

Athol Orange Baptist Church

DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

A. The Bible

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the infallible Word of God, without error in its original writings (John 17:17), written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21) and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16).

B. The Trinity

We believe that the one Triune God exists eternally in three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14). These three are one God (John 10:30), having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections; worthy of precisely the same reverence, confidence and obedience (Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 5:3-4).

C. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, creator of all things (Genesis 1:1), perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of mankind, He hears and answers our prayers (John 4:24), and that He saves us from sin and death when we come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17, 14:6).

D. God the Son

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten, eternal son of God (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14), that He became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14).

We believe that Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary atoning sacrifice (Romans 3:23-25, Ephesians 1:7), and that our justification is made sure by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24).

We believe that Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9) and is now at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:3), where, as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:24-26), He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate until the time of His personal and visible return to earth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:28).

E. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, existing eternally with God the Father and God The Son, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-11); restraining evil in the world (2 Thessalonians 2:5-8) until God's purpose is fulfilled. He regenerates (Titus 3:5), indwells (Romans 8:9-11), illuminates (John 14:26), sanctifies (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2), baptizes (1 Corinthians 12:13), seals (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30) and gives spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 2:12) to all true believers in Christ and fills those who are yielded (Ephesians 5:18) to God.

F. The Fallen State of Mankind

We believe that mankind was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), but as a result of the fall of Adam, the entire human race fell (Romans 5:12). All people have since inherited a sinful nature and are totally separated from God. Every facet of a person is totally depraved (Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3), and people have no hope within themselves to change their lost condition (Ephesians 2:12).

G. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God (John 1:12), brought to us by grace (Romans 4:4-5), and received by personal faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-10) in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19).

H. Assurance

We believe that those who are born of the spirit through a personal faith in Jesus Christ are eternally assured of salvation and are kept secure in Christ by God's power (John 10:28-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:13).

I. Justification

We believe that a believing sinner is justified before God and is declared righteous through the sacrifice of the body of Christ (Romans 4:5, 5:1 & 9), who fulfilled the law and paid the price for our sins by His blood on the cross at Calvary (Romans 3:21-30; Titus 3:4-5). Justification originates in grace, and is by faith, not works (Galatians 2:16, 3:8 & 24).

J. Sanctification

We believe that a sinner is sanctified and made holy in Christ from the moment of believing. We are eternally set apart for God through the sacrificial death of Christ at Calvary (Hebrews 10:10). We are constantly being sanctified by the work of The Holy Spirit in our daily lives (2 Corinthians 3:18; Titus 3:5) and through the scriptures (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:25-27) and, at the consummation of this present age, our sanctification will be complete upon the return of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2).

K. The Church

We believe that the universal church, which is the body (Ephesians 1:22-23) and bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27), is a spiritual organism which originated at Pentecost (Acts 2:40-47). It is composed of all born again believers and was purchased by the precious blood of Christ at Calvary. We believe that all true believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ from the moment they put their hope and trust in Christ as Lord and Savior (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). We believe that the organized establishment and continuance of local churches for the purpose of worship, fellowship, instruction, service and the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad is clearly taught and defined in The New Testament Scriptures.

L. Future Things

1. The Resurrection

We believe in two resurrections that are yet future. The first resurrection, which will occur at the second coming of Christ (Revelation 20:4-6), is one of everlasting and is reserved for all believers; those who have fallen asleep in Him and those who are left until the coming of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18). The resurrected body will be incorruptible, glorious, powerful and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42-49). The second resurrection, which will occur after the thousand year reign of Christ, is one of judgment and condemnation, reserved for those who have refused to accept Christ as Lord and Savior (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-15).

2. The Rapture

We believe that Christ will appear a second time to receive His Church unto Himself (Hebrews 9:27-28). Those who are still alive, are left, will be caught up together with those who have died in Him, and so, will be with The Lord forever (John 14:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

3. The Tribulation

We believe that the tribulation is a seven year period of time during which a great multitude will be redeemed. During the last three and one half years, Satan will make war against the saints who hold to the testimony of Jesus, and God will pour out His judgments against the ungodly (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:9, 12:17, 14:12, 15:1, 16:21).

4. The Millennial Kingdom

We believe that Christ will return as He promised; in bodily form, visible to all people; to establish His Kingship and one thousand year reign here on earth. During this time, Jesus will rule and bring peace, justice, prosperity and glory to all the earth. After this time, judgment will take place and eternity will begin (Isaiah 11:1-5, 65:17-25, Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16).