



MY STATEMENT OF MY BELIEFS

This statement represents more than twenty two years of extensive Bible study, reading, prayer, preaching, meditation, and learning. It has developed as the Word of God has illuminated my thinking and challenged my beliefs. I will continue to develop and correct it as the Lord Jesus continues to shape and mould the way I think, feel, and act.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE CREATOR

As Creator, God brought all things into existence out of nothing. By His own word and will He brought all things into being. Nothing was made that was not made by God¹. As Creator, God's power is without limit. He is the Lord and Master of history. He has complete control over all the events of the universe². He is all knowing, all seeing, and all wise³.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE JUDGE

As Creator, God can do all things except deny Himself⁴. He remains forever consistent to His character and essential qualities⁵. He requires the same consistency from His creatures. He holds all humanity accountable for the way they reflect and express His character in their lives⁶. At the appointed time God will judge all humanity for the lives they have lived⁷.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE LOVING FATHER

From the beginning God intended to enjoy a loving and caring relationship with His creatures in the garden of Eden. This was made impossible by the disobedience and defiance of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve⁸.

Despite their rebellion, God the loving Father has made every effort to restore the broken relationship that exists between mankind and Himself⁹. He began by making a bond of love and commitment with Abraham and his descendants¹⁰. As a result of this commitment the people of Israel were given the privilege of knowing God and the responsibility of reflecting His character to the world¹¹.

Israel's failure to fulfil their responsibilities as God's chosen people resulted in their destruction and exile to a foreign country¹². According to God's fatherly love a remnant of the chosen people were returned to their

¹ Genesis 1:1-26; John 1:3

² Psalm 115:3, 139:1-6; Ephesians 1:11

³ Daniel 2:20-21; Proverbs 15:3

⁴ 2 Timothy 2:13

⁵ Isaiah 6:3; James 1:17

⁶ Leviticus 11:44

⁷ Romans 2:16

⁸ Genesis 3

⁹ Psalm 103:1-18

¹⁰ Genesis 12:1-3

¹¹ Exodus 6:7, 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 4:6-8

¹² Deuteronomy 31:16-17; Jeremiah 5:19

ancient land with the promise that there would be a new covenant, a new relationship with God¹³. This new relationship would be established by Jesus Christ, the Son of God¹⁴.

I BELIEVE IN MAN, THE CREATURE

As God's creatures we are totally dependent upon Him for life and existence. We are created in His image¹⁵. We have the capacity to communicate, to be faithful, to be true, to be just, and to love. As a result we have the ability to enjoy fellowship with God and each other.

I BELIEVE IN MAN, THE REBEL

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman created by God, plunged all humanity into sin and rebellion through their defiant act of disobedience in the garden of Eden¹⁶. Their defiance shattered their relationship with God, each other, and the world they lived in¹⁷. We have inherited their bias towards disobedience and rebellion. We are not the worst we could be but every aspect of our being is effected¹⁸. We all stand under God's judgement as rebels who have disobeyed His will¹⁹.

I BELIEVE IN MAN, THE ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD

According to the undeserved love and mercy of God, we have been given the right to become His adopted sons and daughters²⁰. As the adopted children of God we enjoy a restored relationship with our Creator, each other, and the world we live in. Such adoption is made possible through the word of God. As we respond to His word with repentance faith, love, and obedience we become the first fruits of His new creation and His restored world²¹.

This adoption depends entirely on the sovereign and merciful will of God. It cannot be earned or deserved. It is simply given and received by the obedience of faith²².

The evidence of adoption is the faith and repentance that accompanies the preaching of God's Word. Other associated evidences are obedience, freedom from sin, and a daily relationship with God as the loving Father²³.

The benefits of adoption are threefold. It results in a right relationship with God in light of Christ's death on our behalf, it means that we have been set apart to share the likeness of Christ, and it promises us a permanent place in the eternal presence of Christ²⁴.

As adopted children we struggle with our past as rebels and our present status as new creations²⁵. This struggle, although a life long experience, brings with it the assurance of God's help and presence²⁶.

¹³ Ezekiel 36:22-28, Amos 3:1-2

¹⁴ Matthew 26:27-29; Luke 22:20-22

¹⁵ Genesis 1:27

¹⁶ Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12, 18

¹⁷ Genesis 3:8-10, 12-13, 17-19; Romans 8:19-22

¹⁸ Genesis 6:5; Romans 1:20-32, 6:15-23; Ephesians 2:1, 5, 4:18

¹⁹ Romans 3:10-19, 23

²⁰ Galatians 4:5

²¹ Acts 16:14; James 1:18

²² John 1:12; Romans 1:5, 9:16; Ephesians 1:4, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:1-2

²³ Romans 6:18; Galatians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

²⁴ Romans 3:23-24, 8:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; Ephesians 1:4, 4:12-13

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE TRUE GOD

The Lord Jesus Christ is eternally God. There has never been a time when He has not existed as God. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together²⁷.

As the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ has the responsibility of revealing His heavenly Father and establishing God's rule within the created order until everything is restored to its original plan and design. This restoration was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus Christ and brings with it the blessing of God's forgiveness and fellowship²⁸.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE TRUE MAN.

Jesus Christ who is equal with God, gave up His glory in heaven and took upon Himself the form of a servant and became true man²⁹. He was born of the virgin Mary with the promise that He would save His people from their sins³⁰. He achieved this salvation as our Messiah and as our High Priest³¹.

As the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, lived a life of perfect obedience and gained righteousness for the unrighteous³². In His sacrificial death upon the cross He took upon Himself the punishment and suffering we deserved as rebels and as a result gained forgiveness for the condemned³³. In His resurrection He became the first to rise from the dead gaining the certainty of new life for all who believe³⁴. In His ascension He led the way into the presence of the Father with the promise that we would join Him³⁵.

As the High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ has not only offered a perfect sacrifice on our behalf but He became supremely qualified to represent us before the Father³⁶. The Lord Jesus Christ is our advocate in the presence of the Father who speaks on our behalf promising never to lose or turn away anyone that His Father gives to Him³⁷.

As the true man, the Lord Jesus Christ fulfils a number of different roles within the redemptive purposes of God. He is the second Adam who became the head of a new humanity that belongs to a new heavens and earth³⁸. He is the prophet greater than Moses who inaugurated a better covenant³⁹. He is the Son of David who saved His people from sin and established a better kingdom⁴⁰.

²⁵ Ephesians 4:22-32

²⁶ Philippians 1:6, 2:12,-13

²⁷ John 1:1-3, 3:31, 16:28, 17:5; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:16-17; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-3.

²⁸ Matthew 4:23, 6:10, 12:28, 25:41; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:21, 19:11; 1 Corinthians 15:25.

²⁹ John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-11.

³⁰ Matthew 1:12-23.

³¹ Matthew 16:16; Hebrews 7:11-17

³² Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 3:21-22, 4:24, 5:18-19.

³³ Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 3:25-26, 5:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

³⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:20-23.

³⁵ John 14:1-4.

³⁶ Hebrews 2:14-18, 5:8-9, 7:23-8:6

³⁷ John 6:37-40; 1 John 2:1.

³⁸ Romans 5:12-21; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

³⁹ Deuteronomy 18:15; John 6:14; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 8:6-13.

⁴⁰ Matthew 21:1-10.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is eternally God. He was present and active when the heavens and earth were created⁴¹. He anointed and empowered the judges, kings, and prophets of ancient Israel according to the redemptive purposes of God the Father⁴². He was instrumental in the ministry of Jesus Christ as the Messiah⁴³. He was promised amongst and within the people of God as one of the special benefits of the new covenant⁴⁴. This promise was fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ was exalted to the right hand of God to receive from the Father, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit was given to the people of God at Pentecost and continues to fill and indwell the adopted sons and daughters of God⁴⁵.

The Spirit gives us new birth, adoption, power, wisdom, guidance, and encouragement⁴⁶. Each and every child of God is gifted by the Spirit for the common benefit of all believers and for the continual praise and glory of God⁴⁷. He gave us the Word of God and directed it's authors towards the sufferings and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ⁴⁸. He gives us the spiritual wisdom and insight to know and to understand the Lord Jesus Christ⁴⁹.

The Spirit convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgement⁵⁰.

I BELIEVE IN THE WORD OF GOD

In a limited sense the eternal power and divine nature of God can be discerned from the created heavens and earth⁵¹. Other aspects of God's nature and wisdom can only be known from His Word. The Bible is God's faultless revelation. It is without error and therefore completely trustworthy. Each and every word of the Bible as it was recorded in the original manuscripts came from God Himself⁵². The Bible reveals the true character of God, the true condition of humanity, the true nature of the world we live in, and the future goal of our universe.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the focal point of the Bible. The Law, Prophets, and Psalms proclaim, anticipate, and prepare for His coming⁵³. The Gospels describe His earthly ministry and the Epistles explain the significance of that ministry⁵⁴. The Book of Acts and the Revelation of John reveal His continuing ministry at the right hand of God the Father⁵⁵.

⁴¹ Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4.

⁴² Nehemiah 9:30; Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25; 1 Samuel 10:6, 16:13; 1 Kings 18:12.

⁴³ Isaiah 42:1, 48:16, 61:1; Matthew 3:16; Hebrews 9:14.

⁴⁴ Ezekiel 36:27, 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Zechariah 11:2.

⁴⁵ Acts 2:32-33.

⁴⁶ John 3:5-8, 14:17, 15:26, 16:13; Romans 8:27, 15:16; 1 Peter 1:2.

⁴⁷ Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:25; 1 Peter 4:10.

⁴⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:13, Hebrews 1:5, 3:7, 4:3, 5:6; 1 Peter 1:10

⁴⁹ John 16:14-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.

⁵⁰ John 16:8.

⁵¹ Romans 1:20.

⁵² Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1.

⁵³ Luke 24:44.

⁵⁴ John 20:30-31

⁵⁵ Acts 7:54-55; Revelation 1:9-19.

I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

The gathering of all God's adopted children, including old and new testament believers is the church existing as a heavenly reality⁵⁶. The Lord Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of this assembly. Each day the church grows, develops, and matures in His presence⁵⁷. The church as a heavenly reality represents the consummation of God's ultimate intentions. It is the final goal of God's creative and redemptive activity.

The church also exists as a local and limited gathering of God's people. As a local gathering, the church, depends upon God for its existence, growth, and spiritual life⁵⁸. The local church exists to worship God, to provide the opportunity for mutual encouragement and edification, and to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ⁵⁹.

According to the grace and wisdom of God certain gifts and ministries have been given to the people of God for the growth and health of the local church. These include those gifts and ministries which were redemptively and historically significant for the existence of the church, such as apostles and prophets⁶⁰. They also include gifts of faith, miracles, healings, discerning of spirits, various tongues and their interpretation as well as the ministries of pastor, teacher, evangelist, leader, administrator, servants of mercy and generosity⁶¹. Every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift. Every believer has a contribution to make to the overall growth and maturity of their local church⁶².

The local church is governed by the Lord Jesus Christ who exercises His rule through the Spirit of God and the holy Scriptures. As individual members discern the will of Christ from the word of God, the local church is guided into all truth and understanding⁶³.

The overseer, elders, and deacons are responsible for the welfare, conduct, and growth of the local gathering of God's people⁶⁴.

The Lord's supper and believers baptism are two essential symbols practiced within the local church. These symbolic practices celebrate the centrality of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in the life of the adopted child of God and the gathered community of believers⁶⁵.

As the adopted children of God participate in believers baptism they symbolically acknowledge their union with the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's supper is a continuing remembrance and proclamation, not only of the individual's union with Christ, but also the local gathering of God's people union with Christ.

⁵⁶ Romans 4:1-25, Hebrews 11:7-16.

⁵⁷ Matthew 16:18; Luke 23:43; Ephesians 2:20-22; Philippians 1:23; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 12:22-24; 1 Peter 2:4-8:

⁵⁸ 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Revelation 2:1-3:22:

⁵⁹ Acts 4:32-35; Romans 10:14-15; 2 Corinthians 3:11-18; Ephesians 4:7-13, 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:3-8; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 3:2-3:

⁶⁰ Luke 11:49; Ephesians 2:19-20:

⁶¹ Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-32, 13:1-3, 14:26; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11:

⁶² 1 Corinthians 12:7-28:

⁶³ John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16:

⁶⁴ 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-16:

⁶⁵ Matthew 26:26-30, 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-10; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34:

I BELIEVE IN THE LAST JUDGEMENT

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, He will judge those living at the time and those who have already died. Those who disobey the call of the gospel to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will suffer eternal punishment in Hell⁶⁶. Those who respond to the gospel with repentance and faith will receive eternal life in the new heavens and earth⁶⁷.

The consequences of the final judgement represent the consummation of God's creative and redemptive purposes. In the end God's character will be honoured and glorified. His chosen people will be gathered together in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to worship God forever and ever.

⁶⁶ Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:5-8:

⁶⁷ Matthew 25:34-46; John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 3:11; Revelations 21:5-7: