

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Bible, as it is in truth, the Word of God... (I Thessalonians 2:13). We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration in the original writings, and God's preservation of His pure words to every generation (II Timothy 3:16, Psalms 12:6-8, II Peter 1:19 - 21). The Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the Received Text of the New Testament (Textus Receptus) are those texts of the original languages we accept and use; the King James Version of the Bible is the only English version we accept and use. The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.

The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:6).

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35, John 1:29). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His finished work on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24, Rom 8:34).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature and was active in the creation. In relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled: That He convicts of sin, judgment, and righteousness. He is the agent of the New Birth and indwells, seals, guides, convicts, and directs the believer. (John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26-27; Rom 8:16, 26-27; Eph 1:13-14)

Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Genesis 3:6 - 24; Rom 5:12, 19).

The Way of Salvation

We believe that the clear message of salvation is "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 2:37 - 38, 3:19, 20:21). We believe that salvation is "by grace" plus nothing minus nothing. We believe that men are justified by faith alone and are accounted righteous before God only through the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19).

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that eternal life is the present possession of every believer (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5; Jude 1, 2).

The Church

We believe and teach that the local, visible assembly of called out believers into a public place of worship and service is the only church found in the New Testament. We do not believe in an invisible or universal church. The local New Testament Baptist Church is the only one authorized to carry out the great commission. The first New Testament Baptist Church was founded by Jesus Christ during His own personal ministry, and entrance into the local church is by scriptural baptism. We believe and teach that the Local New Testament Baptist Church is an independent congregation. The Lord is doing His work in this world through local churches. The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27, 2:47, 16:5, 11:22, 8:1; I Timothy 3:15; Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:24). We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. Christ is the only head of the church (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Romans 16:1,4).

The Ordinances of the Church

We believe that **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper** are the only two local church ordinances set forth in the local church by Jesus Christ. We also recognize the ordinance of baptism by immersion in water.

We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial supper administered by the authority and instruction of the local Baptist church. It symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and only members of the local church whose spiritual lives are in a right relationship with God are qualified participants in the Lord's Supper service. We also teach and believe that there is no saving power or grace in either Baptism or the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 3:13 - 17, 26:17 - 30, 28:19 - 20; Acts 8:36 - 39; Romans 6:3 - 5; I Corinthians 11:23 - 24).

Biblical Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1, 2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17).

The Return of Christ

We believe the "Blessed Hope" of our Lord's return is literal, personal, visible, imminent, premillennial, and pretribulational. He will rapture His Church prior to the tribulation, and at the end of the tribulation Christ will return with His saints to establish His thousand-year reign on the earth.(I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13).

Please visit our NTBC website (below) for the complete version of our statement of faith.

FAMILY INFORMATION

Scott and Kris

We are an independent, Baptist missionary family sent out by the New Testament Baptist Church in Larimore, North Dakota. Our pastor is Ken Shaffer. The Lord has called us to reach German speaking people through establishing New Testament churches.