THE PURPOSE OF A DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The primary purpose of our doctrinal statement is to foster unity, so that as a body we all love and affirm the same truth in Scripture. Since every member affirms this statement, we can rejoice that we are unified in this together.[1] The doctrinal statement also serves as a protection against serious error by guarding the body from those who deny and distort the truth.[2]

The doctrinal statement should not be so narrow that it excludes believers from becoming members who we would want to partner with because they love the same core gospel truths that we do. But it should also not be so wide that it doesn't guard the gospel and foster a love for every aspect of gospel truth that we hold dear. Thus, this statement should center on the gospel and other truths central to our faith and purpose. But this statement also outlines some secondary theological commitments of the church that are valuable and make us distinct. Therefore, if someone holds to the substantial core of this doctrinal statement, but has disagreements on secondary matters contained in it, they can still be welcomed into membership.

Good theology (and therefore a good doctrinal statement) always holds the various biblical truths in tension, and is careful to nuance and understand in what sense things are true. For example, "God is love" is one of the most fundamental truths in Scripture, and yet the fact that God is love doesn't mean He won't judge sin. To not hold God's love in proper relationship with His holiness and righteousness is to misunderstand the true nature of His love. So in this statement we seek to be simple and clear, yet as careful and precise as possible.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is the message of good news, promised long ago in the Old Testament, that God, being just and yet merciful, gracious, and kind, would come to reconcile humanity to Himself and redeem us from the brokenness brought on us through the treason of our first parents.[3] He did this through sending Jesus to die in the place of sinners and rise from the dead according to the Scriptures[4] so that everyone who repents and believes[5] will be forgiven, declared righteous, have eternal life in Him, and join in His joyful kingdom,[6] where all sin, death, injustice, and sorrow will be banished and all creation will flourish according to God's design forever.[7]

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[1] Romans 16:17; John 17:17-21

[2] 1 Timothy 6:3-5

[3] Genesis 3:15; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; 40:1-5, 9-11; 52:7-53:12; Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; 14:4, 9; Galatians 3:8; Romans 1:1-5

[4] Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

[5] Mark 1:15; Romans 1:16

[6] Romans 4:7; Romans 6:5; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:13; Colossians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Revelation 20:6

[7] Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Romans 2:16; Romans 8:19-25; Colossians 1:20; Revelation 20:6; 21:1-5

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's story about Himself where He reveals His nature, goodness, and glory so that all people may know, love, worship, and adore Him.[8] This story unfolds human history so people see Jesus Christ as the focal point and understand their origin and purpose in relation to Him.[9] Without this revelation, mankind would be lost in darkness. But God's Words give us light and life, showing us how to truly have joy and purpose in humble relationship with our Creator.[10]

We believe that the Bible (consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments)[11] is verbally inspired by God[12] and therefore is infallibly true,[13] eternally unchanging,[14] and without error in the original manuscripts.[15]

We believe that the Holy Spirit supernaturally carried along the various human authors of the Bible in such a way that they retained their own intentions, styles, and personalities in writing, yet recorded the very words of God.[16]

We believe that since the Bible is God's words, it carries His full authority,[17] is applicable to people in every time and culture,[18] and is the supreme standard by which all of humanity will be judged.[19]

We believe that since God inspired the Bible through its human authors, God's intentions are revealed through their intentions. Therefore, we find the singular meaning that God intended by studying the historical setting, purpose for writing, grammar, flow of thought, and words that the human authors of the Bible wrote.[20] In other words, the Bible has fixed, objective, historical meaning that can be found through studying the text in its context. So while the Bible applies differently to people in every situation and culture, its meaning is always the same.

[8] Exodus 3:14-16; Exodus 33:17-23; 34:6-8; Psalm 34:8; 22:27-31; 66:1-5; 67:1-7; John 1:1, 18; Revelation 1:1
[9] Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:4, 9-12; 1 Corinthians 10:11
[10] Matthew 4:16; John 1:1-14; Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:13
[11] Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19
[12] Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 22:31-32, 41-45; 2 Timothy 3:16 (literally, "breathed out by God")
[13] Psalm 19:7-9; Psalm 119:142; John 17:17; 2 Peter 1:19
[14] Numbers 23:19; 1 Kings 13:1-26; Psalm 119:89; Proverbs 30:6; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25
[15] Psalm 12:6; John 10:35; Hebrews 6:18; 2 Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:2
[16] 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:15-16
[17] Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 19:3-4; Luke 16:17
[18] Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11
[19] Hebrews 4:12-13
[20] 2 Peter 1:20-21

We believe that while individual passages may be difficult to interpret,[21] the message of the Bible as a whole is clear,[22] that God will hold people accountable for understanding and living out its message,[23] and that the Bible is sufficient and relevant for every aspect of life.[24] This does not mean the Bible answers every question people may have. But it does mean that the Bible tells us everything we need to know to see our need for and be reconciled to God, walk by faith in pleasing Him, and flourish according to His design.[25] While the Bible is clear, because of our fallen humanity we will have blind spots, bias, language and cultural barriers, sin, and other baggage that hinders us from fully and properly understanding the Bible.[26]

We believe that due to these weaknesses, proper interpretation and application of the Bible is dependent on the Holy Spirit's illumination[27] and that people should be humble, repentant, diligent, and prayerful in seeking to understand and live it out.[28] While the Spirit must illumine for proper spiritual understanding of the Bible, this doesn't remove the need to diligently study, deeply meditate on, and faithfully obey the Bible to understand it properly.[29]

We believe that while God reveals His invisible attributes through creation, the additional revelation of God's Word is necessary for salvation.[30] Since the original authors' words were inspired, we value studying the text in Hebrew, Aramaic,[31] and Greek, and we value translating the Bible into other languages so all people worldwide can see the glorious God of the Bible in their own language.[32]

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

We believe that there is one true and living God[33] who exists eternally[34] as three persons in perfect unity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.[35] While each member of the Godhead has distinct roles, they share the exact same nature, attributes, and being, and are equally worthy of glory, honor, and obedience.[36]

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[21] 2 Peter 3:16
[22] Deuteronomy 29:29; Deuteronomy 30:11-14
[23] 1 Kings 13:21; Zechariah 7:11-13; Matthew 22:29; 2 Peter 3:16
[24] 2 Timothy 3:16-17
[25] John 15:11; Romans 5:10; Hebrews 11:2, 6, 39; 1 John 1:4
[26] Psalm 19:12; Proverbs 3:7; Proverbs 12:1; Romans 12:16; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:1-2
[27] John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
[28] Psalm 119:12, 18; 2 Timothy 2:7, 15; 1 Peter 2:1-2
[29] Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:8-14; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:1-2
[30] Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 19:7-14; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:23
[31] Daniel 2:4
[32] Nehemiah 8:8; 1 Corinthians 14:5; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 7:9; Revelation 14:6
[33] Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:18; Isaiah 46:9; Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Timothy 2:5
[34] Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 48:12; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 1:8
[35] Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-3; John 10:30; John 17:11, 21; 2 Corinthians 13:14. The fundamental unity of God is related to the fact that the Trinity is in fact one God. This is also related to the doctrine of divine simplicity, that God is not composed of parts, although that is beyond the scope of this statement.
[36] Cf. the Nicene Creed, which we affirm.

We believe that God is the source of everything in the universe, not dependent on anyone or anything, self-existent, and self-sufficient.[37] He created everything that exists, and in Him we live and move and have our being.[38] He is by nature[39] an invisible[40] spirit,[41] who is present everywhere at the same time.[42] He is unchanging.[43] While He is beyond our comprehension[44] and we cannot know Him on our own,[45] He reveals Himself and is near to us.[46] We believe that God is all-knowing[47] and all-powerful,[48] and is sovereignly in control of everything in the universe, large and small.[49]

God is holy and glorious,[50] perfect and good,[51] faithful and true,[52] righteous and just,[53] compassionate and merciful.[54] He is jealous, wrathful, and worthy to be feared.[55] He alone is wise.[56] God is light, and God is love.[57]

GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father is Creator of the universe who in six literal days made heaven and earth for His glory, through the Son and by the power of the Spirit.[58] He alone has the authority and power to sovereignly rule over all of history, to save sinners, and to providentially preserve, orchestrate, and govern creation.[59] He is eternally happy

[37] Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 36:9; Psalm 50:12; Isaiah 40:28; John 5:26; Acts 17:25-28; Romans 1:25; Romans 11:36 (God's aseity). Cf. https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/eternality-aseity-god

[38] Acts 17:28

[39] This doesn't mean that God can't reveal Himself in space-time as at Mount Sinai or with His Shekinah glory (i.e., a visible manifestation of God on earth), but His nature is as an invisible spirit.

[40] John 1:18; 1 John 4:12; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:16

[41] John 4:24

[42] 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24 (God's omnipresence, or God is outside of and not limited by space-time)

[43] Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17 (God's immutability). We also believe that this implies that fundamentally, God is eternally happy and is not subject to changes in mood (God's impassibility).

[44] Job 38:2-4; Job 42:3; Isaiah 55:9; Romans 11:33-36 (God's incomprehensibility)

[45] Job 11:7; Job 37:23; Proverbs 30:1-6; Isaiah 55:9; Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 17:24; 1 Timothy 6:16 (God's transcendence)

[46] Deuteronomy 4:7; Isaiah 55:6; Acts 17:27 (God's immanence)

[47] 1 Samuel 16:7; Job 37:16; Psalm 139; Isaiah 42:9; Isaiah 46:10; Matthew 10:30 (God's omniscience)

[48] Revelation 1:8; Revelation 4:8 (God's omnipotence)

[49] Genesis 50:20; Exodus 14:4; Job 42:2; Proverbs 16:33; Psalm 33:10-11; Psalm 115:3; Proverbs 21:1; Isaiah 14:27; Isaiah 46:10; Lamentations 3:37-38; Ephesians 1:5; James 4:15

[50] Exodus 16:7; Exodus 29:43; Exodus 33:18; Exodus 40:34; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 113:4; Psalm 115:1; Revelation 21:23

[51] Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 118:1; Matthew 5:48; Luke 18:19

[52] Exodus 34:6

[53] Exodus 34:7; Deuteronomy 32:4; Revelation 16:5

[54] Exodus 34:6; Luke 6:36; James 5:11

[55] Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:14; Proverbs 1:7; Nahum 1:2; Hebrews 10:30-31

[56] Romans 11:33; Romans 16:27; 1 Corinthians 1:21, 25

[57] 1 John 1:5; 1 John 4:16

[58] Genesis 1:1-3; Exodus 20:11; John 1:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; Revelation 4:11

[59] Psalm 2; Psalm 103:19; John 6:44, 65; Romans 11:36; 1 Timothy 6:15

because His plan will surely come to pass.[60] As the Creator, He owns everything and gave it all to the Son for His glory.[61]

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the image of the Father, who as the Word of God reveals and explains God.[62] We believe that at the right time in God's plan, God sent His Son to be born of a virgin and take on human flesh.[63] We believe that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and raised on the third day, appeared to His disciples, and ascended into heaven.[64] Now at the right hand of God, He is the head of the church,[65] our Advocate and Mediator,[66] Apostle and High Priest of our confession,[67] Pioneer and Perfector of faith,[68] and the only way to the Father.[69] We believe that Jesus will return in glory to rescue His people, judge the world, and consummate His everlasting kingdom.[70]

GOD THE SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, a divine person, co-eternal with the Father and the Son, empowers what God does in creation and glorifies the Lord Jesus in this age.[71] He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and draws unbelievers to repentance and faith.[72] The Spirit raised Christ from the dead, gives new life to believers, and brings us into union with Christ and His body.[73] The Spirit seals and sanctifies,[74] instructs and guides,[75] fills and empowers,[76] equips and comforts.[77] He permanently indwells believers at salvation,[78] and gives spiritual gifts to believers for Christ-like living and service.[79]

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[60] Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 46:10; Luke 22:42; John 10:29; Acts 2:23; Acts 4:27-28; Ephesians 1:11; 1 Timothy 1:11; 1 Timothy 6:15
[61] Genesis 14:19; Psalm 50:10; Isaiah 43:7; John 3:35; 10:29; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28
[62] John 1:1; John 1:18; John 14:9; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1-3
[63] Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 25; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4
[64] Acts 1:2, 9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; 1 Timothy 3:16
[65] Ephesians 1:22; 4:15
[66] 1 John 2:1; 1 Timothy 2:5
[67] Hebrews 3:1
[68] Hebrews 12:2
[69] John 14:6
[70] Daniel 7:13-14, 22, 27; Matthew 24:3; 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 1:6-7; Hebrews 9:27-28
[71] Genesis 1:2; Exodus 35:31; John 16:14; Hebrews 9:14
[72] John 16:8; Titus 3:5
[73] Romans 8:11
[74] Romans 15:16; Ephesians 1:13
[75] John 16:13; Romans 8:9-17
[76] Ephesians 5:18; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:16
[77] Ephesians 6:17-18; Acts 9:31
[78] John 14:17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16
[79] Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-13, 19; Galatians 5:25

HUMANITY

We believe that God created mankind, male and female, equal in value and purpose, in His own image and likeness.[80] In the garden, humanity was created in completion and maturity, free from sin and death, made to know, enjoy, represent, and glorify God forever.[81] When tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve distrusted and rebelled against God, bringing sin, death, and condemnation to all mankind.[82] Since the original sin, all humanity is born spiritually dead, totally corrupt by nature and by choice,[83] alienated from God,[84] without defense or excuse,[85] and subject to God's righteous wrath.[86] Due to being spiritually dead, all humanity is in desperate need of the saving and transforming grace that is found in Jesus Christ alone.[87]

We believe that God created and defined marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman[88] who are equal in value but given different roles in marriage and the church.[89] God assigns male and female genders at the moment of conception; therefore, they are biologically defined.[90] Because God created gender and instituted marriage, He alone has the right to define them, which He has designed for our good and to picture transcendent realities such as the Trinity and the beautiful mystery of Christ and His bride.[91] People flourish in this life when God's definitions of marriage and sexuality are upheld, and those who trust God will be rewarded in eternity.[92]

We believe that because every person bears the image of God, all forms of racism, prejudice, and misogyny are evil.[93] We acknowledge that churches at various times and places have been complicit in not standing up for justice in these and other areas. This should not be so. But we rejoice that God is a God of justice and that He defends the powerless.[94] We believe that life begins at conception, and so abortion is an affront to God, who creates life in His image.[95]

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[80] Genesis 1:26-30; Genesis 2:21-22; Genesis 5:1; Genesis 9:6; Acts 17:26-29

[81] Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 8:4-8; Psalm 86:9; Psalm 144:15; Luke 2:10; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31

[82] Genesis 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 14; Revelation 12:9; 1 John 2:16; Hosea 6:7; Romans 5:12-14

[83] Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Ecclesiastes 9:3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 1:14-15 (total depravity)

[84] Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 4:18

[85] Genesis 3:8-11; Romans 1:20; Romans 2:15

[86] Psalm 6:1; Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5-8; Colossians 3:6

[87] Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; Romans 5:15-19; Ephesians 2:4-10

[88] Genesis 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:28-31

[89] Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 3:2

[90] Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13. This doesn't mean that people will not or do not have gender dysphoria, same-sex attraction, intersex conditions, or other sexual conditions that may bring unique struggles or temptations in marriage and sexuality. All humanity lives with various types and degrees of sexual lust, but we believe God's definitions of marriage and sexuality should be upheld. Whatever condition we are in, we are to find our identity in Christ and God will give grace to those who are tempted yet humbly trust and obey Him.

[91] Ephesians 5:25-33; 1 Corinthians 11:3

[92] Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

[93] Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:11-15

[94] Psalm 68:5; Psalm 82:3-4; Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8; Amos 5:24

[95] Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 1:15, 41-42

SALVATION

We believe that Jesus is mankind's only hope of salvation, the only mediator and way to God.[96] Jesus saved believers from God's wrath by dying on the cross in our place to pay the penalty that we deserve.[97] This means that through the cross believers are forgiven and reconciled to God.[98] This salvation is available to anyone worldwide who calls on the name of the Lord, and yet Christ actually atoned for the sins of the elect.[99]

We believe that this salvation was sovereignly planned by God in eternity past so that God would get all the glory for His undeserved mercy.[100] Though we were not righteous, God declared and counted us righteous in Christ.[101] We are united to Christ through faith and not works, so that salvation would be all of God's doing and all of grace.[102] While the law shows God's righteous standard and our need of Christ, it cannot save or transform us, and trying to be right with God by the law undermines God's power working through faith.[103] We simply confess, repent, and believe, and God saves and transforms.[104] Yet anyone who has truly tasted and seen God's goodness in Christ will continue to walk by faith, pursue holiness, and grow to be like Jesus until they see Him face to face.[105] When we were saved, we were set apart for God, born again, regenerated, adopted into God's family, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.[106]

We believe that at the cross Jesus defeated death and all the powers of darkness and is reconciling all things to Himself.[107] Therefore, through faith believers share in His victory.[108] We can be absolutely certain of our salvation since God, who promised it, is faithful and will never reject anyone who genuinely repents and believes.[109] Yet we

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[96] John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:5 (Only Christ, Solus Christus)

[97] Propitiation: Numbers 16:46-47; Romans 3:25; Romans 5:9; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; Substitution: Leviticus 16; Isaiah 53:4-6; Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18

[98] Forgiveness: Romans 4:7; Colossians 1:14; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 2:12; Reconciliation: Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20

[99] Global salvation: John 3:16; Romans 10:13; 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 2:2; Definite atonement: John 10:15-16; John 17:9; John 19:30; Hebrews 10:14; Revelation 5:9

[100] Sovereignty: John 6:39; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11-12; Grace alone (Sola Gratia): Romans 3:24; Romans 4:16; For the glory of God alone (Soli Deo Gloria): Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14; Ephesians 3:21; Hebrews 13:21

[101] Justification and imputation: Philippians 3:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:5-8; Romans 5:1; Romans 3:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

[102] Faith alone (Sola Fide): Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9

[103] Galatians 5:2-3; Colossians 2:20-23

[104] Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9

[105] Romans 6:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16; Hebrews 12:10, 14; 1 John 1:6; 1 John 2:4; 1 John 3:2

[106] Sanctification: John 17:17, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:11; New birth: John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3; Regeneration: Titus 3:5; Adoption: Galatians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:15; Sealing: Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22

[107] Colossians 1:20; Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:26 (Christ the Victor, Christus Victor)

[108] 1 John 5:4

[109] John 10:28; Hebrews 10:23; 1 John 2:19; 1 Peter 1:4-5

should never take grace for granted, but must work out our salvation with fear because God is the One who works in and through us.[110]

THE CHURCH

We believe that when someone is saved and God's Spirit indwells them, He makes them a member of Christ's body, the church.[111] This body is made up of all genuine believers globally so that together we represent Jesus to the world and give Him glory as our head.[112] The church is the family of God, characterized by love,[113] the temple of God, indwelt and empowered by Him,[114] and the bride of Christ, living in purity as we wait for His return.[115]

We believe that the universal church finds expression in individual local churches which God establishes to be salt and light throughout the world, pillars to uphold and display His truth.[116] Each local church is a community of Jesus followers who are committed to helping each other grow to be like Jesus and be His ambassadors who do His good deeds and proclaim His good news to the lost.[117] God structured His church to be shepherded by qualified male elders who lead by teaching and are supported by qualified deacons who exemplify serving.[118]

We believe that the mission of the church is to fulfill the Great Commission, making disciples of every nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to watchfully adhere to all of God's Word.[119]

We believe that God gave the church two ordinances to practice until Christ returns: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a public profession and promise to live for Christ in joining the body of Christ, with immersion in water symbolizing unity in death with Christ and being raised with Him to new life.[120] The Lord's Supper is for members of the body to carefully remember and proclaim Jesus' death until He comes again in celebration of the New Covenant.[121]

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[110] Philippians 2:12; Philippians 3:12, 14; 1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Hebrews 4:11; Hebrews 6:4-6; Hebrews 10:26-27; 2 Peter 1:10

[111] Romans 6:3-6; Romans 8:9; Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27-28

[112] Ephesians 1:10, 22-23; Ephesians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:12-13; Colossians 1:18, 24; Colossians 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:10-12

[113] Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 10:28-30; John 13:1-4, 34-35; Romans 8:15; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 14-15; 1 John 5:1-2

[114] Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; John 17:20-23

[115] Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 5:29-32; Revelation 21:1-3

[116] Matthew 5:13-14; Acts 15:41; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:9

[117] Romans 12:10; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 4:1-3, 25; Titus 2:10, 14; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 12:15-16

[118] 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 3; 1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Timothy 4:1-3; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:7, 17

[119] Matthew 28:18-20

[120] Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21

[121] Luke 22:13-20; 1 Corinthians 11:20-34

THINGS TO COME

We believe that Jesus, having offered the once-for-all perfect sacrifice for sin, sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He is currently interceding for believers and waiting for the time when He will return to earth personally and visibly to reign.[122] When Christ returns in power and glory with His angels,[123] believers who have died will be raised to life,[124] will become like Christ with new bodies like His,[125] will celebrate the wedding supper of the Lamb, and will forever be united to the Lord.[126] Christ will consummate God's kingdom in perfect righteousness, justice, and peace, and believers will reign with Him forever.[127] Unbelievers who have died will be raised to life, and those who are alive but not in Christ will stand before the Great White Throne, where all of their deeds will be judged and they will be thrown into hell, along with Satan and his demons,[128] suffering eternal punishment for their sins.[129] God will create a new heaven and a new earth, where there will be no more sickness, sorrow, pain, or death, and believers will worship and enjoy God forever.[130]

[122] Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6-11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; Hebrews 10:12-13; Revelation 19:11-16
[123] Matthew 16:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:7
[124] Romans 7:24-25; Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:4-6
[125] Romans 8:30; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2
[126] Luke 22:18; Revelation 19:7-9; Revelation 21:2
[127] 1 Corinthians 6:3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6; Revelation 22:5
[128] Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10
[129] Matthew 5:29-30; Matthew 13:40-43; Matthew 25:41-43; Romans 2:5-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15
[130] Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1-3