

# Pineville Community Chapel

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## Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the following Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, hold to these doctrinal teachings:

### A. Scriptures:

We believe the 66 books comprising the Old and New Testaments to be verbal and plenary inspiration of God, inerrant in the original writing and are the supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith and life.

We further believe that the canon of Scripture is closed, and that God is giving no additional revelation today through visions, dreams, prophetic utterance or any means. God's complete revelation is in the Bible. (Ps. 19:7; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 16:12,13, 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20,21; Rev. 22:18,19).

### B. Trinity:

We believe in one true God who has revealed Himself as eternally existing in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal in nature, power and glory, co-eternal in being, and therefore each is worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:18,19; Jn. 4:24, 10:30, 17:3; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3).

### C. Jesus Christ:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Godhead, the eternal and only begotten Son of God (Jn. 1:1, 3:16; Rom 9:5), having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, perfect God and perfect man (Jn 1:14; Mat 1:34; Heb. 1:8). We further believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice bearing the full penalty of divine wrath (Isa 53:6; Gal 3:13; Matt 20:28). We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven as our Great High Priest, where He ministers as our Advocate and Intercessor (Heb 4:14, 9:24; Acts 1:9; Rom 8:34; I Jn 2:1,2).

### D. Holy Spirit:

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; Acts 5:3,4). We believe that He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, and that He is the Divine agent in regeneration. At the moment of saving faith, the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ (this constitutes the only baptism of the Holy Spirit), indwells and empowers the believer to live a godly life, and forever seals the believer to glory (Jn 3:5-7; 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 2:10, 6:19,20; Gal 5:16; Eph 1:13,14; 4:30). We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth, that He sovereignly bestows upon believers spiritual gifts which are to be exercised for the edifying of the Body of Christ and for Christian service (1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:7-12).

### E. Man:

We believe that man was the direct creation of God and was created in His image (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7). We believe that Adam was the first man, that he personally disobeyed the revealed will of God, became a sinful creature and the progenitor of a fallen race (Gen. 3:1-24). As a result all men are sinful in both nature and practice (Ps 51:5; Eph 2:3; Rom 3:23), are alienated from God (Isa 59:2; Eph 4:18), under the condemnation and wrath of God (Rom 3:19; 5:18; Jn 3:36; Eph 2:3), and can do nothing to save himself or earn God's favor (Eph 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Rom 4:5).

**F. Salvation:**

We believe that salvation is offered to man on the principle of grace, that it is the gift of God and is received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of sin (Eph 2:8-10; Jn 1:12, Eph 1:7). We believe that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12). We believe that all who receive Christ by faith become children and heirs of God and are eternally secure in Christ (Jn 1:12,13; Eph 1:13,14).

We further believe that every saved person possesses two natures with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom 6:13; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 4:22-24; I Pet 1:14-16; I Jn 3:3-9). We further believe that the reality of salvation is to be displayed in a changed life (I Jn 2:3-6).

**G. Church:**

We believe the New Testament teaches that the universal church is a living organism, composed solely of born-again believers of this age, and is the Body and Bride of Christ. We believe it began on Pentecost, that it will continue on this earth until Jesus Christ completes it and returns to take it to heaven. We believe the church is not to be confused with Israel but is distinct from it (Acts 2:1-47; I Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22, 23; 4:11-13).

We further believe that the New Testament teaches that Christians should gather together into local assemblies for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, united testimony, and the observance of the ordinances (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Tim 3:1-13; Tit 1:15-11).

**H. Ordinances:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted two ordinances for the local church to observe: water baptism and Lord's Supper. We believe water baptism is a believer's public testimony symbolizing the baptism of the Holy Spirit who unites the believer to Christ and identifies him with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. We believe baptism by immersion best portrays this truth (Mk 1:8; Rom 6:3,4; Gal 3:27; Col 2:11-13). The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as a memorial of His death and is to be observed until the return of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 11:23-29).

**I. Satan:**

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel leading the host of demons, the great deceiver and adversary of Christ and His Church, and that his destiny is eternal torment in the lake of fire (Job 1:6,7; Isa. 14:12-17; 2 Cor 4:3,4; 11:14; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 20:10).

**J. Future Things:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ's return is personal, bodily, imminent, pre-millennial and shall occur in two phases. First He shall return in the air to receive His Church; and then following the Tribulation, shall return to the earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Zech 14:4-11; I Thess 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Rev 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

**K. Eternal State:**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgement and eternal torment in the lake of fire (Matt 25:46; Jn 5:28,29, 11:25,26; Rev 20:5,6,12,13).

**L. Separation:**

We believe that all the saved are called to a life of separation from all ungodly practices and appearance, in order that we may exhibit a testimony that exalts God and is above reproach (I Thessalonians 5:21-22, II Cor. 6:14, 17; Rom. 12:1,2).