sin in the world through the permissive will of God, and he and his demons now rule this world as usurpers. (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Satan was defeated at the cross and will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever (Revelation 20:10).

## **9. The End**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the wicked, and the eternal joy of the righteous. (Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6,11-15)