**We Believe What the Bible Says**

**Introduction**

1. God has spoken through Jesus – **Hebrews 1:1-2**
	1. HAS – i.e. is not speaking anymore in any other way – He has said what He wanted/needed to say. (**Jude 3** – once for all delivered)
	2. Word of Christ – **Colossians 3:16**
2. The scripture is God-breathed – **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – all sufficient.
3. One has said – God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.
4. BETTER – GOD SAID IT, THAT SETTLES IT, SO I BELIEVE IT.
5. We believe what the Bible says and pattern our practices by it.
6. That Sin is a Universal Problem
7. **Romans 3:23; 6:23** – All have sinned, wages are death (eternal – reason for significance).
8. **Ezekiel 18:20** – sin is an individual, free-will decision
	1. NOT sinful nature – **Genesis 1:31** – saw man was ***“very good.”***
	2. NOT inherited AT ANY POINT FROM ANYONE – original sin, total hereditary depravity – **Romans 5:12** (because all sinned)
	3. We have a choice – **1 John 2:1**
9. All made the wrong choice – **Romans 3:23**
10. That God Sent His Son to Save All Men
11. **1 Timothy 2:4** – desires the salvation of ALL.
12. **John 3:16** – God’s love for world expressed in sending His Son.
	1. World – NOT a designated, predestined few.
	2. Whoever believes – NOT universalism, i.e. unconditional.
13. **1 John 4:9-10** – this gift of God’s son was not a reciprocal gift, but one reflecting God’s very character/nature – by grace (***cf. Romans 5:15 – “the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ”***)
	1. NOTE: No way to earn.
14. That the Gospel is the Sole Access to the Gift of Jesus’ Sacrifice
15. **Romans 1:16** – the gospel is God’s power to save man.
	1. **1 Corinthians 1:18** – pleased Him to save men by a message.
16. **Romans 8:2** – not separate from the sacrifice of Christ.
17. **Romans 5:1-2** – grace must be accessed by faith.
18. **Romans 10:17** – faith comes from hearing the gospel/word of God.
	1. NOT man’s wisdom.
	2. NOT any denominational or man’s creed.
	3. Consequence – **1 Corinthians 2:5**
19. That an Obedient Faith is Required by the Gospel for Salvation
20. Bookends of Romans – **Romans 1:5; 16:25-26** – contained within is the subject discussed.
	1. ***“obedience of faith” (ASV, NASB, ESV***).
	2. I.e. the faith that saves involves obedience.
		1. Faith only? – ***“You see then that a man is justified by works, and NOT by faith only” (James 2:24).***
21. **Mark 16:15-16** – gospel includes command to be baptized.
	1. Baptism is a command – **Acts 10:47-48**
22. Not a work of merit, but an act in submission to God’s command showing faith in HIS work – **Colossians 2:12**
23. The beginning of a life of obedient faith – **Romans 6:4, 17-18**
24. That There is Only One Church Comprised of the Saved
25. Those who obeyed the gospel were saved/added to THE church – **Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47**
	1. Saved = the church
	2. Only one way to be saved, only one church.
26. This church is that which Jesus said He would build – **Matthew 16:18** (singular)
27. It is His body, and He is the head **– Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4** (a body only has one head, a head only has one body)
	1. Denominationalism – one head, multiple bodies.
	2. Part of a different body than that ONE = not saved.
28. That Christ is Head of the One Church
29. The ONE church of the saved, and Christ is the head of that church – **Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18**
	1. NOTE: authority – preeminence (to be first in rank)
	2. **Colossians 3:17** – must do all in His name (by His authority)
30. **Matthew 28:18** – Christ has all authority.
31. **Acts 2:36** – Made Lord and Christ.
	1. **Luke 6:46** – acknowledgment of His Lordship requires obeying His every word.
	2. NOTE: no person, or church, has the right to decide what is binding or not in scripture. Christ has spoken, and we must obey no matter what.
32. That Christ’s Church Has Distinct Identifiable Characteristics
33. When there is only one of something, it has unique characteristics which can be identified in distinction from other things.
34. These characteristics are results of submission to Christ’s authority:
	1. **Cf. Hebrews 8:5** – like the distinctiveness of the tabernacle following the command of God – pattern.
	2. **2 Timothy 1:13** – pattern of sound words.
		1. Pattern established via observation of the church in the divine record – Acts.
		2. Pattern established via the observation of NT epistles (to churches/Christians)
35. Distinct Identifiable Characteristics:
	1. Work of the church – Evangelism (**Matthew 28:19-20**); Edification (**Ephesians 4:16**); Benevolence (**Romans 15:26** – limited, needy saints – not world)
	2. Worship of the church – Singing (**Colossians 3:16**); Praying (**Acts 2:42**); Lord’s Supper (**Acts 20:7**); Preaching (**Acts 20:7**); Giving (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**)
	3. Organization of the church – Christ as Head (**Colossians 1:18**); Local churches (**Romans 16:16**); Bishops (elders, overseers, shepherds, pastors) and Deacons (**Philippians 1:1**); Autonomy (**1 Peter 5:2**)
36. A church with different work, worship, or organization than that patterned in scripture does not belong to the Lord.
	1. Since the Lord only has one church, and those in the church are the only ones saved, to be a part of a different church is to be lost.
37. That Christ’s Church is Eternal
38. Some don’t believe there is a church that exactly resembles what we read about in the New Testament.
39. The Bible teaches that the church is eternal:
	1. Kingdom and Church used in reference to the same divine institution – **Matthew 16:18-19**
	2. Kingdom is eternal – **Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 1:8**
40. This means the kingdom/church Christ established still exists today – it bears the same characteristics that it did in the first century.
	1. Those who are saved belong to that ONE church – **Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13-14**
41. That Christ Will Return to Judge the World
42. Judgment after death – **Hebrews 9:27**
43. ONE resurrection of ALL to ONE judgment – **John 5:28-29**
	1. Not multiple resurrections as some teach.
	2. Not a different timeline for the saved and lost.
44. Each to receive according to the deeds done in the body – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
	1. Proper response is self-control in righteousness – **Acts 24:25** (Paul to Felix)
	2. Not lewdness/carnality/leniency because of God’s grace – **Jude 4; Galatians 5:13**
45. Judged by Christ’s word – **John 12:48**
	1. Even God’s own will be judged – **Hebrews 10:30** – a child of God can fall from grace (**cf. Hebrews 12:15**)
	2. Once saved, always saved – NOT TRUE.
46. That Each Individual Will Spend Eternity in One of Two Places
47. Judgment of deeds done in the body will result in one of two possibilities – **Galatians 6:7-8**
	1. The corruption and everlasting life are experienced in prepared places.
48. **Matthew 25:34, 41, 46** – right hand (everlasting life), left hand everlasting punishment – NOTE: PREPARED.
	1. These are prepared places for prepared people.
		1. While it is true God will “send” people to hell…
		2. It is equally true that people are choosing to go there themselves.
	2. Hell – punishment w/ Satan
	3. Heaven – eternal life w/ God
49. Most will go to hell, few to heaven – **Matthew 7:13-14** (a choice made)
	1. NOTE: If one exists, the other exists – stand or fall together.

**Conclusion**

1. All that matters is believing what the Bible says and acting accordingly.
2. It is our aim to do just that.