

**The Bible**

We believe the Bible is a unique book, inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21) and from it we draw guidance, correction and inspiration. Most importantly the Bible introduces us to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We base what we believe on the Bible and call it the word of God. We do not believe these teachings can be added to or taken away from, and we believe that the message of the Bible is as relevant today as it has ever been.

**The Nature of God**

We believe there is one true God, the maker of heaven and earth. (John 1:1-5, Acts 17:24-31).

God is all knowing, all powerful and present everywhere all the time. (Psalm 139, Luke 1:37)

We believe in the Trinity, or as the Bible calls it "the Godhead". That is, a Godhead revealed in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and these three are one. (Colossians 2:9, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14).

**God the Father**

We believe God is the Father of all mankind. (Malachi 2:10, Deuteronomy 32:6).

He is also revealed to us as someone who is Holy, Loving, Just, Forgiving and Good (Psalm 18:30, 1 John 3:1, Psalm 68:5, Romans 8:15, 1 John 1:9, Luke 15:11-31).

**The Son - Jesus**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ:

- Was born of the virgin Mary. (Luke 1:34, Matthew 1:18&20).
- Was a real human being. (John 1:14, 1 John 4:2).
- Was fully divine. (John 1:1, Hebrews 1:8).
- Lived a perfect, sinless life. (1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5).
- Died a sacrificial death on a cross for the sins of the world. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).
- Rose again bodily from the grave, defeating both death and Satan (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, & 15:54-57, 1 John 3:8).
- Ascended and returned to heaven (Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:9, Hebrews 1:3).
- Will one-day return to judge the living and the dead. (John 14:1-4 & 5:25-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

## **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit:

- Is the third member of the Trinity. He is a person, not a force, or influence. (John 14:26, 16:13-14, Ephesians 4:30).
- Takes up residence in a person's life when they become a committed Christian. (John 3:3, John 14:16-18).
- Helps us to understand the Bible (John 14:26).
- Grants us the potential to live lives of peace, power and of purpose. (Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:15-21).

## **Man's Need of Salvation**

We believe every person is separated from God by a wrong attitude and by wrong behaviour. The Bible calls this sin (Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2).

We believe that salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone, (Ephesians 2:8 - 9) and that means it cannot be earned by doing good works or penance or even by 'being religious'. Salvation is a gift from God (Romans 6:23).

Salvation is a matter of personal choice. Jesus died for everyone but only those who choose to accept His sacrifice and gift of forgiveness will be saved. (John 3:16, Acts 2:21, Acts 16:30-31, Romans 10:9, Romans 10:13)

We believe that one day we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5: 10) and those who put their faith in Him during this life will live eternally with God in heaven ( Revelation 21: 3 - 4) but those who don't put their faith in Him will face eternal separation and punishment (Revelations 20: 11 – 15).