

RISINGCHURCH

Statement of Beliefs



ABOUT GOD

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has existed from eternity in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

(Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

ABOUT MAN

Man is created in the image of God, to be like him in character. Man is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has great potential for good, he is tainted by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates man from God. *(Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2)*

ABOUT ETERNITY

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God because of sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with God is eternal life. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence. *(John 3:16; John 2:25; John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46)*

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with God the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself freely as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. After three days, he arose from the dead, demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *(Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13)*

ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to man. It is impossible for man to make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works – only by repentance of sins and trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. *(Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)*

ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer's salvation is secure for all eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. *(John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)*

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. His role in the world is to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for holy living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under his control daily. *(2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1)*

ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's word to all men. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the utmost source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. *(2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)*

ABOUT BAPTISM

Baptism by immersion symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is a physical representation of a believer's new life. It is a public declaration of one's acceptance of Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. While baptism is not required for salvation, it is a biblical command and is a demonstration of one's love and obedience to Christ. *(Colossians 2:12; Acts 2:41; Ephesians 2: 8-9; Matthew 28:19-20)*

ABOUT COMMUNION

Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is a precept given to all believers by Jesus Christ to remember and celebrate his sacrifice on the cross for us. The elements of bread and wine or juice are symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Communion is not a means of salvation; rather, it is a testament of a believer's faith in the atoning work of the cross. *(Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)*

ABOUT MARRIAGE

Marriage is God-ordained. "The creator made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'". Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship, a lifelong faithful union between a man and a woman. This relationship between a husband and wife should parallel the relationship between Christ and the Church. *(Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:23-30)*