

THE SCRIPTURES

The Scriptures are God's revelation to man. They are God-inspired, inerrant and authoritative in the original manuscripts.

References: 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21 and Matthew 5:18.

GOD

The living, eternal and true God is One, made known in the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *References: Deuteronomy 6:4, and 2 Corinthians 13:14.*

JESUS

The Lord Jesus Christ is eternal God Himself. We believe in His virgin birth, real humanity, real deity, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, and literal return to earth. *References: John 14:1-3, John 1:1, Luke 1:34-35, Hebrews 1:6-9, Hebrews 10:2, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Mark 16:6, Acts 1:11, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.*

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead that convicts, regenerates, indwells, baptizes into the body of Christ, teaches and empowers every believer. *References: John 16:7-8, John 3:6, John 14:16, 1 Corinthians 12:13, John 14:25, and Acts 1:8.*

SALVATION

The fall of man into sin has resulted in his separation from God. The remedy to man's sin has been accomplished through the finished work of Christ and must be personally received as a gift by faith. *References: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8-9.*

THE CHURCH

The Church is the body of Christ comprised of all those who have been "born again" by faith in Jesus Christ, and its mission is to disciple all nations, presenting the gospel to them. *References: Ephesians 5:23-32, Colossians 1:18, John 3:3, Matthew 28:19-20, and 1 Corinthians 1:17-25.*

RESURRECTION

The believer will be physically resurrected into the eternal presence of God, while all others will endure conscious eternal torment.

Reference: 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, Revelation 20:11-15, and John 5:21-29.

In addition to our Doctrinal Statement, the Chapel has several distinctive beliefs which guide our teaching and practices.

We accept the supreme authority of the Word of God. The Bible is the only guide for faith and practice. It is the grid through which we are to evaluate our experiences and opinions, not vice versa. *Psalm 119:130,160; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13*

We believe in the normal (literal) interpretation of Scripture. This means that the plain, ordinary reading of a text (a literal reading) is understood as its meaning, unless the text itself suggests that it is to be understood figuratively or allegorically.

We believe that God keeps those He saves to eternal life. Although some people may make professions of faith who are not genuinely converted, all who are converted will be saved. The faithful believer in Christ, therefore, can have assurance of salvation. *John 5:24, 6:37-40, 10:27-30, 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Romans 5:9-11, 8:1; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:13; Jude 24-25*

We believe Christian growth is a process, not an instantaneous achievement. At the moment of conversion- when we place our faith in Jesus- we are saved from sin's penalty, and our future in heaven is secured. However, sanctification- being conformed to the image of God's Son- is a lifelong process which culminates in heaven. *John 17:17,19; Romans 6:1-21; 2 Cor.3:18; 1 Thess 4:3-5; 5:23; Hebrews 10:22-23*

We believe that the Church, the Body of Christ, is distinct from national Israel. In this present age, God is working in the Church. At the end of this age God will remove the Church and consummate his program with national Israel which is now largely in unbelief. *Romans 11; Isaiah 2:2-4; Jeremiah 31:35-37; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17*

We believe in Divine creation. God is the Creator of the universe. Creation itself is the greatest evidence of the Creator and some have suppressed that knowledge to avoid accountability to God. *Genesis. 1:1,31; Exodus. 31:17; John 1:3; Romans. 1:18-22*

We believe every Christian has the Holy Spirit living within them. The Spirit gifts every believer to serve Christ. However, no specific spiritual gift is to be possessed by every believer. No particular gift is a sign of spirituality, nor of greater enablement, nor of the Spirit's indwelling or filling. *Romans. 8:9-10; 1 Corinthians. 6:19; 12:4-11,28-30; 13:8-10*

We believe that God ordained the institution of marriage. Marriage is a gift to humanity as described at the beginning of creation and affirmed by Jesus. God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, lifelong, and exclusive marriage between one man and one woman that is united by God and illustrative of Christ's relationship with His church. Any form of sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship is sinful and in direct violation of Scripture; yet God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. *Genesis. 1:26-28; 2:24-25; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11,18-20; Ephesians 5:31-32*

We believe Baptism is an ordinance given to the Church. Baptism is a command from our Lord Jesus Christ for believers, so every believer in Christ should be baptized in obedience to Him. It is the outward sign of an inward faith, not a means of salvation nor a requirement for justification before God. In Scripture, only believers in Christ are baptized, therefore Baptism follows profession of faith. We do not baptize infants because there is neither example nor command for this practice in the New Testament. *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-38; 10:47-48*

We believe Communion is an ordinance given to the Church. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted communion as a commemoration of His Sacrifice for us. It is faith in the finished work of Christ which saves us, not the partaking of communion. The elements represent the Body and Blood of our Lord but do not become changed into His body and blood during the service. *Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29*

ANSWERS TO A FEW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHAPEL PRACTICES:

What style of preaching & teaching does the Chapel typically use?

Expository preaching and teaching. This means that we typically teach a passage of scripture- often working our way through entire books of the Bible- attempting to explain the meaning of the text & applying it to our lives.

One of our Chapel values is to be “thoroughly Biblical”, because we believe the Bible to be God’s Word, indispensable & sufficient to equip us for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17) We teach expositively to promote learning and growing through the Word of God (2 Peter 3:18).

Does the Chapel use a certain version of the Bible?

We use no particular Bible version exclusively. A version is a translation of the Bible. Originally the Bible was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. All English Bibles are therefore translations. Each translation has advantages and disadvantages. Some good translations to which we will often refer to are: The New International Version (NIV84); The New American Standard Bible (NASB); The King James (KJV) / New King James (NKJ) versions; and the English Standard Version (ESV). For the record, the English Standard Version (ESV) is what we have available in the Chapel pews, so our pastor usually preaches from that version. Ultimately, the Bible version you enjoy and will **use** is probably the best one for you!