

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Doctrine Essential for Eternal Life

Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and physically rose from the grave three days later. All those who trust Christ as their personal savior are redeemed, have eternal life and are members of the worldwide body of Christ. We welcome all who hold this belief as brothers and sisters in the Lord, and invite them to become part of our membership at Allen Bible Church.

John 1:1-14, 3:16; Acts 16:31; 1 Cor 12:12-13; Eph 2:8-10; Col 1:14-20

Doctrines Essential for Leadership and Teaching in Allen Bible Church

We believe that the Bible unequivocally teaches the following doctrines, although we recognize that in some cases sincere and intelligent Christians hold different views. In order to preserve the unity of the Spirit within Allen Bible Church (*Acts 4:32; Phi 1:27, 2:1-2*), we require that all those in positions of leadership and teaching must personally hold to these basic precepts. However, if you disagree with some aspects of them, you are still welcome to be a part of our fellowship as a member.

The Bible

We believe that every word in the original manuscripts of the Bible was inspired by God and was without error; therefore the Bible—the sixty-six books of the Older and New Testaments—is the written word of God and our supreme and final authority in faith and practice in the Christian life. We use a normal, historical, grammatical approach to interpreting Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; John 17:17; Isaiah 40:8; Ps. 19:7-11

The Trinity

We believe in one God who exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit; these persons are coequal, each fully possessing the divine nature.

Deut 6:4; Matt 28:19; 2Cor 13:14; Acts 5:3-4

Jesus Christ—His Person

We believe that the eternal Son of God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully man.

John 1.1, 14, 18; Matthew 1.18-25

Jesus Christ—His Work

We believe that Jesus Christ became man, without ceasing to be God in order to reveal God the Father and redeem sinful man. He died for the world's sin on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, and only those who believe in Him are declared righteous and eternally acceptable before God.

John 1:14, 18; Isa 53:4-5; Mark 10:45; Rom 3:24-26; Col 1:19-20; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 1 Pet 2:24, 3:18; 1 John 2:2

Jesus Christ—His Resurrection and Present Ministry

We believe that Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where He now lives—exalted at God's right hand—as our High Priest, Advocate and Head—interceding for us and directing the church until His personal, imminent return.

John 20:24-27; Acts 1:9-11; Rom 1:4; Eph 1:19-21; Phi 2:9-11; Heb 1:3, 4:14 and 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2; Col 1:19

The Holy Spirit—His Person and Work

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity who restrains evil in the world and convicts men of sin, righteousness and judgment. He also regenerates, indwells permanently, baptizes into the body of Christ—the Church, and seals all Christians at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts to each believer and empowers the life and ministry of believers.

Matthew 28.19; Acts 5.3,4; John 3.8, 16.7-11; 1 Corinthians 6.19, 12.11; Eph. 4.30, 5.18

Creation

We believe God created all things in heaven and earth and that all things exist and are sustained by His power.

Genesis 1:1; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3

Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that he willfully sinned and consequently experienced immediate spiritual death (i.e., separation from God) and eventual physical death. As a result, all

people are born with a predisposition to sin—the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted—and in fact do personally sin. Apart from Jesus Christ all are eternally lost.

Gen 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Rom 3:23, 5:12; Eph 2:1-3

Angels, Demons and Satan

We believe that angels are real beings, created by God, and are sent out by Him

to minister especially to believers. We also believe in the existence of fallen angels—demons—who work to thwart God's purposes in the world.

Chief among them is Satan, who attempts to defeat believers through deception and temptation to sin. Christians can overcome Satan's schemes by applying biblical truth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Job 1:6-12, 38:6-7; Isa 6:1-3; Eze 28:12-19; John 8:44; Heb 1:14; Jude 6; 1Pet 5:8-9; Eph 6:10-18

Salvation

We believe salvation is a gracious gift of God received by anyone who trusts Jesus Christ alone as savior. One who believes in Christ is given spiritual life by the Holy Spirit, who immediately and permanently indwells him and baptizes him into the body of Christ as a child of God. It is by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ that one receives eternal life. Faith does not save us—it is the object of faith (Jesus Christ) that is crucial. No amount of good intention, sincerity, religious fervor or mustered-up belief, church attendance or ordinances like baptism can substitute as a payment for our sin, which was finally and fully paid in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since salvation is not based on any human effort or merit, but on the grace of our sovereign God once it is granted, it can never be lost.

John 1:12, 3:1-16; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:28, 8:9, 38-39; John 14:16-17; 1 Cor 12:13

We also believe that Scripture teaches three aspects to our salvation (and sanctification...see below) in Christ:

Justification Salvation — “we are saved” ... is the permanent position secured in Christ for all believers, who've been declared righteous because of their faith in Jesus Christ. In justification salvation believers are saved from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification Salvation — “we're being saved” ... is the process of a believer growing in the grace of God empowered by the Holy Spirit. In sanctification salvation believers are saved from the power of sin in their

daily lives.

Glorification Salvation — “we will be saved” ... the guaranteed hope of every believer to one day be saved from the presence of sin forever.

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification, which is a setting-apart unto God, like salvation (see above) is threefold—positional, progressive and ultimate. It is already complete for every saved person because his position toward God is the same as Christ’s position. We also believe that each Christian still has a sinful nature, but that God is in the process of changing every believer to be more like Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit. There is, therefore, a progressive sanctification wherein the Christian is to “grow in grace,” and to “be changed” by the unhindered power of the Spirit. We believe also that the child of God will yet be fully sanctified in his state as he is now sanctified in his standing in Christ when he shall see his Lord and shall be “like Him.” The believer’s responsibility is to yield himself to Jesus Christ as the Lord of his life.

Rom 6: 1-14, 8: 11-13, 12: 1; Eph 2: 10; Gal 5: 16; John 17: 17; 2 Cor. 3: 18; 7: 1; Eph. 4: 24; 5: 25–27; 1 Thess. 5: 23; 1 John 2: 28-3: 3; Heb. 10: 10, 14; 12: 10

The Church

We believe the Church is the body and bride of Christ. It is a spiritual organism and Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. The Universal Church consists of all who have put their faith in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost until the present. The church’s purpose is two-fold: 1) To live-out the Great Commandment—glorifying God as He deserves and loving others and 2) To fulfill Christ’s Great Commission, building up believers to spiritual maturity and evangelizing the world—communicating through our lives and our words the truth of God’s provision for man through Jesus Christ. We also believe the Church is distinct from Israel. We further believe the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one locality for the purposes of worship, study and practice of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, and equipping believers for Christian service, especially to carry out Christ’s Great Commission.

Col. 1: 18; Eph. 3: 8-10; 1 Cor. 12: 13; Eph 4: 4-16; 1 Pet 2: 9-10; Mat 5: 13-16, 28: 18-20; Col. 1: 28-29; 2 Cor 5: 20; Acts 1: 8; 1 Thess. 2: 8-9 Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-2; Ephesians 4: 11-13

The Ordinances

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of the church, which are water baptism and the Lord's Supper. *Matthew 28.19; 1 Corinthians 11.23-34*

Baptism — We believe that water baptism does not merit salvation. Individuals should be baptized, after they have trusted Christ, as an outward symbol of their identification with Christ and His Body, the Church. *Matthew 28.16-20; Romans 6.3-7*

The Lord's Supper — We believe the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Jesus' death until He comes again, the elements being used as emblems of His body and blood. The Lord's Supper is open to all self-examined believers regardless of church affiliation. *1 Corinthians 11.23-3*

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives every believer spiritual gifts, to be used for building up of the body of Christ. These diverse gifts are vital to the health and maturity of the body and are to be exercised according to biblical guidelines and priorities, thus contributing to the common good and unity in the body. We believe that certain spiritual gifts (among them the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing and performing miracles) were given to establish the early church and authenticate the apostles' ministry and are not essential for the normal function of the body. *Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:1-11, 28-31, 13:8-10, 14:20-33; Eph 4:11-13; 1 Pet 4:10-11*

The Christian Life

Responsibilities — We believe as Christians we are called to live by faith and order our lives according to God's Word. We have been saved by His grace in order to worship, know and serve Him. Christ gave three Biblical priorities for a Christian's ministry: abide in Him, love one another and witness to the world...in that order for "apart from Him we can do nothing."

Heb. 11:1,6; Psalm 119:9-11; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14; John 15:1-27

Realities — We believe that all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ can be assured that their salvation is secured from the moment they trusted Christ as revealed by the Scriptures. An additional reality of the Christian life is it will involve trying times, and we are not guaranteed a pain-free or prosperous life. We are however given everything we need pertaining to life and godliness in the provision of the Holy Spirit, God's Word and other believers in the body of Christ. *John 5:24; 1 John 5:13; James 1:2-12; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 3:12-13, 10:24-25, 12:12-17*

allen bible church *discovery packet*

Rewards — We believe that, completely apart from salvation benefits which are bestowed equally upon all who believe, rewards are promised according to the faithfulness of each believer in his service for the Lord, and that these rewards will be given at the judgment seat of Christ after He comes to receive His own to Himself. Our reward both now and forever is enjoying the presence of God in our lives through Jesus Christ.
1 Cor. 3:9–15; 9:18–27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Ps 16:11; John 17:3

The End Times

We believe that the church age will end with the following sequence of events, which could begin at any moment:

The Rapture: When Christ will come and instantaneously gather all Christians to Himself.

1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58

The Tribulation: A seven-year period under the domination of the Antichrist and characterized by divine judgments.

Dan 9:24-27; Rev 4:1-18:24

The Second Coming: When Christ will personally and visibly return to earth to defeat the forces of the Antichrist and bind Satan.

Rev 19:11-16; Zec 14:1-15

The Millennium: A one-thousand-year period of peace and righteousness over which Christ will personally reign on earth. At the end of the millennium, Satan will rebel, will again be defeated and be cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

Rev 20:1-10; Isa 11:1-16

The New Heavens, New Earth and New Jerusalem: A new creation in which believers will eternally dwell in fellowship with God.

Rev 21:1–22:5; Heb. 12:22-24